



European
Commission

ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2021

Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

“ *Εν μόνον αγαθόν είναι, την επιστήμην, και εν μόνον κακόν, την αμαθίαν.* – Σωκράτης
There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance. – Socrates



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network newsletter!

As one of the European Union's recent flagship policies in civil protection and disaster management, the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network brings together practitioners, researchers, policy makers and experts who share their skills and expertise, collaborate and learn from each other to strengthen the Union's overall ability to deal with disasters.

Communicating and sharing information are building blocks of our joint working and learning process. This newsletter aims to become an open, reliable and resourceful communication tool for key actors of the disaster prevention, preparedness and response community.

In this edition, you will find political updates such as an interview on the recently upgraded Union Civil Protection Mechanism legislation, information on developments in the learning sector such as the EU MODEX exercises or on the projects the European Commission supports in the field of civil protection, with focus on the prevention and preparedness projects. You will discover how the Knowledge Network links policies and operations with science. Last but not least, you will have an overview of upcoming events of interest to the community and new learning resources.

This newsletter is one of our joint means to keep each other informed of our respective work on how we contribute together to building a more efficient and effective civil protection through sharing our knowledge, experience and expertise. With this in mind, I would like to invite you to share ideas and feedback with the editorial team and encourage you to contribute to the next editions. As a quarterly newsletter, the next issue will reach your mailboxes at the end of September. Once the Knowledge Network collaborative platform goes online, the look and feel of the newsletter will evolve and you will be able to access all the news directly on the platform.

I hope you will enjoy the reading.

Sincerely,

Paraskevi (Vivi) Michou
Director-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

IN THIS OPENING ISSUE

- > Insights from the negotiators of the new UCPM legislation
- > EU MODEX: what is happening behind the scenes?
- > Investing in disaster resilience pays off! Economics of Prevention & Preparedness
- > Our community in action
- > Upcoming events, learning opportunities & new resources

And much [more...](#)

The new UCPM legislation makes the EU's role in crisis management stronger

Interview with Director Ilkka Salmi and the European Commission negotiation team

On 26 May, the new Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) legislation entered into force. How will this strengthen the European Union's role in crisis management and what does it mean for civil protection?

Ilkka Salmi (I.S.), Director, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention: The COVID-19 crisis has put national and European crisis management systems to the test. The UCPM

has been at the frontline of the response, again showing the real added value that the Mechanism has and the essential role that civil protection plays in these situations.

However, the unprecedented and large-scale nature of this crisis, with its far-reaching consequences, has also revealed some weaknesses. This has led to reflection on how to improve things for the future, both in Member States and within EU institutions.

It is in this spirit that the revision of UCPM needs to be understood. A building block contributing to a wider crisis management system, in which civil protection should continue playing an important role, and at the same time promote and increase cross-sectoral cooperation.

Was the Covid-19 pandemic the main trigger for this legislative upgrade, and do the new rules foresee anything specific so that the EU is better prepared for large-scale medical emergencies in the future?

I.S.: As many people know, the UCPM was significantly strengthened in 2019, when the revised legislation establishing the rescEU reserves entered into force. The initial plan was to move into rapid implementation to make use of its full potential.

However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic obliged us to change our plans very rapidly, which resulted in a new legislative proposal being put on the table only one year after the previous revision. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly accelerated events, but it also showed that the Commission was able to take rapid and decisive action to address a very complex situation. This was done already integrating the initial lessons from the crisis, proposing innovative solutions to the main problems affecting citizens.

So we can proudly say that the EU is better prepared today for large-scale emergencies than it was one year ago. The new legislation has important measures throughout the whole disaster management cycle. Health contingencies will be better integrated into our crisis planning, through strategic anticipation and scenario-building; preparedness is being strengthened, through the creation of additional response capacities under rescEU, in particular with the further development of the first ever stockpile of emergency medical equipment under the rescEU strategic reserve and other modules and equipment to counter existing and emerging threats. In 2020 alone, it facilitated the delivery of over 18 million items of critical personal protective equipment and medical equipment. Finally, the overall emergency response to such crises is strengthened, with

increased operational and financial flexibility, and a reinforcement of the cross-sectoral approach under the UCPM.

