



8th European Civil Protection Forum

***Shaping a disaster-resilient Union:
Charting a path for the future
of European civil protection***

Tour & Taxis, Brussels, 4-5 June 2024

Programme

[v. 17.05.2024 – subject to change]



Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June..... 3

High-level plenary session: Turbulent Past, challenging Present: Has the UCPM met the Needs and Expectations?.....	3
Panel discussion: Investing in Resilience: From Evidence to Practice.....	4
Panel discussion: Bridging the Gap between local and EU level response: Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management.....	5
Panel discussion: Enhancing Cross-Border Collaboration through the Pre-Positioning Programme	6
Workshop 20 years of GDACS: How Science and Technology has supported the global Disaster Response Community.....	7
Workshop: Behavioural Dimension of Disaster Prevention & Preparedness and Climate Adaptation	8
Workshop: How to support psychological Recovery and occupational Mental Health in Fire and Rescue Services?.....	9
Lunch session: Introduction to the Global Situation System.....	10
Panel discussion: RescEU: Five Years of Evolution and its Challenges.....	11
Panel discussion: Embracing Artificial Intelligence and new Technologies for enhancing Disaster Risk Prevention and Response.....	12
Panel discussion: Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication as a Pillar of Disaster Risk Reduction.....	13
Workshop: Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid: Distinctions and Complementarity between the two Instruments.....	14
Workshop: Governance for Disaster Risk Management: Involvement of Civil Protection National Authorities.....	15
Workshop: Knowledge Transfer in Civil Protection Exercises.....	16
Panel discussion: Regional Cooperation as Catalyst for Trust-Building and improved Collaboration among the European Union and its Neighbours.....	17
Panel discussion: The Union Disaster Resilience Goals and Early Warning for All initiative: How do they align?.....	18
Panel discussion: How to manage spontaneous Volunteers during Disaster Response?.....	19
Panel discussion: Marine incidents and Civil Protection: One Incident – One Response.....	20
Workshop: Advancing integrated Wildfire Management: Priorities for Action.....	21
Interactive panel discussion: More Than Just A Roof: How Emergency Shelter Can Reduce Vulnerability?.....	22
Workshop: Ten Years of the European Civil Protection Pool: Achievements and future Challenges	23
UCPM Medals ceremony.....	24



Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June.....25

High-level plenary session: Enhanced European Resilience: Are Crisis Management Systems fit for the Future?	25
Panel discussion: Strengthening Disaster Resilience: Joining Civil Protection and Private Sector Efforts	26
Panel discussion: Open Science, Research Data Management and evidence-based Civil Protection Decision-Making.....	27
Panel discussion: Bridging the Inclusion Gap: Advancing Equality in European Civil Protection Teams	28
Workshop: Reducing Risks Together: Bridging Disaster Resilience and Climate Adaptation Strategies	29
Workshop: Risk Communication and Awareness: the preparEU Initiative and next Steps.....	30
Workshop: Cassandra Complex in Foresight for Civil Protection: If you wait, it will be too late.....	31
Lunch session: One-Incident – One-Response Demonstration.....	32
Panel discussion: Crisis Management Principles: What is the ERCC's role?.....	33
Panel discussion: Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disasters: Improving Engagement and Communication among Citizens and Authorities.....	34
Panel discussion: Risk Reduction Strategies in Cultural Heritage.....	35
Workshop: Satellites, Artificial Intelligence and beyond: The Future of Disaster Management.....	36
Workshop: Expect the unexpected: Preparing the Union for large-scale, cross-sectoral and complex Disasters.....	37
Workshop: Climate and Security – How can the UCPM manage competing Priorities?.....	38



Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

High-level plenary session:

Turbulent Past, challenging Present: Has the UCPM met the Needs and Expectations?

Tuesday, 4 June: 09:45-10:45, Plenary room

Over the past few years, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism has proven once more to be an essential tool to channel EU solidarity and to save lives, to face unprecedented challenges: from the biggest and most complex operation in its history, delivering assistance to Ukraine, to the efforts to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the strong response to massive wildfires during the summer of 2022.

From enhanced integration and cooperation, timely response mechanisms, and innovative solutions, the achievements of civil protection at European level underscore the importance of collective action in times of crisis.

With the mandate of the current Commission coming to an end this year, this high-level session will be a timely occasion to look back at the Union's challenges and achievements of the last five years that were crucial to the stepping up of EU emergency readiness at all levels. This includes, just to name a few, the accession of new Participating States to the UCPM (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and Moldova), the expansion of the European Civil Protection Pool, the establishment and development of rescEU, the adoption of the Commission Recommendation on Union disaster resilience goals, the strengthening of the analytical and operational capacity of the ERCC, the launch of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and the introduction of a more comprehensive and reinforced financing framework for the UCPM.

