
Proceedings
13th International Conference
On
Sustainable Development
ICSD 2025, Rome, Italy
Book of Abstracts



European Center of
Sustainable Development
Rome, 2025

11. Governance Models and Community Resilience: Insights from the Portuguese Case Study under the C2IMPRESS Project

Dr. João Lutas Craveiro, Dr. Ana Catarina Zózimo, Dr. Manuel Mendes Oliveira, Alexandra Jaumouillé, Juliette Rimlinger, Catherine FREISSINET

ABSTRACT:

This article examines how governance models serve not only as practical exercises and collective experiences that foster social and territorial cohesion but also as essential resources to potentially rescue Western democracies from decline. The work draws on the C2IMPRESS project (funded under the Horizon Europe Programme) focused on disaster-resilient societies. The region studied is located in Portugal, is characterised by stark territorial inequalities, a scattered ageing population, and faces dual segmentation: densely populated coastal zones at risk of coastal flooding, and inland areas vulnerable to fluvial flooding and wildfires. Environmental threats are compounded by a weak civil society with limited environmental citizenship and proactive engagement, subject to highly centralised risk management systems that prioritise emergency response over prevention. After highlighting, through surveys and collaborative workshops, that there is widespread unpreparedness for disasters and environmental catastrophes, the authors argue that public engagement, social equity, and participatory governance are crucial to counteract the "tragedy of the commons" while also reinforcing democratic resilience and community solidarity. Outcomes suggest a viable path towards a more sustainable regional future, with more inclusive and resilient systems, aligning technical measures with community-driven priorities, and reinforcing democratic practices in disaster risk management through new ways of risk governance.

Keywords: Social equity, Community engagement, Governance, Resilience, Tragedy of the commons, Sociology

João Lutas Craveiro is an Assistant Researcher at LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering) who has been involved for over twenty-five years in the development and implementation of several international projects, serving as task group leader and research team member. He has also acted as Principal Investigator in research and technological development projects funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). His academic contributions include the regular organization of scientific events, supervision of academic theses, and the training and mentoring of research fellows. Notably, he was the first Portuguese professor to teach Environmental Sociology at a prestigious public university – NOVA University Lisbon – where he has lectured across all academic levels in the fields of Sociology and Human Ecology.

Ana Catarina Zózimo is a researcher at the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC) in Lisbon, Portugal, specializing in maritime hydraulics and coastal engineering. Her work focuses on sea wave generation and propagation, methodologies for coastal and harbour studies, physical modelling of maritime structures, forecasting and warning systems for sea waves, overtopping, flooding in coastal and harbor areas, and risk management in maritime infrastructures.

Manuel Oliveira is a Senior Researcher at the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering, Lisbon, Portugal. He works in the Water Resources and Hydraulic Structures Unit of the Hydraulic and Environment Department. He owns a PhD in Hydrogeology, concerning the assessment of natural groundwater recharge. Nowadays main topics of interest are groundwater numerical modelling, groundwater risk and resilience assessment, and managed aquifer recharge.

- Ms Alexandra Jaumouillé** Socio-anthropologist with 9 years of experience in applied research, international cooperation, consultancy in environmental and social studies, and social work with populations seeking asylum or vulnerable groups with specific needs. Alexandra Jaumouillé has worked in a wide variety of contexts (Latin America, Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle East, Europe). She was also researcher in socio-anthropology for the French National Research Institute for Development (IRD) in Mexico. Alexandra currently works as a Social Expert for Artelia. She has experience in conducting environmental and social studies in Africa and in Asia with participatory field surveys, data analysis on the identification and management of the social impacts of large infrastructure and energy projects according to international standards (IFC, WB). She works in main areas of expertise: development of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Stakeholders Engagement Plans (SEP), and also European research and innovation projects funded by the European Commission. She is involved in the C2impress project working on issues related to polycentric governance, disaster risk management and inclusive stakeholders' participation for greater resilience in the face of climate change.
- Ms Juliette Rimlinger** With a background in applied social sciences for development, Juliette currently works as a Social Studies Engineer at Artelia. She leads Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for international infrastructure projects (roads, ports, water, energy), in compliance with international standards such as those of the World Bank, IFC, and AfDB. Her skills combine literature reviews, participatory field surveys, anthropological and socio-economic studies, and the development of Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP). She also supports stakeholder engagement processes and grievance redress mechanisms. In parallel, she contributes to European research and innovation projects funded by the European Commission. Within these, she develops innovative stakeholder engagement strategies based on public-private-civil partnerships (PPCP), Living Labs, and Design Thinking approaches to support climate resilience. Her dual expertise – both operational and research-based – allows her to work across diverse contexts, from international field operations to European pilot projects.
- Dr. Catherine FREISSINET** is Project Director managing R&D and Innovation in the Environment department within ARTELIA. She oversees and coordinates activities relating to Research & Innovation programmes in France, in Europe (Horizon Europe) and internationally. On account of her experience in supervising and assessing R&D projects and programmes, she is regularly appointed by the European Commission to provide expert evaluations and advice on various matters. She is also International Project Manager focusing on issues concerning the integrated management of river basins and natural resources, including the impact of climate change and adaptation strategies, NBS solutions and statutory and institutional studies (monitoring/assessment of public policies, socio-economic studies, environmental taxation, French and EU statutory studies, institutional support, etc.).