How will the role of the European Commission and of its Emergency Response Coordination Centre change under this new framework?

I.S.: The Emergency Response Coordination Centre will continue to be at the centre of the action. The ERCC is our 24/7 operational hub and has played a decisive role in our collective response to the crisis.

The new legislation builds on a high performing system, bringing the ERCC to the next level of ambition. It gives the ERCC a strengthened mandate to promote a cross-sectoral approach to crisis management, and supports it through enhanced operational, analytical, monitoring and information sharing capabilities.

In the near future, the Commission's ERCC should gradually become the EU's cross-sectoral crisis management hub, supporting work across different policy areas. In this upgraded role, the ERCC will work hand in hand with the Knowledge Network, which will encourage knowledge exchange, partnership creation and innovation in civil protection and disaster management to strengthen the cross-sectoral prevention and preparedness dimension of our work.

What is in it for Member States and Participating States of the UCPM?

I.S.: We are fully aware of the role and competence that the European



Commission has in this area, that is, to support the actions of UCPM Member and Participating States. As such, they have a key role to play in the successful implementation of the revised UCPM.

With a record-high budget for the seven next years, Member and Participating States will benefit from increased funding opportunities to develop capacities, take part in training and exercises and apply for projects.

This engagement will of course go beyond financial matters, and we also seek to associate the whole community in key strategic discussions for the future of the UCPM. For instance, the Union Disaster Resilience Goals, established under the new legislation, will require the active involvement of Member and Participating States in their definition and implementation.

The negotiation process lasted around one year, could you share some insights?

I.S.: I have been involved in many negotiations during my career. Over the years, you realise the key role that the interpersonal element plays during a negotiation. As such, conducting such a negotiation process in the circumstances the team did it, it is truly remarkable. I should also say that the successful outcome of this process was not only due to the excellent European Commission team, which I had the honour to lead.

I am aware that all Member States made great efforts and showed the necessary flexibility to allow the tireless Presidency teams of Croatia, Germany and Portugal, with the support of the Council Secretariat, to reach common ground and find compromises. By the same token, I also need

to recognise the tremendous efforts the European Parliament, through the Rapporteur and the ENVI Secretariat, did to reach an improved text, with better solutions for us all.

I'd now like to pass the floor to the negotiation team - under the supervision of Julia Stewart-David - who I'm sure can provide you with interesting first-hand insights on the hybrid negotiating process they have just went through.

How was the experience of the European Commission negotiating team?

Joanna Serdyńska, Team Leader

- Governance & Legislation: One can certainly say that the experience of last year was challenging, yet enriching. At the time of the preparation of the proposal and start of the negotiations, we were

a relatively new team that was tasked to lead - within the shortest period of time - a substantial exercise that concerns the entire EU civil protection. The complete process - from drafting to adoption - took exactly one year. This is a remarkable achievement that was possible thanks to the tireless work of the team and the support of many colleagues in DG ECHO.

What were the particular challenges you have encountered?

Grega Grobovsek, Legal & Policy Officer:

The biggest challenge was the fact that the entire negotiations with the co-legislators happened virtually, as compared to the last reform. The virtual-conferencing

may have brought some benefits too. Indeed, it has undoubtedly sped up activity and productivity. At each meeting, draft provisions were efficiently discussed. Nevertheless, from a negotiations chair point



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of view, the videoconference has its limits: it is hard to understand the position of the interlocutor, whereas in person "feeling the room" can say a lot on where the negotiations stand. The human element was missing this

time around. It will be interesting to see what the future of negotiations holds, be it in person, virtual or hybrid.

How did this experience shape you as a team?

Francesco Pontiroli Gobbi, Legal & Policy Officer:

As a team, we grew stronger. We barely knew each other at that time, but now it comes naturally to work together or distribute tasks. We have truly built a team one negotiating round after the other; it was a great team-building exercise in a way! The effort was so intense that in some respects I feel I have been in contact more with my team than with many friends over the past months. I sincerely think that team-wise the spill-over effects will last for quite some time and will all be positive.