What are the main challenges that the EU faced in the last years and how did the UCPM contribute to dealing with them? How did the UCPM evolve to better cope with the new risk landscape? How did the UCPM cooperate with the national civil protection systems and global actors?

SPEAKERS

- **Agnė Bilotaitė**, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania
- **Fabrizio Curcio**, Head of the Italian Civil Protection Department
- **Hans Das**, Deputy Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
- **Kamal Kishore**, Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Michael Ryan**, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Moderator: **Karin Helmstaedt**

Session will have live international sign language interpretation (tbc)



Panel discussion:

Investing in Resilience: From Evidence to Practice

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Plenary room

Investing in prevention is not only a good policy, but it also makes economic sense. But then, why is it not happening as much as is needed? What are the main bottlenecks to increasing prevention investments and where do you start in a context of limited public budgets? How do countries prepare to tap into the available funds for large disaster risk management investments? This session will look at the main obstacles, at prioritisation approaches and success stories.

In May 2024, the European Commission and the World Bank launched a new series of reports on making smart investments in prevention and preparedness, and the key takeaways will be discussed in this session. Several success stories on resilience investments from the UCPM countries will also be brought forward.

As an example, the newly launched PLUTUS project, implemented by the Belgian Civil Protection Department, with the support of a UCPM grant (Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management) will also contribute to this discussion. The project aims to share knowledge, provide policy recommendations, and create awareness on increasing access to disaster risk management funding for Member States and Participating States. Among others, this session will offer a platform for interested stakeholders to engage with PLUTUS and contribute to further shaping the project outcomes and make them relevant for the UCPM community.

Inspirational Speaker: **Patricia Gaspar**, Civil Protection Expert, Portugal

SPEAKERS

- **Ivars Nakurts**, Deputy Director-General, Deputy Chief of the State Fire and Rescue Service, Ministry of the Interior, Latvia
- **Zuzana Stanton-Geddes**, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank
- **Arabela Vahtarić**, Head of International Relations and EU Projects, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia
- **Gaetano Vivo**, Deputy Head of Unit, Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Pieter Wynant**, Deputy Head of the International Relations Department of the Belgian Civil Protection, Directorate-General for Civil Protection, Ministry of Home Affairs, Belgium

Moderator: **Shada Islam**



Panel discussion:

Bridging the Gap between local and EU level response: Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 1

Regional collaboration is essential in enhancing Europe's disaster readiness, prevention, and response, complementing the UCPM. First, national capacities are deployed; then, if needed, assistance from neighbouring countries is sought before activating the UCPM. Beyond immediate emergency responses, regional cooperation is immensely beneficial for prevention and preparedness efforts. It enables the exchange of best practices and insights into common risks, thereby enhancing national capabilities and strengthening the resilience of populations.

This panel discussion explores the spectrum of regional cooperation in Europe, covering both micro and macro-levels. It will illustrate successful strategies but also the challenges encountered. Speakers from disaster management authorities and civil associations will provide insights into effective practices and potential hurdles in promoting a collaborative approach to civil protection. Moreover, representatives from the Committee of Regions and the European Commission's DG REGIO will highlight how the EU supports and fosters cross-border and transnational cooperation in the field of civil protection.

This session aims to present diverse viewpoints, engaging participants in a dialogue on their experiences and inquiries to foster a comprehensive understanding of how collaborative efforts across regions strengthen civil protection. By examining various perspectives, we seek to deepen awareness of the pivotal role of these collaborations in enhancing Europe's resilience against disasters.

SPEAKERS

- **Zsolt Kelemen**, Budapest Firefighters' Association, EU Strategy for the Danube Region Environmental Risks Priority Area Disaster Management Working Group
- **Simona Pohlova**, Deputy Head of Unit, Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Marie Sattler**, Luxembourg Fire & Rescue Corps (CGDIS)
- **Nejc Smole**, Deputy President of the Central Slovenia region
- **Bengt Sundelius**, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**



Panel discussion:

Enhancing Cross-Border Collaboration through the Pre-Positioning Programme

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 3

The session will tackle the Pre-Positioning Programme facilitated by the UCPM, designed to strengthen international solidarity in combatting wildfires.

