



THE VOICES OF RESILIENCE

Testimonials and Achievements from
RESILIAGE's Summer Schools

2023 Edition: Heritage-Driven
Community Resilience: Endangered
Cultural Natural Sites

2024 Edition: SHEroes Resilience Summer
School: Empowering Women in Disaster
Risk Reduction through Heritage



INTRODUCTION

RESILIAGE is a three-year Horizon Europe project (GA no. 101121231) dedicated to enhancing community resilience through cultural and natural heritage as a resource of local communities. By addressing crises and disasters, the project aims to boost sustainable development and inclusive growth across Europe. It employs a community-centred approach through CORE Labs situated in Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Norway, and Turkey, each focusing on different aspects of resilience.

By working at a local level with communities and using digital and soft collaborative methodologies, the project will enhance interactions and awareness, aiming to advance knowledge by learning from real scenarios and fostering bottom-up processes.

This booklet presents **insights and experiences from two notable Summer Schools** conducted as part of the RESILIAGE project, as well as **testimonials from participants**.

Both editions of the RESILIAGE's Summer Schools were co-organised by Politecnico di Torino - POLITO, UNESCO and UCLA and hosted by POLITO at Castello del Valentino, an UNESCO World Heritage Site in Turin, Italy. The Summer School is part of the International joint Summer School Programme "Cultural Heritage in Context. Digital Technologies for the Humanities", coordinated by

Rosa Tamborrino (POLITO) and Willeke Wendrich (POLITO and University of California, Los Angeles). The Summer School targets a variety of career levels in both academic and professional contexts. They include early career researchers and practitioners with background in Disaster Risk Reduction, resilience, heritage, cultural institutions, Master and PhD students.

The **2023 edition** of the Summer School, titled "**Heritage-Driven Community Resilience. Six Endangered Cultural Natural Sites**", explored the resilience of six endangered cultural and natural sites. This edition of the RESILIAGE Summer School counted with the participation of 15 students and took place between the **23rd and 30th of September 2023**. This 5th edition of the joint programme counted with the participation of students from all over the world, including Argentina, China, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the USA.

As for **2024 edition**, "**SHEroes Resilience Summer School: Empowering Women in Disaster Risk Reduction through Heritage**", empowered 11 women and men in disaster risk reduction through heritage through transformative learning experiences. This Summer School edition took place between the **22nd and 29th of June 2024**. This 6th edition of the joint programme was attended by students from 7 nationalities, namely from China, France, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Netherlands and Philippines.

Both editions of the joint programme followed a similar structure. The mornings began with lessons, seminars and workshops organised by international experts from interdisciplinary fields. In the afternoons, students worked in parallel groups, supported by the tutors and teaching committee, to develop their course project. In both editions, participants worked on group projects based on real case scenarios from the CORE labs of the RESILIAGE project. During the week, dedicated sessions were organised to give participants the opportunity to directly interact with local representatives. The Summer Schools concluded with a pop-up exhibition where all students present their group work to the teaching committee, who evaluate the outcomes. Additionally, the programme includes site visits and external training activities to enhance the learning experience.

This ongoing effort underscores a commitment to fostering resilience and knowledge exchange on a global scale. These Summer Schools provided a valuable opportunity to engage a diverse range of stakeholders, offering a stage for meaningful capacity building and collaboration.



2023

Outcomes



In this section, you will discover how the students applied their learning to create practical projects. The **2023 edition** concentrated on the **connection between cultural heritage, technology, and community resilience**, specifically focusing on **endangered cultural and natural sites**.

The projects featured here demonstrate the students' dedication to developing new solutions for understanding the interactions between humans and historical environments. They also explored how these interactions can enhance community resilience and delved into the intangible values and local knowledge within these historic settings.

The 2023 edition of the RESILIAGE Summer School focused on two case studies from the project's CORE Labs, namely Crete and Famenne-Ardenne.