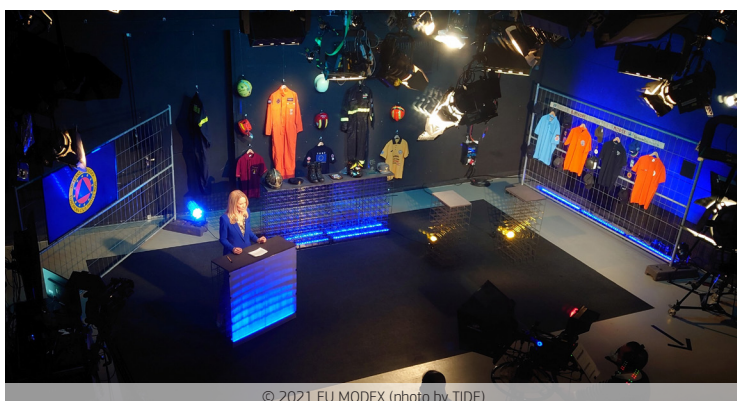
More: [Revised UCPM legislation \(Regulation EU 2021/836\)](#).

[Consolidated version of Decision 1313/2013/EU](#) (updated as of 30 June 2021).

Ten years of success for EU MODEX... what's next?

March 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the [EU MODEX programme](#). Since the launch of the programme, over 8000 experts and rescuers have participated in more than a hundred table-top and Module exercises, financed and actively supported by an expert team at the European Commission ([ECHO](#)). EU MODEX has become one of the flagship programmes under UCPM preparedness activities, with an average of 14 exercises a year and the involvement of all EU Member States and Iceland, Norway, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Turkey. These cross-border emergency exercises have contributed to deepen the understanding of coordination, interoperability, self-sufficiency, communication and reporting, safety and security among deployable capacities and Civil Protection experts. They helped build effective emergency response.

To mark this success, the EU MODEX team organised the [EUCP Think Tank](#), a future-oriented open online discussion among thirteen civil protection experts from different backgrounds. A large audience across Europe watched it on YouTube and could interact via live questions. This event was followed by the [10 Years Anniversary Show](#) which was broadcasted on 27 March, telling the stories of practitioners applying the skills learned during EU MODEX in response.



What's happening now and into the future?

At the moment, all face to face exercises are on hold due to the pandemic. Gerard Guerin, European Commission's Seconded National Expert, explains that the team is working at full speed to introduce innovative elements: "When the exercises resume, virtual reality, augmented reality and new learning technologies will be introduced to enhance the exercise and learning experience of participants."

Two digital table top exercises have already taken place and two new blended Medical field exercises will start very soon. Moreover, the team is developing a new exercise for Urban Search and Rescue teams in virtual reality. Work is also ongoing to develop a new challenging opportunity for Civil Protection experts and Technical Assistance Support Team (TAST) members to exercise and test knowledge and skills not normally exercised in EU MODEX. Last but not least, new exercise scenarios, such as epidemic and marine pollution, are also being developed for when EU MODEX exercises will be restarted again. The European Commission is looking into alternative ways of conducting such exercises, using EU MODEX methodology.



More on EU MODEX

EU MODEX exercises aim to better prepare civil protection experts, capacities and disaster management authorities for international deployments under the UCPM in two ways:

> **field exercises**, which focus on operational aspects and the response capacities' minimum requirements during the different phases of an international deployment, such as mobilisation/arrival, operations and demobilisation;

> **table-top exercises**, which are discussion based sessions focusing on strategic decision-making and managerial preparation during a deployment (coordination, procedures, reporting and communication arrangements) of key personnel.



COMING UP

NEEDS 2021, 21-23 September



NEEDS
2021
21-23 September

The fifth edition of the Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies, hosted by Mid Sweden University and organized by the Risk and Crisis Research Centre will take place digitally on 21-23 September 2021.

This year's attention shifts away from hazardous events to the "in-between disasters" spaces where possible futures are imagined. The conference is structured along three themes: "drawing from experience" focusing on recovery and organisational aspects after crisis, "playing with realities", looking at how to prepare for future events, and "imagining futures" sharing ideas and visions.

For more information and registration visit the [NEEDS2021 website](#).

German Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 25-26 October

Are you interested in learning more about national and international approaches to disaster risk reduction? Would you like to follow an enriching interdisciplinary exchange between different sectors and levels of disaster risk management and networking and cooperation between science and practice?