Participants will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the programme's objectives and its impact on the civil protection community. It will explain its significance, by discussing the opportunities to foster bilateral cooperation, share expertise, and optimise resources among participating countries. Through an exploration of successes and challenges encountered during the 2022 and 2023 initiatives, attendees will uncover valuable insights into the practical implications and potential areas for improvement.

Attendees will learn how the Pre-Positioning Programme may serve as a model for other regions facing similar challenges, promoting cross-border cooperation and knowledge exchange, but in other areas too.

Furthermore, the panel will highlight the role of international collaboration in cultivating solidarity among nations during crises, such as wildfire emergencies and the critical role of the UCPM in this effort.

Featuring firsthand accounts from hosting countries – Greece, Portugal, and France – as well as countries providing assistance, this session will offer a realistic perspective on how cross-border collaboration works in action.

SPEAKERS

- **Athanasios Balafas**, Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection/Hellenic Fire Corps
- **Florin Chirea**, IGSU – Romanian Civil Protection Department
- **Andre Fernandes**, National Commander, Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection
- **Frederic Harrault**, European and International Relations Unit, French Civil Protection Department
- **Eirini Krampi**, Director of International Relations, Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Greece
- **Łukasz Zaremba**, State Fire Service of Poland

Moderator: **Claire Kowalewski**, DG ECHO, European Commission



Workshop

20 years of GDACS: How Science and Technology has supported the global Disaster Response Community

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 2

For 20 years, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS, www.gdacs.org) has been leveraging science and technology to alert humanitarians about sudden-onset disasters, provide a space for information exchange among first responders and optimise satellite mapping acquisitions.

Are you familiar with GDACS but want to know more? Do you want to help us improve it and support the international community? This workshop is for you!

In this session, we will take a look at the past and present of GDACS, and outline its future:

- **The Past – Retrospective:** The session will start with a panel discussion about the role of GDACS during past disasters that have marked the collective memory. Attendees will be invited to share their experiences of GDACS during these big events in an interactive manner.
- **The Present – Stock-taking:** In 2023, the GDACS partners carried out a survey of GDACS users to better understand their profiles and their expectations. Key takeaways will be discussed, as well as possible next steps building on this user feedback.
- **The Future – Vision:** Participants will be divided into groups to explore ways in which GDACS could provide added value to humanitarians through scientific and technological innovation.

The session will be accompanied by a poster exhibition, as well as a feedback corner, where attendees can write short feedback messages about GDACS.

SPEAKERS

- **Lorena Abalos**, Coordination Platforms Unit, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- **Tom De Groeve**, Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit, European Commission, Joint Research Centre
- **Luca dell'Oro**, Senior Programme Specialist, UN Institute for Training and Research



Workshop:

Behavioural Dimension of Disaster Prevention & Preparedness and Climate Adaptation

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 4

The actual behaviour of citizens and decision-makers is what makes or breaks disaster prevention & prevention and climate adaptation. If policies and programmes do not change behaviour towards better pre-emptive action, their value can diminish. One of the EU's Disaster Resilience Goals is 'Prepare' – to ensure EU citizens are risk-aware and prepared for disasters when they strike. This workshop focuses on the use and application of behavioural scientific insights and a citizen perspective to understand relevant behavioural drivers and to improve prevention & preparedness for the future world of climatic change and extreme events.

It will start with experiments and games to test the assumed rational expectations of the audience and see what significance they might have for our decisions. They will be followed by a participatory learning session in a World Café Method, mixing up the audience and facilitating frank discussions.

To frame the discussion, the workshop introduces ongoing work on the behavioural dimension from the European Commission's Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights and key findings in the Economics and Finance of Climate Adaptation by TU Delft. It will be complemented by operational on-the-ground viewpoints from the Hungarian Red Cross.

SPEAKERS

- **Theodoros Chatzivasileiadis**, Assistant Professor, Economics and Finance of Climate Adaptation, TU Delft
- **Juha-Pekka Jäpölä**, Project Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission & Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp
- **Colin Kuehnhanss**, Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Hannah Nohlen**, Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Brigitta Sáfár**, Head of Disaster Management, Hungarian Red Cross



Workshop:

How to support psychological Recovery and occupational Mental Health in Fire and Rescue Services?

Tuesday, 4 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 5

Fire and Rescue personnel encounter numerous stressful events and situations during their duties and international missions. Rescuers are involved in many psychologically and physically demanding tasks. While we excel in protecting ourselves against physical threats, mental health is often given less consideration. How do we focus on psychological well-being in the work community, during work shifts, and as individuals?

This workshop aims to share some good practices in mental occupational health, psychological wellbeing and trauma recovery for those involved in fire and rescue services. Participants will also be invited into conversations sharing their own experiences of providing psychological support services and considering what more can be done at the EU level to provide better support in the future.

