

# DCNA Newsletter 02/2021

July 1st, 2021

Dear reader,

the Disaster Competence Network Austria team is pleased to send you the new newsletter!

In the last three months, a lot has happened at the DCNA: Our team has grown, our projects have progressed, and we've visited some exciting events. Of course, preparations for the Disaster Research Days 2021 are also in full swing.

Find out all the details in this newsletter and what summer and autumn will bring us.

## Overview:

[Disaster Research Days 2021](#)

[New colleagues in the DCNA team](#)

[Project updates](#)

[Publications and other news](#)

[Open calls](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

---



## **DISASTER RESEARCH DAYS 2021**

Webinar series from October 12-21, 2021

Due to the ongoing uncertainties regarding COVID-19, we have decided to hold this year's Disaster Research Days in an online format as we did in 2020.

This allows us to hold the event without any geographical restrictions and make all streams of the keynotes and sessions available to all participants regardless of time.

The already registered persons will soon receive more information about the changed format.

Currently, the review process is still ongoing; the paper selection for Special Issue (International Journal for Disaster Risk Reduction), as well as conference program and poster session will be finalized in July and August.

If you're interested in participating in this year's Disaster Research Days, please find [more info on our website >](#)

**#DRD21**

---

## **New colleagues in the DCNA team**

We are happy to have three new colleagues in the DCNA team that

have been supporting us since the beginning of June! From left to right: Susanna Wernhart, Astrid Raschig, Isabel Anger.



DCNA<sub>ustria</sub>

**Susanna Wernhart** has been working in the field of natural hazard research in a wide variety of national and international research projects since 2013, as well as a lecturer at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, at the Institute of Alpine Natural Hazards. Her professional background includes the prevention, management, and documentation of natural hazard events, with a focus on target group-specific risk communication, self-provision and building protection, event documentation, flood risk assessments and 2D simulations. At the DCNA, she is currently involved in the **BORIS project** as a research assistant.

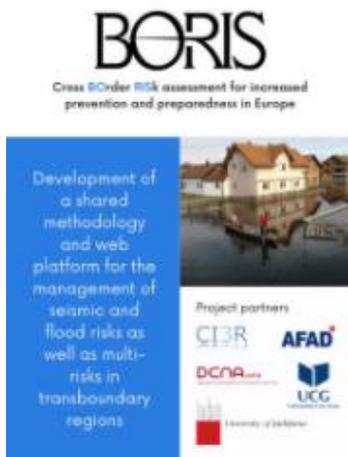
**Astrid Raschig** supports the DCNA as part of the Femtech internship in many areas of scientific work. She participates in the projects **ROBO-MOLE** and **ROBOnav** projects and contributes to the maintenance and updating of the portfolio of solutions. In addition, she assists with any other work in the network.

**Isabel Anger** has been involved in professional communication since 2010, both in marketing and PR, and has gained extensive experience in R&D, B2B and B2C. Her areas of expertise include content strategy and marketing as well as social media communication; she will continue to take over the newsletter in the future. In addition to her professional experience, she also benefits from her work as a volunteer paramedic and emergency driver in her tasks at the DCNA.

---

## PROJECT UPDATES

Ongoing projects

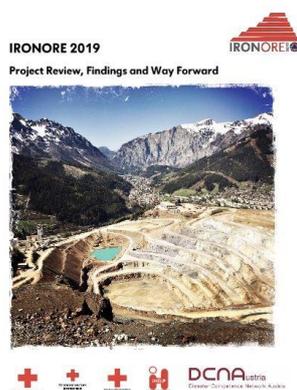


## BORIS

The BORIS project - Cross **B**order **R**ISK assessment for increased prevention and preparedness in Europe - launched in January 2021, has already completed several deliverables after 6 months. Among other things, the project website and a project flyer were finalized, and the first report on the national approaches to risk assessment and management is about to be published.

[More about the project >](#)  
[Download the project flyer >](#)

## Finalized projects



## IRONORE2019

With the final final report, the IRONORE project has now also been officially completed with a corona-related delay. The aim of the project was the successful implementation of a Discussion-Based Exercise and a Full Scale Exercise with a large number of international volunteers. A fictitious earthquake scenario was practiced in Eisenerz in Upper Styria, activating the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and using new technologies such as virtual reality, real-time mapping of the site and media tools for displaying exercise-specific news and social media entries as a realistic challenge for the practitioners.

[More on the project website >](#)  
[Download the final report >](#)

---

## PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER NEWS



## Understanding the needs of Civil Protection Agencies

*World Bank report*

The World Bank's current report on the promotion and financing of civil protection measures, including the challenges surrounding the scaling of investments in disaster management, is available.

[Find the report here >](#)

## Austria has now received more than EUR 1.8 billion in funding from the Horizon 2020 programme

*Overview of the Austrian EU Performance Monitoring*

The Horizon 2020 programme officially ended in December 2020, and the latest statistics on Austrian projects and project participation have now been published. Accordingly, with more than EUR 1.8 billion, Austria received about 2.8% of the total funding pot.

[Find the complete article here >](#)



## we4DRR general meeting

On June 16, DCNA employee Susanna Wernhart attended the General Assembly of the we4DRR initiative. This initiative deals with equality and gender mainstreaming in the field of disaster prevention, a topic that is also particularly highlighted in the Sendai Framework.