Tune in for the German conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 25-26 October 2021 with the overall topic "Build forward better", organised by the German Red Cross with the support of various partners, and funded by the German humanitarian assistance.

Watch [this space](#) for the upcoming programme and information how to register and to follow the conference in live streaming. The event will be held in German and partly in English (workshops).

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 24-26 November

The 2021 edition of the [European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) will take place from 24 - 26 November in Matosinhos, hosted by the Portuguese National Authority for Civil Protection.

The event will look into the need to address the systemic, cascading and compound nature of risks, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate emergency. It will be an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned, and chart the way forward for a resilient future.

To learn more about the programme, the expected outcomes and to register, visit the [EFDRR website](#).



NEW RESOURCES

World Bank-ECHO Study on Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Every year, there is a 10% chance that EU countries will experience an earthquake or a flood that will exhaust the funding available for response and recovery both at national and EU level. Disasters can have devastating physical, social, and financial effects. Between 1980 and 2020, natural disasters affected nearly 50 million people in the European Union, and caused on average an economic loss of €12 billion per year. The intensity and frequency of disasters is expected to grow as a result of climate change.

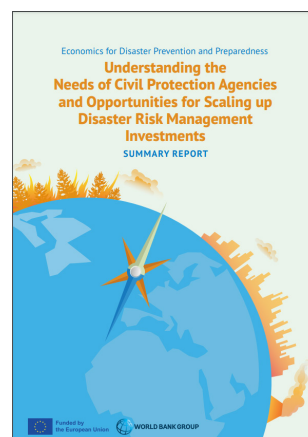
That is why the World Bank and DG ECHO decided to take a close look at the costs and benefits of investments in disaster resilience and their financing at both national and EU levels. By modelling the impact of earthquakes and floods on EU economies, their study shows that these two hazards alone are likely to erode a significant part of national GDPs. In the case of extreme events, damages could exceed 17% of GDP in some countries. When a disaster strikes, governments take on a significant share of the financial costs, which can generate funding gaps.

Actions to strengthen financial preparedness and reduce these funding gaps could reduce impacts of disasters on people, economies and government budgets. But finance is not enough. It needs to be combined with investments in green and resilient infrastructure.

The benefits of investing in resilience are traditionally underestimated. Analysing 70 real investments for prevention and preparedness across Europe, the study estimates their economic benefits by focusing on avoided damages and losses, unlocked potential to economic development, and social and environmental benefits. It turns out that the benefits of investment almost always exceed the costs. Especially when these investments address several risks at the same time, such as those that combine seismic retrofitting, fire safety and energy efficiency of buildings, or flood-prevention measures that combine infrastructure with “green” (nature-based) and “blue” (water-based) solutions. These smart investments provide the greatest benefits for cost of investment and yield the biggest “Dividends of Resilience”.

Finally, strengthening technical and human capacities of civil protection authorities (including to develop and use more robust evidence) and securing financial resources is important to scale up investments in prevention and preparedness. The recently revised UCPM legislation provides a range of opportunities to access both knowledge and financing to help our Member States become more resilient and achieve the goals of the EU Green Deal.

Strengthening financial resilience, investing in risk reduction, and improving institutional preparedness is not just good policy, it makes economic sense. Find out more [here](#).



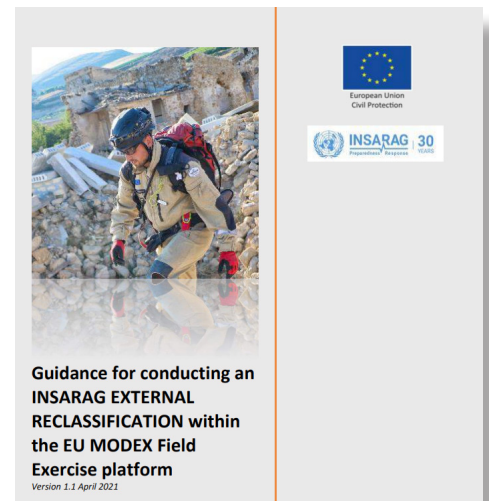
NEW RESOURCES

INSARAG External Reclassification within EU MODEX

On May 2021 the [guidance handbook](#) for conducting an INSARAG External Reclassification (IER) within the EU MODEX Field Exercise programme was endorsed by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Steering Group.

