Call for Applications for Regional Community of Experts
in Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention

The Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS), within the European Union-funded COVALEX project (Community of Valued Experts in Hydrometeorological and Technological Multi-Hazards), invites experts and local government practitioners with relevant experience and expertise to apply for participation in the regional community dedicated to disaster risk reduction and prevention.

NALAS serves as a hub for knowledge sharing, experience exchange, and providing training for local government authorities. Bringing together 13 local government associations (LGAs) representing approximately 7,000 local authorities in South-East Europe (SEE), NALAS supports LGAs and their members in becoming more resilient. Our geographical coverage includes areas impacted by climate change and related disasters, such as floods, droughts, and wildfires. Local governments, being on the frontline of action, play a crucial role in assessing vulnerability and implementing climate adaptation measures, as well as disaster risk reduction and prevention strategies. Their preparedness and proactive approach are essential.

COVALEX aims to establish a community of experts focused on hydrometeorological hazards. The project pools and utilizes experiences from various geographical locations and networks to promote prevention, preparation, and testing processes. It brings together scientists, practitioners, and political decision-makers who are key players in risk and disaster governance.

The COVALEX Community of Experts operates on a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral basis, applying scientific findings to disaster risk management and fostering improvements in procedures, new technologies, and joint financing for developments and innovations. It will be a meeting and support point for its members from local, regional, and national spheres, including various fields of work, institutions, universities, civil protection agents, and private companies. Activities within the project include webinars, workshops, training sessions, and exercises.

Members of this regional community of experts, coming from the NALAS network's geographical coverage, will have opportunities to participate and contribute in the implementation of NALAS regional activities in the field of disaster risk reduction and management.

We invite local experts and practitioners from local governments with professional experience in civil protection, disaster risk prevention, preparedness, and response to join the community of experts. Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Direct experience in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, preferably in a leadership role such as head of a local government's department for protection and rescue or an equivalent position.
- Proven interest in local and national policies in the field (e.g. participated in conferences, working groups, or published papers).

NALAS

Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe
Réseau des Associations de Pouvoirs Locaux de l'Europe du Sud-Est

- Cooperation with the Local Government Association (e.g., membership in a Committee of the Association or providing expert support in the field) will be considered as an asset.
- Proficiency in English, both verbal and written, will be considered as an asset.

If you are interested in joining the COVALEX community of experts, **please complete and send the Letter of Agreement along with your CV** to the project's contact person Miodrag Kolić, NALAS Project Manager **at kolic@nalas.eu by September 27, 2024**.

With this document, you or your organization will express your interest in the COVALEX project and in participating in the community of experts. The letter outlines various ways to engage with the network. Please feel free to modify the document by adding or removing points based on your preferred level of participation.

You can find more information about the COVALEX project on the UCPKN platform: https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/covalex