I am delighted to welcome you to Tallinn for the first ANDROID Disaster Resilience Network conference which brings together experts and academics from around the world. As the first of three annual conferences for ANDROID, the emphasis at this symposium is on refining objectives and deliberating delivery plan details whereas the second and third conferences will focus more on the discussion and dissemination of emerging results from ANDROID activities. Accordingly, this conference has been organised around meetings and networking opportunities.

We are honoured to have as our keynote speakers Helena Molin Valdés of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and Professor Tarmo Soomere, Fellow of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, from the Institute of Cybernetics at Tallinn University of Technology.

I am happy to see all our old partners with whom we have had a good relationship for years and I hope that our cooperation with new partners will be as fruitful. I would like to thank our lead partner, the University of Salford, whose systematic work has built up this network and brought people here from all over the world.

The conference venue is the historical Tallinn Teachers' House - a property first mentioned in chronicles of 1333. Its location on Town Hall Square is right at the centre of Tallinn's medieval Old Town. With its largely intact city walls, cobble streets and 13th-16th century buildings the Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Many of Tallinn's main tourist attractions and all the accommodation for delegates are within the Old Town and in easy walking distance from the conference venue.

I hope that you will find the conference and your stay in Estonia both valuable and enjoyable.
Welcome message from the conference chair

Irene Lill

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