This handbook reinforces a common understanding among the many key stakeholders involved in the development and delivery of the IER process utilising EU MODEX (exercises for Civil Protection Modules and other Response Capacities).

The European Commission and the INSARAG Secretariat strongly encourage all relevant stakeholders to use this guidance handbook. It contains detailed information on the design, planning, conduct, administrative and logistical arrangements of an EU MODEX field exercise hosting an IER, and of each other's roles and responsibilities. This approach not only improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the IER process but also ensures a more coherent and collective delivery of EU MODEX. It also avoids duplication of effort, supports and encourages partnership working, and delivers a unique opportunity for Urban Search and Rescue teams to participate with other teams and be able to fully demonstrate their response capability as they would in a real-life response.



The partnership between the European Commission and UN OCHA - INSARAG is long-standing and continues to evolve and support a variety of initiatives that promote the closest possible cooperation between the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and INSARAG.

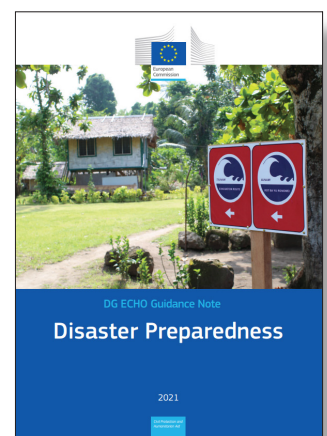
ECHO Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note

ECHO has published a [Disaster Preparedness \(DP\) Guidance Note](#) describing ECHO's disaster preparedness and risk-informed approach in humanitarian contexts, and supporting humanitarian partners and ECHO staff in applying it in DG ECHO funded humanitarian actions.

The growing attention on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction due to climate change and its effects makes this guidance note particularly informative for those working on Disaster Risk Management and related issues.

The UCPM collaborates with humanitarian actors and shares its expertise in disaster preparedness (for example in development of early warning systems, emergency planning, risk awareness, institutional and professional capacity building). The Knowledge Network aims to improve these already existing links between humanitarian and civil protection actors, by disseminating lessons learnt and good practices to all UCPM Member States and Participating States through the UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme and other activities.

The disaster preparedness guidance note also covers prevention and preparedness missions and UCPM advisory missions of particular relevance to risk reduction and preparedness. These contribute to improving humanitarian preparedness strategies and promote a 'build back better' approach. These missions can provide tailored expertise and recommendations on preparedness on the request of a national government or the United Nations or its agencies.



FROM OUR COMMUNITY

rescEU medical stockpile – the right tool at the right time

The global spread of COVID-19 in early 2020 led to additional measures taken at Member States level to avoid the emergency escalating throughout the EU. To meet these challenges, in a rapid ‘tour de force’ the Civil Protection Committee adopted the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/414 of 19 March 2020, which included among the rescEU capacities the stockpiling of medical countermeasures or personal protective equipment aimed at combatting serious cross-border threats to health.



The first rescEU reserve of medical countermeasures was set up by the Romanian Department for Emergency Situations (IGSU).

The European Commission allocated a direct grant of up to €10 million for the establishment of an initial reserve of medical

countermeasures, consisting of personal protective masks and medical ventilators for intensive care. The biggest challenge for the Romanian authorities was to procure the materials, considering the scarce availability and the fierce competition on the volatile international market at that time.

This is to be seen just as another example of Member and Participating states’ engagement to contribute to the overall European response to emergencies and a reflection of the most important characteristic of European Civil Protection – SOLIDARITY.

Vlad Petre, Seconded National Expert, European Commission

In coordination with ECHO, the items were purchased through an emergency procurement procedure and stored by IGSU in their own warehouses.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre mobilised the rescEU reserve only a few weeks after its creation, to respond to critical needs of the front line authorities responding to the pandemic in UCPM Member States and Participating States. Since 25 April 2020, IGSU carried out ten rescEU missions (using both land and aerial transport), delivering 847 000 FFP2 and FFP3 protective masks to Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Spain, and 30 medical ventilators for intensive care to the Czech Republic.