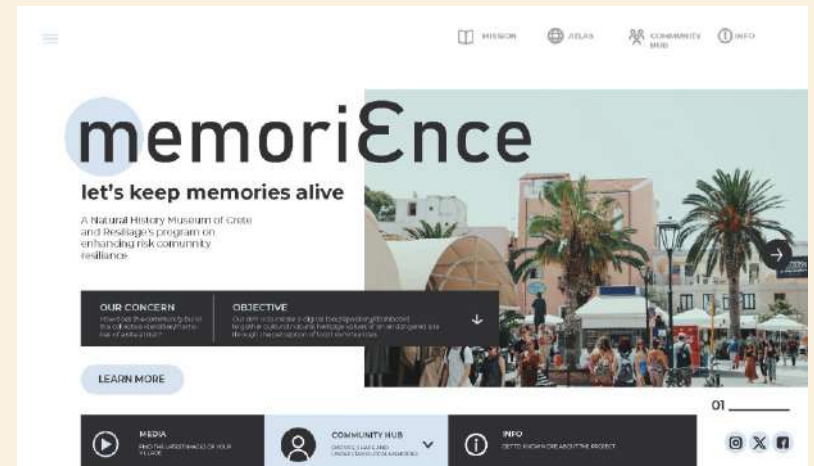
01. MEMORIENCE

Project Title: Let's make communities resilient through the collection of local memories about disasters

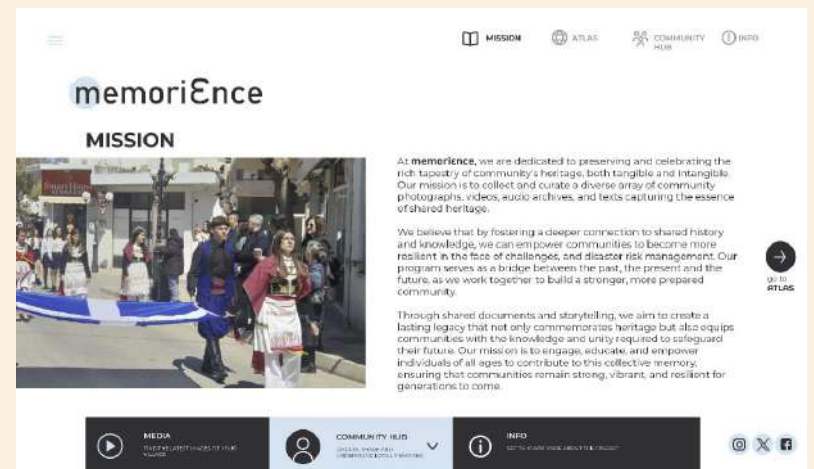
Team Members: Andrea Aita, Shatoo Ali, Yue Pan, Corrado Scudellaro, Kuekkong Suadee

Description: The goal of the memorience project is to enhance community resilience by collecting local memories about disasters. It focuses on preserving the intangible heritage of communities, which includes traditions, practices, and knowledge that shape a group's identity. Natural hazards and climate change pose significant threats to this heritage, as they disrupt the lives of communities and hinder the transmission of cultural knowledge. By gathering this local knowledge and creating a digital repository, the project aims to protect and ensure the continuity of these intangible cultural assets.

In addition to preservation, memorience seeks to actively involve local communities in the process. It proposes a digital platform where residents can share their experiences, cultural practices, and memories related to past disasters. This platform will not only serve as a historical record but also as a resource for future disaster preparedness and recovery efforts, ensuring that the cultural identity of these communities remains intact even in the face of natural hazards.