SPEAKERS

- **Karsten-Christoph Lindenstromberg**, Co-ordinator of the rescue EMY CIPSS, Johanniter, Germany
- **Saku Sutelainen**, Finnish Association of Fire Officers
- **Irina Vaștag**, Department for Emergency Situations, Romania



Lunch session:

Introduction to the Global Situation System

Tuesday, 4 June: 13:15-13:45, ECHO stand at CP Village

As an interactive activity while you enjoy lunch, come and join us to discover the Global Situation System (GSS), DG ECHO's one-stop shop for situational awareness.

Over the last decades, systems and tools for situational awareness about disasters have multiplied. GSS provides a single web portal where you can access as many of these sources as possible in one place and, by visualising them together, derive a deeper and richer analysis.

You may already be monitoring hazards through systems such as EFAS or EFFIS or receiving automatic alerts through the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS). Maybe you are interested in following the satellite-based rapid mapping of the Copernicus Emergency Management System. Or maybe you follow DG ECHO's information products about disasters, like the ERCC Daily Maps and Daily Flashes. GSS allows you to access all of these at the same time, without needing to log into several portals, together with many more sources of information, such as exposed critical assets.

Join us in this technical presentation to learn how GSS can help you perform multi-hazard analysis and ask your questions about the system. GSS will also be on display for the duration of the forum at the DG ECHO stand.

SPEAKERS

- **Jaime Abad Pérez**, Policy Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission



Panel discussion:

RescEU: Five Years of Evolution and its Challenges

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Plenary room

The European Union's 'rescEU' stands out as a key element of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism since its launch in 2019. Initially geared toward wildfire assets, it shifted focus to medical capacities during COVID-19 and later addressed Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents and energy challenges due to the Ukraine conflict. Around 3 billion Euros were invested, with a substantial portion from the COVID-19 recovery fund, NextGenerationEU. This initiative encompasses wildfire assets, medical and CBRN stockpiles, Medevac, CBRN teams, shelters, emergency medical teams (EMTs), transport assets, and emergency energy supplies.

rescEU fills a vital role in responding to High-Impact Low-Probability (HILP) events, a concept developed during the 2019 Romanian Council Presidency. Notably, rescEU deployed assistance over 30 times in 2023, aiding disasters like wildfires in Greece, the earthquake in Türkiye, and providing substantial assistance to Ukraine. Its inception stemmed from discussions following the 2017 wildfires in Portugal, addressing concerns of centralisation and voluntary solidarity among EU Member States.

As rescEU approaches its fifth anniversary, it prompts reflection on its impact on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and challenges for the future of disaster preparedness.

SPEAKERS

- **Raed Arafat**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania
- **Hans Das**, Deputy Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
- **Mario Di Gennaro**, Head of Competence Centre EU Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V
- **Mari Rantanen**, Minister of the Interior of Finland

Moderator: **Karin Helmstaedt**



Panel discussion:

Embracing Artificial Intelligence and new Technologies for enhancing Disaster Risk Prevention and Response

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 1

The session will explore how AI and new technologies can revolutionise early warning systems, risk assessment, resource allocation, and rapid response strategies. It aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted role of technology in disaster risk management and to identify pathways for its effective integration into policies and operations.

The session aims to showcase diverse perspectives, including:

1. International and Research Insights: Highlighting cutting-edge research, this segment will focus on the latest AI developments for disaster risk management, exploring the theoretical and practical aspects of these technologies.
2. Practical Applications in Civil Protection: Representatives from civil protection authorities from Finland and Poland will discuss the real-world application of these technologies in operational settings. They will share success stories and lessons learnt from incorporating AI and new technologies in disaster response and risk prevention.
3. Policy Integration: European Commission's DG CNECT will provide insights on how these new technologies are being integrated into policies related to disaster and climate risk. They will discuss the challenges and opportunities of aligning technological advancements with policy frameworks.

SPEAKERS

- **Joel Kauppinen**, Finnish Association of Fire Officers
- **Grażyna Piesiewicz**, Head of Unit, Open Science and Digital Modelling, DG CNECT, European Commission
- **Andrea Toreti**, Team Leader – Scientific Research, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Saeid Vaghefi**, AI and Climate Consultant, World Meteorological Organisation

Moderator: **Monique Kuglitsch**, Chair of the UN focus group on AI 4 natural disaster Management



Panel discussion:

Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication as a Pillar of Disaster Risk Reduction

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 3

In an era marked by escalating wildfires with worsening effects on society, economies, and the environment incidents, the role of innovative risk awareness and communication (RA&C) strategies becomes paramount. The changing wildfire risk landscape intensifying damaging wildfire events both in traditional and unprecedented fire-prone territories magnifies the consequences of preexisting human-influenced hazards, exposures, and vulnerabilities on the territory.

