**Press Release**

**EU’s climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) harmonisation and collaboration**

***Lisbon, 27th April*** - This year’s Global Risk Report, published annually by the World Economic Forum, ranks extreme weather events and failure of climate change action as the two most likely risks to society in the next 10 years. Adapting to climate change requires a coordinated and synergistic approach from a diverse range of actors across sectors, as well as questioning assumptions about the drivers of risk, vulnerability and environmental change.

Organised for the first time in southern Europe, the 4th **ECCA** builds upon past editions, bringing researchers, policymakers and practitioners from Europe and beyond to discuss recent advances on climate change adaptation, find solutions, and inspire collective action to increase Europe’s resilience.

It will be the first major conference focusing on harmonisation and collaboration between climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Why is this relevant? The activities of the two communities overlap: both aim to reduce negative impacts of climate change and disasters on the natural environment, human society and economies by anticipating risks and uncertainties, and addressing vulnerabilities. However, each field has historically developed independently with different actors and institutions focusing on different time horizons, research methodologies and within varying policy frameworks. These differences can lead to suboptimal strategies and duplicated effort. The past few years have been sobering in demonstrating the urgent need to take action, with climate related risks being ranked higher and higher since 2011.

“**Bringing the two groups together is particularly important in relation to the goals and targets of the three major international agreements: Paris, Sendai Framework for DRR and the Sustainable Development Goals. The next decade is critical to achieve the 2030 goals and targets of the three international agreements**”, says Mário Pulquério, Chair of the conference organising committee.

Researchers, policymakers and practitioners recognise this urgent need, and efforts have been made to increase the collaboration and coherence between CCA and DRR. This will only be possible through an effective collaborative effort through all sections of society, across all governance levels, including both public and private. **ECCA** in 2019 aims to provide a common space for essential dialogues between these actors to take place where collaborations can be forged, solutions found and actions defined for Europe to move steadily on a resilient path for the short and longer term.

**About ECCA**

**ECCA 2019** builds on past conferences that took place in Hamburg (2013), Copenhagen (2015) and Glasgow (2017), and aims to:

* Provide a space that facilitates a dialogue among a diverse range of actors from academia, government, business and community on the multiple aspects of climate change adaptation;
* Promote the communication and knowledge exchange between researchers, policymakers and practitioners;
* Find integrated solutions and inspire action;
* Support ongoing efforts to enhance the coherence and synergy between CCA and DRR research, policy and practice;
* Discuss key challenges and solutions in cities;
* Provide a stage for presenting European’s excellence on Research & Innovation for CCA;
* Inform the next European funding framework for Research & Innovation.

Three plenaries will be held in **ECCA**. The plenary of the first day (28 May) with the title: “***Europe is at risk: adapting to extremes***” will focus on the urgency to take action and present what is being done in Lisbon, Portugal and Europe. The second plenary (29 May): “***Adapting businesses to climate change: risks and opportunities***” will bring the discussion on the role of the private sector, including speakers from international companies and organisations. The focus is on trying to identify the specific challenges of this sector, what strategies have been used to deal with climate change and what opportunities does climate change bring to businesses. The third plenary: “***The road ahead***” will focus on the discussing solutions and set the path for the next decade to achieve the goals and targets of the three international agreements for 2030.

Additionally, 96 Science-Practice and Science parallel sessions will be organised by the scientific and practice communities to present the current state-of-the-art knowledge and inspired action. A range of innovative tools in the context of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction will also be presented. **ECCA** in Lisbon has an extensive art programme and youth involvement.

Key messages will be gathered during the conference. These messages will be used to inform Horizon Europe by providing a short update on each of the six identified **ECCA** themes. Horizon Europe is the European Commission’s framework programme for research and innovation for the period of 2021 – 2027. The main aims are to strengthen science and technology, to foster industrial competitiveness, and to implement the sustainable development goals in the EU. Horizon Europe would introduce new features such as the European Innovation Council, missions to promote research results, and new forms of partnerships. The framework programme is currently being shaped. The short update will provide: an overview of what is the current state of knowledge of the theme, which interesting highlights have come from **ECCA** and importantly: which knowledge gaps can be identified with regard to that theme. An overall analysis will describe how especially these knowledge gaps link to Horizon Europe.