According to Vlad Petre, European Commission's Seconded National Expert: “This is to be seen just as another example of Member and Participating states’ engagement to contribute to the overall European response to emergencies and a reflection of the most important characteristic of European Civil Protection – SOLIDARITY.”

FROM OUR COMMUNITY

UCPM Prevention and Preparedness Programme: Two tracks of financing for national and cross-border projects

The UCPM supports Member and Participating States in disaster prevention and preparedness, providing financing through single-country grants and multi country partnerships.



© 2019 European Union (photo by Lisa Hastert)

prevention and preparedness projects to be funded by EU Structural Funds in Croatia.

Multi-country partnerships are grants to consortia of civil protection authorities and their partners, including universities, NGOs, private sector and international organisations. This financing aims to promote cross-border collaborations for disaster risk management both within the UCPM and between UCPM, Enlargement and Neighbourhood countries. Among the 132 projects receiving financing between 2014 and 2020, 67 focused on disaster prevention and 65 on preparedness. 48 of them were 'follow-up projects', building on previously funded smaller pilot projects.

European Commission official Gaetano Vivo explained: "All the projects focus on different types of hazards, end users and geographical scope but they all share the objective of supporting cross-border cooperation in disaster risk management". Between 2014 and 2020, the average grant provided by DG ECHO to each project consortium was €601 000, with a total funding of €67.4 million.

Single country grants are direct grants to national civil protection authorities. This offers national civil protection authorities the technical assistance needed for physical investments in disaster prevention and preparedness and for other high impact actions such as development of new policies and legislation. In the first two years of funding, 12 different Member and Participating states have requested these grants. Among the projects financed are the development of a national strategy for disaster risk management in Greece, the design of a new national early warning system in Latvia and the development of a series of disaster

All the projects focus on different types of hazards, end users and geographical scope but they all share the objective of supporting cross-border cooperation in disaster risk management.

Gaetano Vivo, Team Leader
- Prevention & Preparedness
Programme, European
Commission



© 2018 European Union (photo by Pavel Koubek)

A summary of the projects financed can be found [here](#).
More info on the [Prevention and Preparedness Programme](#) is available [here](#).
Email: ECHO-CP-P&P@ec.europa.eu

FROM OUR COMMUNITY

PPRD East 3: boosting resilience to disasters in the Eastern Neighbourhood

Eastern Partnership countries are engaged in the new programme [Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries – phase 3 \(PPRD East 3\)](#) in close collaboration with the European Civil Protection organisations working on the programme. This EU-funded flagship initiative started in October 2020 and will last four years.

From May to September this year, PPRD East 3 runs a series of digital Table Top Exercises (TTX) based on realistic and risk-informed scenarios to test coordination, information management and decision-making processes at all levels in case of a disaster. The first exercises, focusing on a major flood scenario, took place in Ukraine. In Georgia, the exercises focused on forest fires using European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) and European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) forecasts and observations. As part of the exercises, civil protection experts also had to manage secondary disaster impacts and events related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, together with the activation of the UCPM and the testing of Host Nation Support protocols. Participants were from civil protection agencies, line ministries, hydro-meteorological services, local authorities, civil society organisations and the Red Cross. More exercises in Belarus, Moldova and Armenia are coming up in the next months.

More on PPRD East 3

The programme aims to build risk management capabilities, strengthen interlinkages between governmental actors, civil society and the scientific community and enhance regional coordination, institutional and operational cooperation among partner countries and with the UCPM. Its wide-ranging areas of focus are knowledge transfer (like training of trainers), emergency response planning and civil protection agency development, enhancing an all-of-society approach in disaster risk management, regional cooperation, early warning systems, strengthening analytical capacities) including multi-risk assessment) and planning. Cross-cutting perspectives in disaster risk management such as gender, environment and human rights are also included.



PPRD East 3 Table Top Exercise in Ukraine, 26-27 May 2021 © 2021 Alexander Gorohovsky

To carry out the programme, partner countries are cooperating with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), the Emergency Services Academy Finland, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (Crisis Management Section), the Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale (CIMA) and the Italian Red Cross (CRI).



More information:

www.pprdeast3.eu

www.facebook.com/pprdeast3

LEARNING

The Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection programme goes digital

The Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection programme is all about civil protection experts sharing their experience and knowledge one-to-one with their peers, to learn together and strengthen operational skills. For the past year, the exchange programme has also found itself grounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help bridge the gap until physical exchanges can start again, the programme is now also offering online exchanges.

This is done thanks to different meeting platforms and new on-line tools for experts to present their work, test their operational skills and lay the theoretical groundwork to take into a practical environment when conditions allow, through a later exchange or other activity.

As well as supporting the ongoing COVID-19 response and later recovery, current priority areas for expert exchanges are:

- Cross-border cooperation
- Communication and awareness-raising
- Fires, including forest fires, ground and aerial fire-fighting
- Disaster management (such as prevention reporting obligations, operational coordination, capability development, international deployment)
- New and emerging threats
- Participation from EoE programme countries with lower participation rates

You can find the application form [here](#).



Civil protection full scale exercises in the pipeline for UCPM experts

Full scale exercises provide a unique opportunity to practise your skills in a realistic environment together with a wide range of different stakeholders. In addition to a main scenario, full scale exercises include a variety of cross-cutting issues and challenges for the EUCPT taking part. An EUCPT is an EU Civil Protection Team, that can be deployed when a country has requested assistance under the UCPM.

As a trained expert, you have the opportunity to apply for participation through your National Training Coordinator. Invitations to take part will be sent out before each exercise.

Seven full scale exercises are planned for 2021 and 2022, with two in the second part of this year, and five in 2022. An EUCPT will be selected and deployed for each exercise. See below for the dates, and links to find out more.

Name	Time	Place	Scenario
EU-CHEM-REACT 2	27-29 September 2021	Ukraine	CBRN
SIQUAKE	4-8 October 2021	Slovenia	Earthquake
RESPONSEE	April 2022	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Earthquake
ARCTIC REIHN	May 2022	Norway	Nuclear accident at sea
DOMINO	May 2022	France	Chemical accident, medical
PROFOUND	30 September-3 October 2022	Hungary / Danube	Flood
BALANCE	10-14 October 2022	Montenegro	Earthquake

SCIENCE

Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre Information Day

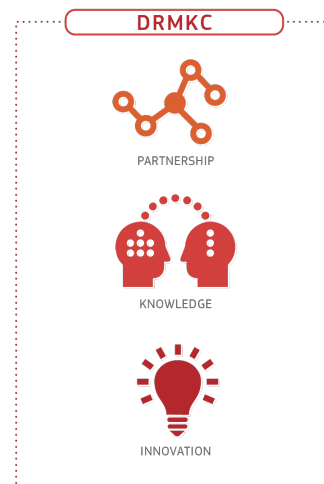
The first Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) Information Day took place on 15 June 2021. This event provided an overview of the operational services, methods and data that can support UCPM Member States and Participating States in their work in Disaster Risk Management.

[Link](#) to the event's agenda and all the video-recorded presentations.

Additional training and workshops to show additional components and tools available at the Joint Research Centre are foreseen during the course of the year.

The DRMKC will become the nucleus of the Science pillar of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

You can read more about DRM activities within the European Commission in [a dedicated newsletter](#).



GAR Special Report on Drought 2021



Droughts have deep, widespread and underestimated impacts on societies, ecosystems, and economies. They incur costs that are borne disproportionately by the most vulnerable people. The extensive impacts of drought are consistently underreported even though they span large areas, cascade through systems and scales, and linger through time, affecting millions of people and contributing to food insecurity, poverty, and inequality. Climate change is increasing temperatures and disrupting rainfall patterns, increasing the frequency, severity, and duration of droughts in many regions across the globe. As we move towards a 2°C warmer world, urgent action is required to better understand and more effectively manage drought risk to reduce the devastating toll on human lives and livelihoods, and ecosystems.

The [GAR Special Report on Drought 2021](#) explores the systemic nature of drought and its impacts on achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SDGs and human and ecosystems health and wellbeing.

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has contributed to this report, e.g., through the work of the European Drought Observatory.

Would you like to receive future updates on the [Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network](#) directly to your mailbox? If yes, please let us know by filling in this [short form](#).