In this context, public authorities, private actors, and citizens could assume crucial roles in decreasing risk factors, when prioritising risk and crisis communication as a central task force within disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. The session will explore the critical needs, trends and gaps to enhance wildfire RA&C in light of these evolving challenges.

The following questions will guide the debate:

- How could enhanced RA&C support a more effective wildfire risk management and the civil protection deployment? How could an EU approach be developed in this regard?
- How can community-based risk management help to enhance fire and wildfire risk education? How can we accelerate the learning process and the proactive contribution of citizens and private business to risk mitigation and adaptation?
- What is the role of innovative educational tools for DRR such as serious games on fostering risk culture?

During the workshop will be presented the publication on [Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication: Analysis of good practices](#), that presents and analyses good practices that the European Commission has received in this area from UCPM member and participating states, as well as other initiatives.

SPEAKERS

- **Luis Doñas**, Head of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED), Chile
- **Ángela Iglesias**, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain
- **Eduard Plana**, Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia
- **Cathelijne Stoof**, Assistant Professor, Wageningen University

Moderator: **Bella Nestorova**, Team leader – Disaster risk and resilience, DG ECHO, European Commission



Workshop:

Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid: Distinctions and Complementarity between the two Instruments

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 2

Over time, the landscape of disasters, whether natural or man-made, have increased in complexity. Emergencies now draw in a multitude of stakeholders and unfold over extended durations, demanding collective efforts to aid nations and communities in distress. The boundaries between civil protection and humanitarian aid are gradually blurring. Civil protection and humanitarian aid organisations, previously working within their specific mandate, are now compelled to forge tighter collaborations due to the complicated nature of crises. This shift aims to streamline aid efforts, minimise redundant actions, and ensure relief reaches those in need swiftly and effectively. This paradigm shift calls for both national and international bodies to re-evaluate their strategies in response to these complex emergencies.

The upcoming workshop aims to dive into the overlapping areas and distinctions between civil protection and humanitarian aid. It seeks to analyse the new challenges confronting national authorities and provoke insightful discussions. The goal is to bring food for thought and share lessons learnt on how relevant authorities can prepare themselves to confront these evolving challenges head-on. The session will take the form of a participatory workshop where peer-to-peer knowledge exchange is encouraged.

SPEAKERS

- **Tom Barnig**, Director of Operations, Luxembourg Fire & Rescue Corps (CGDIS)
- **Eléonore Colin**, Policy Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission



Workshop:

Governance for Disaster Risk Management: Involvement of Civil Protection National Authorities

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 4

Over the past decades, civil protection authorities across Europe, almost in parallel with the development of the UCPM, have made a huge effort to improve the quantity and quality of their disaster emergency response capabilities. At the same time, we live in an increasingly complex world where disasters, especially climate-related ones, are becoming more frequent, more severe and more difficult to manage.

In this context, response capacities are not always sufficient and will never be adequate, so a change of approach is needed to try to manage not only the disaster but also the disaster risk, trying to prevent it or at least mitigate its consequences.

So far, civil protection authorities have traditionally focused on disaster preparedness and mainly on response, usually with little influence on investments and coordination in the areas of prevention, mitigation, and preparedness.

Along these lines, one of the conclusions of the Spanish Presidency's Civil Protection Workshop, on "Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Governance in Europe: Systems, Strategies and Action Plans", is the need for a greater involvement of civil protection authorities in DRM. This workshop will reflect on the role of civil protection authorities in this new context, exploring ways to strengthen their capacity to cooperate in DRM actions undertaken by line ministries or at different levels of administration and to promote DRM objectives at a broader level.

SPEAKERS

- **Sofía González López**, Spanish Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies
- **Cristina Marugán Güemez**, Head of International Affairs, Spanish Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies
- **Carlos Mendes**, Deputy Director for Prevention and Risk Management, Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection
- **Tessa Schmedding**, Partnerships Specialist, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



Workshop:

Knowledge Transfer in Civil Protection Exercises

Tuesday, 4 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 5

The participatory workshop aims to delve into the critical aspects of sharing, disseminating, and leveraging knowledge gained through civil protection exercises. In an era of evolving challenges, effective knowledge transfer mechanisms are paramount for enhancing preparedness, response, and disaster resilience, while enabling a large overview of the whole operational chain of civil protection.