memoriEence homepage mock-up



memoriEence website mock-up

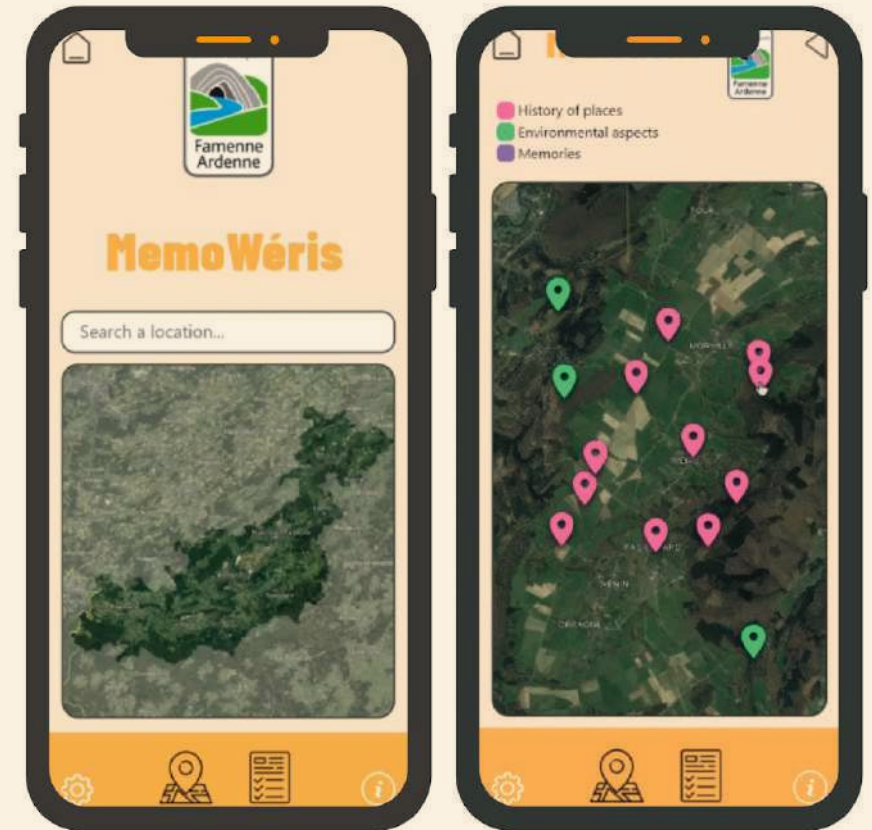
02. MEMOWÉRIS

Project Title: Famenne-Ardenne community-based heritage knowledge

Team Members: Daria Brancart, Sofia Darbesio, Maria Samareva, Tamás Tüske, Manoj Pasthan

Description: The MemoWéris project focuses on preserving cultural heritage in the Famenne-Ardenne UNESCO Global Geopark. It aims to protect local traditions, crafts, and gastronomy from risks like natural disasters and mass tourism. By engaging the community and local authorities, the project works to safeguard heritage elements such as ancient stone structures, which are often misunderstood or misused by tourists.

Through surveys and digital tools, MemoWéris promotes sustainable tourism and community resilience. The project encourages locals and tourists to participate in preserving and transmitting heritage, fostering stronger community bonds while promoting the responsible use of resources.



MemoWéris mobile phone app prototype

2023

Testimonials



In this section, you'll find testimonials from students who participated in the 2023 programme. Their feedback offers firsthand insights into the impact of their projects on both personal and community levels, highlighting the enriching experience of integrating cultural heritage and technology to build resilient communities.

DARIA BRANCART

**Entrepreneur, Researcher at Catholic University of Leuven,
Brancart and Ledwon Research Institute**

"Summer School became the missing puzzle piece in my research journey.

Initially, I came without specific expectations, hoping only to discover new digital humanities solutions for my ongoing research, as I was building a database and seeking better methods to analyse it. Yet, what I gained far exceeded my hopes. I not only redefined my research, viewing it through fresh lenses, but I also grasped the complete picture I had long been searching for.

Even more significant was finding the perfect direction for my postdoctoral project, a path that now unites three universities, several theatres, and a range of cultural organisations. The Summer School team was truly inspiring and is undoubtedly the heart of the project. Their passion, spark, and love for their work are undeniable and contagious.

Moreover, the Summer School gathered an extraordinary group of participants. It was a genuine pleasure collaborating with them, and we still keep in touch. I am deeply thankful to POLITICO team as well as to every SS participant for this unforgettable and transformative experience."

YUE PAN

**PhD Researcher, Department of Architecture and Design,
Politecnico di Torino, Italy**

"Through the RESILIAGE Summer School, I had an incredible opportunity to immerse myself in the interdisciplinary fields of cultural heritage, disaster risk reduction, and gender studies.

I acquired valuable skills and insights into the application of digital technology in heritage research. The lectures and workshops, led by internationally renowned experts, addressed critical issues such as restoration, risk prevention, and using digital tools to safeguard tangible and intangible heritage. I was particularly impressed by the coordinators' deep expertise in cultural heritage preservation and their understanding of heritage-driven community resilience. Their guidance gave me a comprehensive understanding of the complexities involved in heritage conservation, particularly in disasters.

The summer school on "Heritage-Driven Community Resilience: Six Endangered Cultural Natural Sites" significantly enhanced my understanding of the effective use of digital technologies in heritage studies. It underscored the role these technologies play in ensuring the continuity and transmission of cultural practices, even in the face of environmental threats."

