2026

19th edition

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

GEORISQUE

TUNIS, TUNISIA / 9 & 10 FEBRUARY

ENVIRONNEMENTAL RISKS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

FROM ASSESSMENT TO MANAGEMENT

predict
Risques sous haute surveillance

GEORISQUE CONFERENCE

9 & 10 February 2026 (Tunis, Tunisia)

Call for papers/abstracts

➢ Abstracts must be sent by **December 20, 2025,** to **georisque2026@gmail.com** using the form provided at the end of this call.

Environmental risks in the Mediterranean: from assessment to management

As part of the partnership between the universities of Tunis, La Manouba, and Montpellier Paul-Valéry

Presentation

Disasters, with a natural component and rapid kinetics, caused by geodynamic or hydrometeorological hazards, can have devastating consequences for people, infrastructure, and the environment. In the Mediterranean, the floods in Derna, Libya, and the earthquake in the High Atlas Mountains in 2023 serve as reminders of the region's high vulnerability to natural hazards. In addition, these events can be amplified by technological risks (Natech risk), such as industrial accidents triggered by flooding or earthquakes.

Globally, the economic losses associated with all these disasters have risen sharply from $180 billion USD to $200 billion USD per year over the past decade (UNDRR/GAR, 2025). When cascading effects and ecosystem losses are taken into account, the true cost is much higher. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) related to natural events is therefore a major concern, particularly through the development of early warning systems and the building of crisis management capacities.

The **19th edition of the GEORISQUE 2026 scientific meetings** will be held at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Tunis, Tunisia. It will address the many facets of integrated risk and crisis management in the Mediterranean basin. Marked by numerous historical disasters and a high exposure to hazards, the region is a key area for analyzing risks and developing strategies to mitigate natural hazards, some of which are being exacerbated by climate change. These meetings will provide an opportunity to compare academic work with management practices and to nurture action research to support prevention efforts and the preservation of human lives in a context of international cooperation.

These international meetings are co-organized by the University of Tunis (Laboratory of Geomorphological Mapping of Spaces, Environments and Dynamics / CGMED), La Manouba University (Laboratory of Biogeography, Applied Climatology and Environmental Dynamics / BiCADE), and the University of Montpellier Paul-Valéry (Geography and Planning Laboratory of Montpellier / LAGAM), in collaboration with the company Predict Services and the Research Institute for Development (IRD).

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The first day will be devoted to scientific and academic presentations and posters, while the second day will take on a more technical and institutional dimension, focusing on risk assessment methods and mechanisms for preventing, preparing for, and responding to natural disasters. We will therefore address various topics related to the management of natural hazards and crises over the course of these two days:

- **Risk Assessment and Understanding:** Risk assessment consists of identifying the natural hazards that threaten a particular region, then assessing the vulnerability of the issues exposed (populations, infrastructure, etc.). This approach is based on the analysis of historical events, climatic and geomorphological factors, as well as on the diagnosis of issues and vulnerabilities.

- **Mapping and Modeling:** The methodological steps of risk assessment can be illustrated through the use of cartography. Spatializing the information renders it more tangible, as well as making it possible to treat the subject matter at different scales. Today, risk and crisis management are evolving through GIS and modeling, which makes it possible to assist, validate, and anticipate the hazard or its potential effects in order to guide management strategies.

- **Damage Prevention and Reduction:** Once risks have been identified, mitigation measures can be implemented to reduce the impact of disasters, supported by financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund. They include, for example, monitoring devices, earthquake-resistant construction standards, protective dikes, reforestation to limit landslides, and adapted urban plans.

- **Crisis Management Planning:** Local and national managers should develop detailed contingency plans to deal with natural disasters. These plans include procedures for safeguarding people and property, such as alerting, sheltering, rehousing, and refueling. They involve the preparation of alert scenarios, loss of accessibility, as well as the planning of evacuation plans and routes.

- **Coordination and Resource Sharing:** Crisis management requires coordination between local, national, and international authorities, as well as cooperation with humanitarian organizations, relief actors, and NGOs. Effective planning of available resources and actions is crucial during a crisis, especially in the event of emergency evacuations, which often require the pooling of crisis management resources.

- **Awareness and Training:** Informing managers and the public about the risks and measures to be taken in the event of a disaster is essential. Education and awareness help reduce loss of life by promoting appropriate behaviors. This includes information dissemination, communication, training, and conducting crisis management exercises to improve planning.

- **Emergency Response - Rapid Action:** When a natural disaster is predicted or occurs, an immediate response is needed to save lives and limit the damage. It mobilizes surveillance, the triggering of the alert, as well as protective and preventive actions such as evacuation or containment, in accordance with the crisis management plans established beforehand.

- **Sustainable Recovery and Reconstruction:** Following a disaster, the process of recovery and reconstruction begins. This can take years or even decades, depending on the extent of the damage. It includes waste recovery and management, temporary rehousing, compensation for victims, as well as reconstruction according to the "Build Back Better" (BBB) principle to ensure sustainable and resilient infrastructure to reduce risks in the future.

- **Learning from Experience – Post-Event Feedback:** After a disaster, it is essential to analyze the consequences of the event, the evolution of the situation, and the actions taken before, during, and after the disaster, to draw lessons. These lessons are crucial in risk and crisis management, providing key information capable of improving risk assessment and reduction, and strengthening the preparedness of territories in the face of hazards.

The management of risks and crises related to natural disasters is a continuous and evolving process. It requires permanent collaboration between all actors, appropriate resources, and a constant ability to adapt to new threats and environmental developments. The objective is to minimize human losses and material damage while strengthening the resilience of territories and communities to disasters.

Scientific Committee

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AZIZ Arwa	University of Lyon 2, France

Useful information

Registration fee

- Participation fee of 50 Euros / 170 Tunisian dinars, payable on site
  (More detailed instructions will be provided in the second circular regarding payment methods)

Guidelines for oral communications

- **15 minutes** per oral presentation (in French or English)
- Submission of an abstract in **French** or **English** before **20 December 2025**

Poster award

As part of this 19th edition, a poster competition will be organized, with two prizes:

- A **junior award** for master's and doctoral students
- A **senior prize** for researchers and teacher-researchers

Posters must also be submitted with an abstract, in French or English. They must be printed in A0 format at 300dpi for display at the meetings and sent digitally before **20 January 2026**. Participants presenting a poster must bring it with them on the days of the conference.

Location

- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Tunis (Bd 9 Avril), Tunisia

Contact: georisque2026@gmail.com

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Abstract for presentation

Please, submit an abstract in English or French, approximately half page long, using the form below.

To be returned before **December 20, 2025,** to the address: georisque2026@gmail.com

Author (corresponding):

Name, Surname(s):

Affiliated organization:

Status/profession:

Email:

Co-authors:

Name, Surname(s):

Name, Surname(s):

Type of communication desired:

☐ Oral presentation (15 min.) ☐ Poster (A0 format)

Title of the presentation:

Abstract (1/2 page):

5 Keywords: