Union
Civil Protection
Knowledge Network

KN Platform Webinar on introducing discussion groups
Purpose and agenda of the webinar

- **Target audience:** Any DRM/CP professional *registered onto the platform* and/or a project/exercise coordinator who would like to utilize the common discussion groups for community benefit

- **Purpose:** An overall introduction to the recently launched discussion groups on the KN platform
  - No recording, but slides will be available on platform’s event page

- **Agenda:**
  1. **J-P:** What is a discussion group, what can be done within them, different styles to join, what is expected of owning and moderating a group, how to request starting a group, etc.
  2. **Ana:** Technical demo of starting a project discussion group, how to create discussion with a document, how to comment and how to add event
  3. **Stephanie:** Q&A
Why? For example, UCPKN strategic plan’s goal 1 for a stronger community:

- To create a dedicated space for civil protection and disaster risk management actors to communicate, interact, and collaborate.
- Bringing together information, activities and opportunities currently spread across different places, the platform will become the heart of a lively and active network of practitioners.
- Released on the platform gradually in the last 6 months and piloted since that
- Development & bug fixing still on-going in the background and expected to continue till end of 2024 (e.g., file library, notification system)!

(UCKPN discussion groups - background)
Basics: Two different kinds!

1. **Project discussion group** tied to a project/exercise (*controlled and available to the project & exercise coordinator directly without further questions*)

2. **Discussion group** that is independent (*created by the Commission per justified request onto a common page and moderated thus after by the requesting party*)

Otherwise, they are the same!
Examples of 2 independent and 1 tied to project/exercise

Groups

**National Training Coordinators**
This purpose of this group is for NTCs to discuss, collaborate, share and exchange information and updates with other National Training Coordinators.

**Knowledge Network Partnership (2022)**
A dedicated group to share and collaborate between Knowledge Network Partnership (UCPM-2022-KN) projects running in 2023-2024.

**Next Generation UCPM**
The Knowledge Network organised a dedicated learning and networking event for youth interested in civil protection and disaster risk management.
Privacy and joining methods

Two important starting parameters:

- **Group privacy**
  - Public
  - Private

- **Group joining methods**
  - User gets invited
  - User clicks "Join group" button

Invited on: 22/02/2023 - 16:45
Invitation status: Accepted

Membership requests
Roles and what is included in the discussion groups

- **Roles**
  - Simply two: Moderator & Member
  - **Moderator** can approve/invite new members or remove them, has more authorship over editing/amending discussions or other content, can create news & events tied to group, etc.
  - **Member** can discuss, add content to discussions, comment, to see and edit the information etc.

- **What is included in the discussion groups at the moment (still early build)?**
  - Discussions, naturally! Every post can be added with files, docs, images, etc.
  - Possible to create news or events pertaining to that group (e.g., Annual Meeting of Group X)
  - Some actual use cases seen so far:
    1. Informing members of new contact list and asking for amendments
    2. Depository of last meeting agenda & docs
    3. Asking interest on a study visit
How to start a group and what is expected when starting it?

- **Project discussion group**
  - Free for the coordinator to do so based on your own possible needs

- **Discussion group (independent)**
  - For example, to start a group on a specific theme researched by your organisation (e.g., wildfire preparedness) which you wish to promote and use the EU platform as a common ground
  - By free-form email request to ECHO-CP-KNOWLEDGE-NETWORK-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu stating, for example, the following:
    - Purpose & need, assessment of sustainability, public or private, short description of the topic, who will be the (initial) moderators, if private: which kind of audience are you intending to invite as members, what is your goal and timeline with the group, etc.
    - A more structured guidance and template is likely to follow

- **What is expected of you when starting a group?**
  - **You own the group.** Thus, you encourage, activate and moderate the discussions as well as handle the build-up of content, future direction, membership, etc. per your own discretion
    - The Commission by default does not support in content creation, member acquisition, etc. within the group
    - Commission staff will not be “patrolling” the groups actively, but will have a moderator present – so bear in mind the platform’s Terms of Service!
2. Technical demo (Ana)

How to start a project discussion group

As a Project Coordinator, you can create and manage different types of content in your Project page:

- News, stories and events
- Output & Results
- Related content (documents, photographs, videos)
- **Project discussion groups**
2. Technical demo (Ana)

Create project discussion group using the Manage Content menu
2. Technical demo (Ana)

Start a discussion
2. Technical demo (Ana)

Independent group

Facilitate collaboration and communication for different organisational or theme level groups, for members to share content, interact, meet relevant people or follow topics as well as collaborate.

Manage content:

- Start a discussion
- Create events
- Create news
Q&A

Floor is open!

Regardless, you can always ask for platform support at the functional mailbox:

ECHO-CP-KNOWLEDGE-NETWORK-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu
European Union

Civil Protection
Knowledge Network


civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu