



InterUniversity Platform

Leading the knowledge management of Integrated Risk Management in Guatemala

Location:
Guatemala

Partners:
Inter University
Platform for Disaster
Risk Management

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Academic Authorities at the Official launch of InterU Disaster Risk Management Platform. Photo credits: Hugo Arbizú - CEDESUD-USAC

One of the changes we want to achieve is the Guatemala Academia taking lead on knowledge management on reducing disaster risks

Guatemala is characterised by being a multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic country. With a population of more than 16 million inhabitants, it is a very diverse country but also considered one of the countries most vulnerable to natural hazards.

The Sendai Framework states in its number one priority, that policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an in-depth understanding of disaster risks in all their dimensions.

Based on this priority, key institutions within the academic sector in Guatemala have joined the Inter-University Platform for Disaster Risk Management (spanish acronym *InterU-GRD*) to contribute to the development of Guatemalan society and the most vulnerable communities within it, and to develop more knowledge on disaster risk management, strengthening the national policies and practices.

The InterU-GRD Platform is a space that promotes the academic work of universities in Disaster Risk Management, aiming at increasing resilience in Guatemala and promoting its experience across the Central American region.

The Platform started in November 2016 with a meeting of the academic sector, supported by Partners for Resilience Guatemala. Since then it has grown and strengthened. Currently eleven Guatemalan universities are part of the Platform.



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InterU GRD Strategic Planning Workshop; Photo credits: Hugo Arbizú -CEDESYS-USAC

The specific objectives of the InterU-GRD platform are:

- Institutionalise disaster risk management in each university, according to internal philosophical guidelines, structure and capabilities.
- Generate technical and scientific information that advises decision-makers on disaster risk management.
- Build teams of multi-disciplinary volunteers specialised in disaster risk management.
- Coordinate among universities existing and future actions aimed at reducing disaster risks.
- Support the implementation and coordination of strategies, frameworks, treaties and conventions related to reducing disaster risks, climate change, biodiversity and the sustainable development goals.

The immediate actions and plans for the near future are

- To design, implement and monitor the virtual exchange community of knowledge about disaster risk management with the support of PFR Guatemala (online platform).
- To incorporate disaster risk management in the curricula of different university degree courses.
- To open dialogue spaces within the Academic sector at national and regional level to share experiences and learnings of the Universities in implementing disaster risk reduction measures.

The InterU-GRD is an academic space supported by the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction in Guatemala (CONRED) and the Partners for Resilience Alliance Guatemala