The session addresses challenges and opportunities in implementing evaluation and knowledge transfer strategies across diverse civil protection contexts. Success stories and initiatives exemplifying effective learning mechanisms and implementation strategies are showcased to inspire participants through collaboration, stakeholder review and suggested pathways for sustainability in synergy with various projects.

Guiding questions include the prioritisation of lessons learnt, effective methods for capturing lessons, overcoming organisational challenges, ensuring sustained improvements, and measuring exercise impact and success. This will ultimately harvest ideas for improving how we learn from each other, identify the biggest barriers and challenges in capturing and disseminating knowledge and lessons learned, and explore methods for prioritising what is actually captured and disseminated. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, this workshop aims to optimise knowledge transfer and contributes to improved preparedness and response in civil protection efforts.

SPEAKERS

- **Armine Hayrapetyan**, Acting Rector, Crisis Management State Academy, Armenia
- **Antonios Panagiotakis**, Hellenic Rescue Team
- **Mariangela Pelliccia**, Project Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Christian Resch**, Managing Director, Disaster Competence Network Austria
- **Maxime Rigal**, Executive Officer for European Projects, Departmental-Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Service Lyon
- **Mirnesa Softic**, Expert Advisor at Operational Communication Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Panel discussion:

Regional Cooperation as Catalyst for Trust-Building and improved Collaboration among the European Union and its Neighbours

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:45, Plenary room

Civil protection is often seen as a potential door-opener for external relations and confidence- building measure amongst countries because of its technical and non-controversial nature.

This session will address to which extent the regional civil protection programmes play a catalyst role in the European Neighbourhood. For instance, how these programmes contribute to enhancing the use of new technologies, establishing operational capacity and developing cross-border solidarity mechanisms in prevention, preparedness and response to natural and human-induced disasters. It will also address their contribution in achieving EU and international commitments such as the EU Disaster Resilience Goals, the UN Early Warning 4 All initiative, the UN Sustainable Development Goals or the Sendai Framework.

The discussion will be based on the recent success stories from the regional capacity building initiatives covering the Western Balkans, Türkiye, Eastern and Southern European Neighbourhoods.

The dialogue will explore how future civil protection and disaster risk management policies could address conflict sensitivities to promote regional stability and stimulate cross-border operational interactions. The session will allow further discussions on how these policies could inform development of regional or cross-border programmes and projects.

The session will provide recommendations for improved cooperation among the neighbouring countries and their improved interaction with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Inspirational speaker: **Ebru Baybara Demir**, Türkiye

SPEAKERS

- **Zahi Chahine**, Head of the National Disaster Management Unit, Lebanon
- **Peter Glerum**, Team Leader IPA CARE, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Roman Prymush**, Deputy Head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine
- **Mirnesa Softic**, Expert Advisor at Operational Communication Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Orhan Tatar**, Head of Unit, Earthquake and Risk Reduction, AFAD, Türkiye
- **Owda Younis**, Head of the International Relations, Palestinian Civil Defence Palestinian Civil Defence

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**



Panel discussion:

The Union Disaster Resilience Goals and Early Warning for All initiative: How do they align?

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:45, Studio 1

The EU's Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) and the UN-led Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative form an aligned framework to boost disaster resilience across Europe. The DRGs provide a comprehensive set of objectives aimed at enhancing the continent's resilience to various hazards, geared to anticipate, prepare, alert, respond and secure. These goals serve as a guiding light for policymakers, stakeholders, and communities to fortify their capacities and infrastructures against disasters. This is intertwined with the four pillars of the Early Warning for All initiative, which focuses on the cycle of weather, climate and water related disaster risk knowledge; hazard detection, monitoring, and forecasting; disaster risk dissemination and communication; and preparedness to respond.

The synergies between DRGs and EW4All support all EU Member States and UCPM Participating States with an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, ensuring a safer and more secure future for all.

The panel will analyse this alignment, including tangible examples such as the WMO-led regional initiative in South-East Europe for developing early warning services and the EU-funded Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Floods and Fires programme, led by the Italian Civil Protection Department. This programme aims at improving the capacity of the Western Balkans and Türkiye in preventing and mitigating the risks and consequences of floods and forest fires. The project supports the implementation of the DRGs and EW4All, addressing prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

SPEAKERS

- **Natalia Alonso Cano**, Chief of Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Agostino Goretti**, Italian Civil Protection Department
- **Michela Matuella**, Director Emergency Response Coordination Centre, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Kornélia Radics**, Director, Regional Office for Europe, World Meteorological Organisation

Moderator: **Vanessa Gray**, Head of Division, Environment and Emergency Telecommunications, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau



Panel discussion:

How to manage spontaneous Volunteers during Disaster Response?