SAM ALI

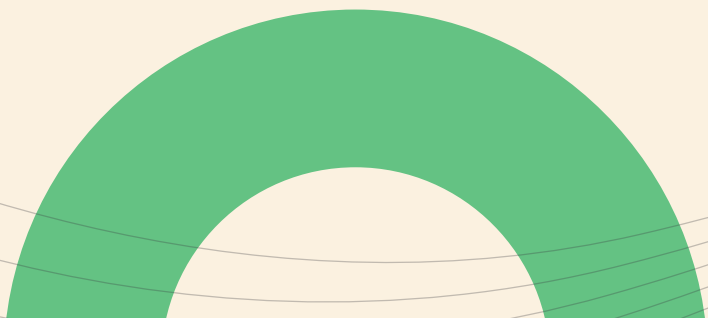
Participant in the 2023 edition of the RESILIAGE Summer School; Digital Asset Manager, Queen Mary University of London

In the 2023 edition of the RESILIAGE Summer School, I enjoyed the range of lectures and seminars offered. I was able to gain an insight into the challenges and protective actions at a variety of different partner sites, mostly European. We were able to hear directly from cultural heritage experts working at these sites. As climate change is, perhaps, the biggest threat to our world, I felt it was an important insight to hear how natural disasters threaten cultural heritage and the communities they belong to.

The primary benefit I gained from the course was to think critically about the role of digital tools and cultural heritage in community resilience. The connections between such complex

areas do not seem easy to formulate or analyse but I feel I have a better grasp as a result. I also gained some insight into new digital tools that were referenced in the course and which I would like to develop my knowledge in in the future.

As someone who is familiar with digital tools but not a specialist, the course made me aware of the necessity for overlapping expertise in the fields of digital, heritage and community to have meaningful effect in the real world using digital tools. It also made me think about how to define community and the need for a good understanding of this concept. Overall, the course made me feel I need to learn much more.



2024

Outcomes



As you explore the following pages, you will encounter a summary of the work developed by the students who have **transformed learning into action in the 2024 edition of Summer School**, illustrating the **intersection of cultural heritage, technology, and gender in building resilient communities**.

These outcomes highlight students' dedication in crafting solutions that not only address immediate **disaster risk reduction needs but also empower women by integrating and preserving valuable cultural traditions**.

The 2024 edition of the RESILIAGE Summer School focused on two case studies from the project's CORE Labs, namely Trondheim and Karsiyaka.

01. CARE

Project Title: CARE – Community urban Agriculture for Resilience in Trondheim

Team Members: Cécile Bruyet & Sofia Darbesio

Description: The CARE Project discusses how urban farming can significantly boost community resilience against natural hazards. It highlights the integration of agriculture into urban settings as a way to provide sustainable food sources and strengthen community bonds. This approach is crucial for disaster risk reduction, helping communities to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters like landslides and food crises.

The project also links urban farming to cultural heritage, showing how agricultural practices can be incorporated into UNESCO heritage sites, enriching their cultural and historical significance. Additionally, it emphasises the role of women and inclusion in urban farming, noting that these activities can empower women by providing them with resources and roles that are crucial in disaster risk reduction efforts. This makes urban farming a key strategy in sustainable urban planning and enhancing community resilience.



