

REA - RESILIENCE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

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The Resilience Engineering community currently brings together some 200 academia and industry representatives that more or less regularly exchange at different levels. Throughout the years, there has been many fluctuations in the number, frequency and scope of these exchanges. Themes and issues have shifted from a more conceptual nature to a clearly applied one, and a wider diversity of industry sectors is represented in the various discussions that are undertaken around our community.

While some remain with us since the foundation of the association and even since the birth of the Resilience Engineering concept, and more or less directly contribute to our activities, many others have drifted off or pursued different paths. In addition, only a fraction of these close to 200 community members have committed to a regular REA membership. This clearly shows that, despite the growth in the community and its activity, our work remains short of expectations.

The changes that our community has known over the years has inevitably reflected on the various symposium editions. The diversity of topics, contributions and of the discussions that emerge around them has always been an outstanding trend of REA symposia. This year's edition is no exception and promises yet another substantial contribution to the development of resilience engineering practice. While this is unarguably very positive, it poses a challenge for REA as an organisation. Maintaining the cohesiveness of the community and of the work that is produced within, has often proven difficult, particularly when faced with few resources and an evident overuse of the term resilience across all industry domains.

The symposium is a central activity of REA, but the dynamics and demands that are currently experienced in both academia and industry; require a wider diversity of opportunities for engagement and exchange. Fostering broad sector and cross-sector discussions is as important as promoting the validation of tools and solutions for context specific issues. REA symposia cannot realistically address such diversity of demands, which means that more than ever, REA as an organisation, must generate a higher diversity of opportunities for reflection and exchange. This is the key motivation for the review of fundamental resources such as REA's website, and the development of other communication initiatives that are still planned for this year, particularly the production of a newsletter as a way to ensure continuity of discussions at certain levels, and the planning of other events such as webinars. It is our firm belief that this will enrich the Resilience Engineering community as whole, REA as an organisation, and naturally, also contribute to the sustained success of future symposia editions.