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:00, Studio 3

In August 2023 Slovenia was hit by devastating floods. Immediately after the floods, numerous volunteers offered different types of help to the affected population. This prompted a new reflection on how to best use the potential of the volunteers and how to streamline the spontaneous response.

The panellists will be invited to discuss, share their views and best practices on how to integrate spontaneous volunteers into response activities. The difference between efficient and non-efficient integration of spontaneous volunteerism will be one important topic. The panel will therefore address the importance of streamlining the spontaneous response and offer possibilities of involving citizens in disaster relief in most efficient ways.

The online platform developed in Slovenia in response to the 2023 floods is one example of good practice that will be shared. The objective of the platform was to register spontaneous volunteers wishing to help in the relief efforts. This contributed significantly to the coordination of spontaneous volunteers, made it easier and more efficient. It enabled them to have an overview of available volunteers, directing them to selected geographical locations. The platform has been designed to organise aid for flood-prone areas but can be also used for other types of disasters.

SPEAKERS

- **Marion Heymel**, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, Germany
- **Tomislav Marević**, National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Republic of Croatia
- **Romana Naglič**, Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Slovenia

Moderator: **Danica Ankh**, Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU



Panel discussion:

Marine incidents and Civil Protection: One Incident – One Response

Tuesday, 4 June: 17:15-17:45, Studio 3

One Incident One Response is a new approach to emergency response preparedness that was recently developed with UCPM co-funding. It provides compelling tools that help to enrich, strengthen and innovate cross-sectoral collaboration for complex emergencies in civil protection and marine pollution.

One Incident One Response can raise awareness and visualise the needs for collaboration with societal sectors. Maritime incidents can threaten and affect multiple critical values in increasingly unpredictable ways in the coastal regions of the Member States. The tools can connect civil protection and marine pollution into a holistic integrated approach to create a coherent, multi-sectoral response and sharing knowledge for action. This requires all authorities to join forces with a new perspective on shared interest and capabilities for efficiency.

One Incident One Response initiates and engages cross sectoral discussions by visualising incident scenarios of the future. OneX, a “family” of serious games, provides playful settings which allow representatives from multiple authorities and stakeholders to explore common interest in the response to ranges of known and less known incident scenarios. Together they can detect and discuss apparent gaps and explore ways to fill them, which is the key of One Incident One Response philosophy.

SPEAKERS

- **Sonja Dobo**, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Heli Haapasaari**, Marine Pollution Response Expert, Finnish Border Guard
- **Hugo Nijkamp**, General Manager, Sea Alarm

Moderator: **Susanna Ekströmer**, Senior Coordinator for EU and Global Affairs, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB



Workshop:

Advancing integrated Wildfire Management: Priorities for Action

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:45, Studio 2

Several reports reviewing wildfire events of the past years have been launched recently. They include an “Analysis of 2021 critical wildfire events in the Mediterranean region” (Almeida et al. 2023), the report on “Forest Fires of Summer 2022” for the European Parliament (Pronto et al., 2023) or reports by research and innovation actions that have been recently funded (e.g., “D1.1 Transfer of Lessons learned on extreme fire events to key stakeholders” of the FIRE-RES project) (Castellnou et al.). However, the reports differ in geographic focus (from Mediterranean to the whole of Europe), the type of events analysed (large/critical vs. extreme events), the temporal scope (annual analysis vs. insights over the past seven years) and the types of conclusions and recommendations they draw (from the local, operational context to European investment funds and support mechanisms).

Desk research is conducted which synthesises the findings and recommendations and contrasts them with recommendations on integrated governance approaches such as the Landscape Fire Governance Framework. Building on this analysis, the workshop aims to review the recommendations and to define priorities for action at different temporal, geographic and thematic scales. The format will allow participants to actively engage in the discussion and contribute their experiences.

SPEAKERS

- **Miguel Almeida**, Senior researcher, University of Coimbra (ADAI)
- **Claudia Berchtold**, Head of Sustainable Systems Transformation and Risk Reduction, Fraunhofer INT



Interactive panel discussion:

More Than Just A Roof: How Emergency Shelter Can Reduce Vulnerability?