CARE web app prototype

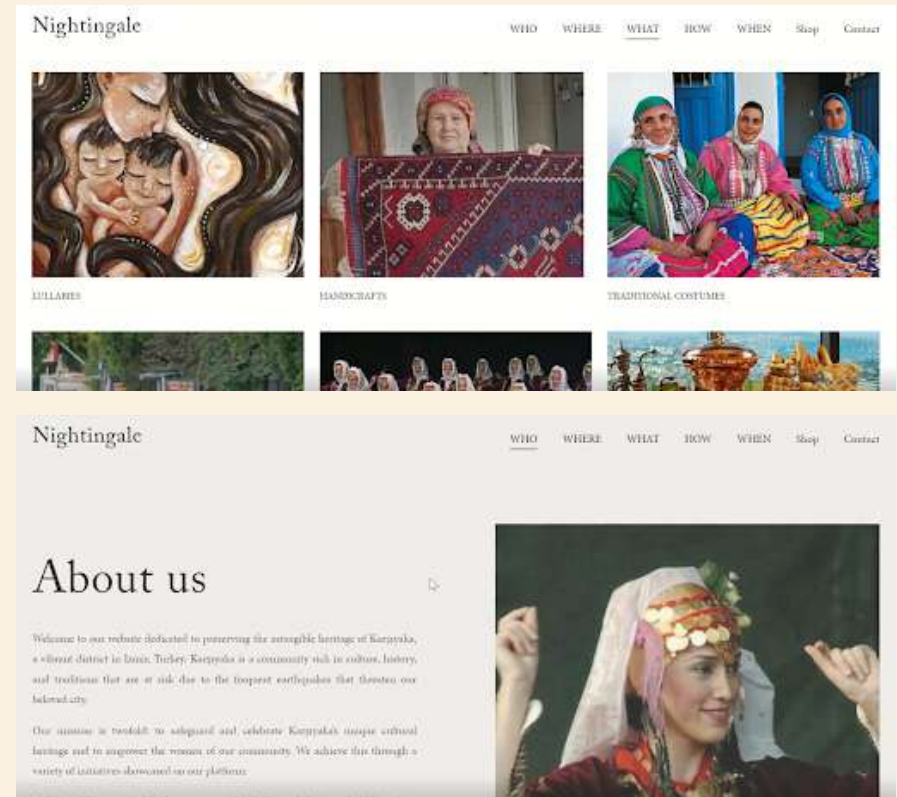
02. NIGHTINGALE

Project Title: Empowering Women in Disaster Risk Mitigation: Safeguarding through intangible Cultural Heritage and Practices in the city of Karşıyaka

Team Members: Maristella De Fabrizio, Shayan Kamil & Yue Pan

Description: The NIGHTINGALE project is centred on enhancing women's roles in disaster risk mitigation through the use of intangible cultural heritage in Karşıyaka. It highlights how preserving cultural practices can help maintain community identity and empower women to play a vital role in disaster preparedness and response. It also researches how women can be empowered through digital skills and gender-sensitive approaches, to increase their leadership and participation in disaster risk management.

Moreover, the project underscores the importance of intangible cultural heritage, such as traditional crafts and festivals, which are pivotal in maintaining community cohesion and identity during and after disasters. It illustrates the critical role women play in these efforts, emphasising how their involvement not only helps preserve cultural practices but also strengthens the community's resilience against disasters.



Women's role in preserving heritage

03. SHECONNECTS

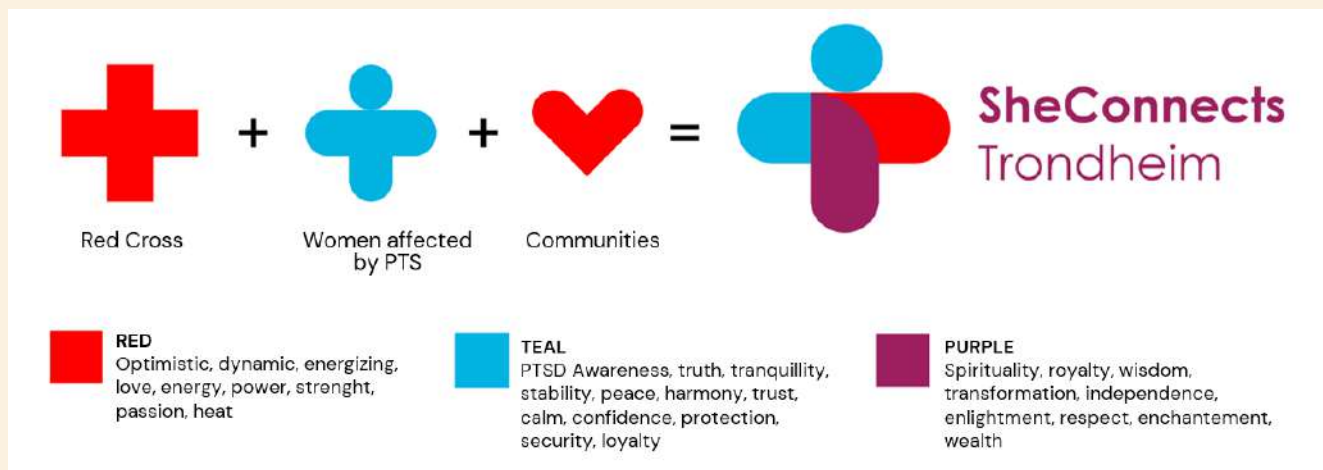
Project Title: SheConnects Trondheim

Team Members: Maria Rosaria Coccozza, Christy Kelderman & Feng Liu

Description: The project explores the impact of natural hazards on women's mental health, particularly focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Trondheim. It discusses the higher incidence of PTSD among women compared to men following disasters and how this can be addressed through community and cultural engagement. The project also emphasises the use of digital tools and heritage preservation as

mechanisms to support women's mental health and resilience.