[More about we4DRR >](#)

## PhD thesis on Disaster Response Evaluation

*Important learnings for the evaluation of disaster relief operations*

In our project IRONORE2019, but also in the exercises of the German Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK/LÜKEX), the evaluation of operations is an essential component for future optimizations. In this context, the DCNA is also in constant contact with the colleagues of the BBK. In addition, the DCNA, as part of an international consortium, recently submitted a major project under DG-ECHO's last Network Partnership call to help further improve the evaluation of civil protection exercises. That being said, we are always pleased that in the course of these projects we can also establish contact with researchers who focus entirely on this

important topic. For example, the PhD thesis "Improving disaster response evaluations: Supporting advances in disaster risk management through the enhancement of response evaluation usefulness" is now publicly available. The work written by Ralf Beerens, Senior Researcher at Lund University, will be defended in September.

[Find the thesis here >](#)



### **GAR Special Report Drought 2021**

Within the next 80 years, 129 countries will face increased droughts. In 38 countries, climate change and population growth will be primarily responsible for this development. The GAR Special Report Drought 2021 provides information on further factors and recommendations for action.

[Read the report >](#)

### **CERIS networking meeting**

*Virtual meeting*

CERIS (Community of European Research and Innovation for Security) is a network that deals with security issues within the European Union. On 28 June, a virtual meeting took place for the exchange of various national disaster network initiatives, at which the DCNA also had a presentation slot and thus represented Austria as the second partner next to the FFG. A dedicated web platform for even better networking and more exchange within CERIS is currently in the works.

[More on CERIS >](#)



### **Study: CO2 contributes to shrinkage of stratosphere**

*Findings from BOKU research*

In an international research cooperation, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), has discovered that the stratosphere has become about 400 m thinner since the 1980s. According to the study, the reason for this is primarily the emission of greenhouse gases. If this emission continues to rise, the stratosphere could shrink by a further 1.3 km by 2080.

[Learn more >](#)

## **BOKU project for early detection of slope instabilities launched**

*VIGILANS is dedicated to deep underground slope instabilities*

The VIGILANS project, which was launched in June, is a cooperation between the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, the German Geological Survey (GBA), the Torrent and Avalanche Control (WLV) Geology Unit and the Institute for Natural Hazards of the Federal Research Centre for Forests (BFW) and is being carried out under the direction of the engineering office Sky4geo. Using modern methods such as satellite-based Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Photogrammetry (UAV-P), very slow and deep underground movements are also measured and validated with field data from ground-based monitoring systems.

[More information about VIGILANS \(German only\) >](#)

## **Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) Information Day 2021**

*Recording of the virtual event*

On 15 June, the European Commission's Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) organised an information day at which a selection of the DRMC's platforms and tools was presented. A video recording of the event is available for those interested.

[Watch the recording >](#)

## **Newsletter of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network**

*First issue of the quarterly newsletter*

The Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN) published the first issue of its quarterly newsletter in June. Registration is possible via [this link](#).

[Read the PDF version of the newsletter >](#)

---

## **OPEN CALLS**

### **SPIDER Challenge**

*Ideas for testing automated driving functions wanted*

In the SPIDER Challenge, Silicon Alps and Virtual Vehicle are looking for ideas to optimize the use of the SPIDER (Smart Physical Demonstration and Evaluation Robot) in the testing of automated

driving functions as well as to find new areas of application and applications. An example of the application is the military sector, which is tested, for example, as part of the AART (see upcoming events). Ideas for the SPIDER Challenge can be submitted until July 11th.

[Learn more about the challenge >](#)

### **Copernicus Masters 2021**

*Applications, solutions and business concepts on earth observation*

The "Copernicus Masters" call promotes innovative ideas in the field of Earth observation. SMEs, start-ups, researchers or individuals can submit. In addition to cash prizes, the winners will receive access to an international ecosystem of leading Earth observation organizations, a significant contingent of satellite data and support for corporate development. The call closes on 19.07. at 23:00.

[More info about the call >](#)

---

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **1st Austrian Alpine Robotic Trials**

*19.-22.07.2021*

The Austrian Armed Forces and TU Graz are organising the first Austrian Alpine Robotic Trials (AART) in July. This involves the use of automated driving in a military context, both in theory and in practical application. Partners in funded projects can test software and hardware in a professional, application-specific and secure training environment.

### **ASDR Naturgefahrenagung**

*30.09.-02.10.2021*

At the end of September, the ASDR Natural Hazards Conference for municipalities and regions including a showcase will take place in Öblarn. By focusing on the municipal level, valuable, practical impulses for the prevention and management of catastrophes are given especially for those who are the closest to those affected. The DCNA will also be represented with a workshop on crisis communication.

[More infos >](#)

### **2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction**

*24.11.-26.11.2021*

Save the date - in November, this year's European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction will take place in Portugal and online. The DCNA is part of the organizing committee and also organizes a side

event. Further information will be available soon.

[More about the event >](#)

---

The DCNA team  
wishes you an enjoyable summer!

---

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

*Imprint*

**Office Vienna:**

Universität für Bodenkultur Wien  
Gregor-Mendel-Straße 33  
A-1180 Wien

**Office Graz:**

Technische Universität Graz  
Steyrergasse 30  
A-8010 Graz

[www.dcna.at](http://www.dcna.at)