Key strategies outlined by the project include integrating art and heritage into disaster risk management. By encouraging participation in community art projects and heritage-related activities, the programme aims to leverage cultural practices for healing and building resilience. The approach not only aids in emotional and psychological recovery but also strengthens community bonds, providing women with the support needed to manage the aftermath of disasters effectively.



SheConnects Trondheim brand

Vilkommen SheConnects Trondheim

Welcome to the official website of SheConnects Trondheim, an organization dedicated to supporting women affected by natural disasters through the transformative power of art and community. Located in the heart of Trondheim, our mission is to alleviate post-traumatic stress and promote emotional and psychological healing for women through creative workshops and community initiatives.



SheConnects Trondheim website

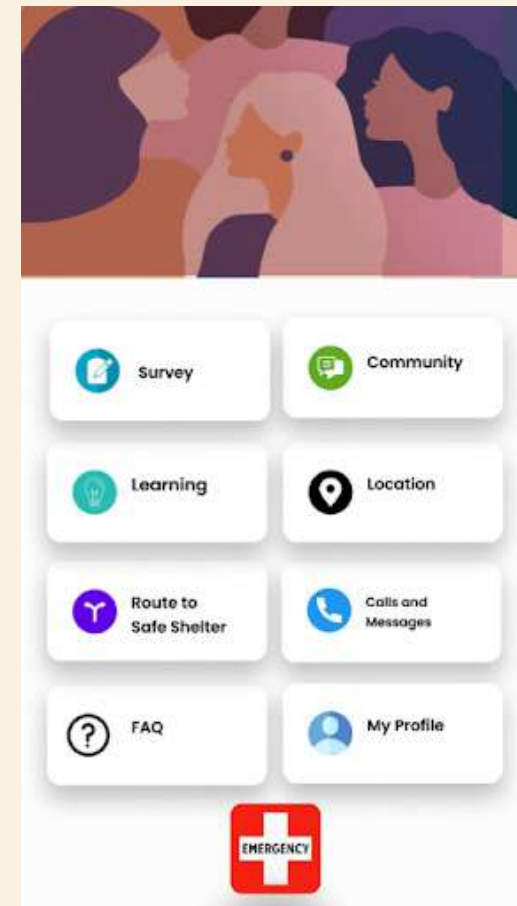
04. WEAVE

Project Title: Women's Emergency Action Volunteer Engagement

Team Members: Aya Tahhan, Margherita Rago & Gerard Lico

Description: The WEAVE project is aimed at empowering women in disaster risk reduction through leveraging cultural heritage. It details the creation of the WEAVE app, designed to mobilise volunteers, particularly women, to use their local cultural knowledge in emergency situations. The app connects volunteers with civil protection agencies and women's associations to facilitate effective responses to disasters like earthquakes and heatwaves.

The project emphasises the role of women as key agents in strengthening community resilience. It outlines various activities within the WEAVE framework, such as craft making, storytelling, and traditional culinary practices, which are used to engage and empower participants. These culturally rooted activities not only enhance the community's capacity to respond to emergencies but also preserve important cultural traditions.



WEAVE mobile app prototype

2024

Testimonials



In this section, you'll find testimonials from students who participated in the 2024 programme. Their feedback offers firsthand insights into the impact of their projects on both personal and community levels, empowering women in disaster risk reduction through heritage, and showcasing the profound impact of integrating gender perspectives into resilience-building initiatives.

CÉCILE BRUYET

PhD Researcher, Centre for Urban History, University of Antwerp, Belgium

“During the Summer School, I got hands-on experience on interdisciplinary research by working with a diversity of architects and urban planners while being a historian. It is incredible what we can (and could!) develop in terms of resilience to disasters by sitting together around a table, learning the research language of other disciplines and really working together. Considering the role of women in keeping and transmitting local knowledge and traditional practices, which are known to be valuable in resilience strategies, I learned how important is it that in response we, women in science, make sure that heritage and the role of women in it are brought to the forefront when developing tools of resilience.”

SOFIA DARBESIO

PhD Researcher, Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

“Attending the Summer School was a full immersion in collaboration and diverse perspectives, bringing together heritage, disaster risk reduction, and gender dimensions within a unified research framework. This enriching experience allowed for multiple discussions and insights, particularly through international conversations with colleagues from various backgrounds. Working hand in hand on a real case study allowed us to create a common understanding, overcoming the initial difficulties of interdisciplinary research. Interdisciplinarity was also a key aspect of the teaching curriculum, featuring speakers from different fields – ranging from heritage experts to tool developers – and alternating with workshop and collaborative work sessions. The balance of these elements enabled us to apply the methodology conveyed by the programme and shape a project where the digital tool outlined is an integral part of the research process. Additionally, I was inspired by how women from different professional backgrounds are already making a difference in science. The friendly environment fostered shared exploration, encouraging young researchers to collaborate and shape new ways of working together during this important time of change.”

YUE PAN

**PhD Researcher, Department of Architecture and Design,
Politecnico di Torino, Italy**

"What I enjoyed most about the summer school was the unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. The "SHEroes Resilience Summer School: Empowering Women in Disaster Risk Reduction through Heritage" further enriched my knowledge by highlighting the intersection of gender and heritage studies. It emphasised the importance of empowering women with the skills and expertise to lead in these areas, particularly in regions prone to natural hazards.

Overall, the RESILIAGE Summer School deepened my appreciation for heritage studies and provided me with the tools and networks to continue contributing to this vital field. I feel more confident and prepared to engage in future projects that aim to protect and celebrate cultural heritage through digital technologies."



CHRISTY KELDERMAN

Heritage student at the Reinwardt academy in Amsterdam

I applied for the RESILIAGE Summer school because I wanted to extend my knowledge in the field, especially with managing disaster risk reduction, but also cultures and communities.

What I enjoyed most about the summer school was the chance to meet new people from a lot of different countries and the different points of view they brought. I learned a lot from my peers, in addition to everything I learned from the teachers. I looked up to them both.

Some things I learned from them are for example about different organisations and communities and how they could influence disaster risk reduction, but also the emergency response now. I have also learned a lot about gender perspectives on different subjects, which I loved.

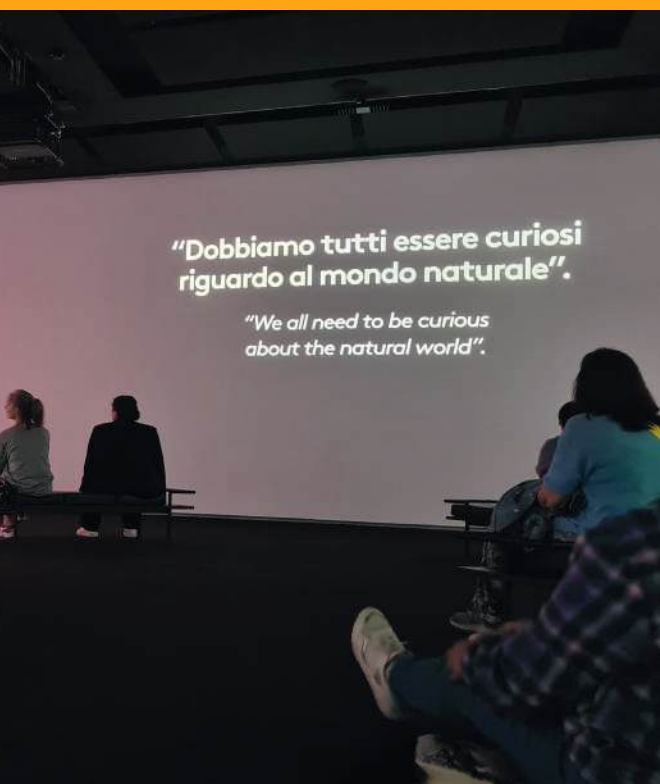
Aside from learning this and a lot more, I also feel connected to more important organisations, as they not only tell us about themselves but also give us the chance to ask them questions.

I am very grateful to have contributed to this program and met a lot of intelligent and special people.



Memories from the past editions





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