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:45, Studio 4

Emergencies increase vulnerability for many people who already face significant barriers in society. These could be related to, for example, gender, age, disability, ethnic and religious background, or sexual orientation. Such groups are more impacted by immediate effects of crises like flooding, pandemics and conflict, and often have less access to aid and long-term recovery.

Using emergency shelter as an example, the session will show the importance of including people who are most at risk, starting from preparedness through response, while enabling links with long-term planning. The conversation will provide tangible examples of how small changes in ways of working can have an enormous impact.

The discussion will be open and interactive, exploring how emergency response professionals can better cater to specific needs. How can we better anticipate these and what is already being done? How do we benefit from the experience of the people themselves, and ensure they are fully aware of risks and prepared for these at individual and family level?

This session will bring together specialists in gender and disability as well as emergency shelter and housing. This combination will give emergency preparedness and response services practical guidance on how to ensure everyone in society is included in their work.

SPEAKERS

- **Elena Giral**, Program coordinator rescEU emergency shelter capacity DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Giulia Maci**, Urban specialist, Cities Alliance/UNOPS
- **Jenny Molin**, Gender Advisor, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Gordon Rattray**, Programme Coordinator, European Disability Forum

Session will have live international sign language interpretation (tbc)



Workshop:

Ten Years of the European Civil Protection Pool: Achievements and future Challenges

Tuesday, 4 June: 16:15-17:45, Studio 5

The session aims at celebrating ten years since the launch of the European Civil Protection Pool in 2014, highlighting the achievements of these ten years. The celebration is also the occasion to think about what orientations the ECPP should take for the coming years.

We will look back at the first operations, and compare them with the latest operations (e.g., the earthquake in Türkiye and floods in Italy). We will look forward at new challenges posed by an evolving disaster landscape, that the ECPP can help to address.

Using participatory techniques, we will discuss how the establishment and shaping of the ECPP influenced the UCPM response; what are the benefits of being in the ECPP for the MS/PS and how to make it more attractive and involve those that are not yet part of the Pool. Eventually we will investigate the gaps and the future challenges: flexibility, limitations for small countries, the dilemma of fast response vs. self-sufficiency. We will also touch upon the relevance of the certification process, training programme and exercises for the development of the ECPP capacities.

SPEAKERS

- **Grzegorz Borowiec**, National Headquarters of the State Fire Service, Poland
- **Giovanni De Siervo**, Policy Adviser, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Civil Protection Department, Italy
- **Lt Col. Catalin Vasile Samsodan**, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Romania
- **Henri Schwaiger**, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

European Civil Protection Forum

Shaping a Disaster-Resilient Union

4-5 June 2024



UCPM Medals ceremony

Wednesday, 4 June: 18:30-19:00, Plenary room

To recognise and honour long-standing commitment and extraordinary contributions to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the European Commission can award medals to eligible Union and third country citizens as well as UCPM registered modules or other response capacities.

The first set of four UCPM Medals were awarded in a dedicated ceremony at the 7th European Civil Protection Forum in 2022.



Patricia Gaspar, Secretary of State for Home Affairs of Portugal at the time, received a medal for long-standing commitment to the UCPM for her role as the interface for the Portuguese authorities' successful shift from a response-driven to a prevention-based disaster management approach, as well as her contribution in the successful negotiations of the 2021 UCPM legislative revision.

Additionally, three medals for extraordinary contribution to the UCPM were awarded to response teams for their deployment to Haiti. A **French Water Purification Team, Norwegian Emergency Medical Team (EMT) and Luxembourgish Emergency Communication Team** were honoured for their deployment which took place in a challenging situation and demonstrated a clear act of bravery. All three teams placed the needs of the population before their own, showing considerable courage.



The recipients of the second set of UCPM medals will be revealed at a dedicated ceremony at the 8th Civil Protection Forum on 5 June 2024.



Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

High-level plenary session:

Enhanced European Resilience: Are Crisis Management Systems fit for the Future?

Wednesday, 5 June: 09:45-10:45, Plenary room

Europe's risk landscape is evolving significantly, with European countries being confronted with multiple, simultaneous threats of different nature and growing complexity. Building on the long-term priorities of the current Commission, this session will look at how crisis management systems can enhance the overall European resilience to future crises.

How can the UCPM contribute towards a better integrated EU crisis management system? How to apply the principle of subsidiarity in crisis management when the EU has to play an increasingly active role? How to fully capitalise on the potential of preventative actions and preparedness measures based on evidence-based decision-making? How can the UCPM be used to support state-level resilience efforts along the prevention-preparedness-response cycle?

The session will serve as a platform for envisioning a more robust, agile and interconnected crisis management and European civil protection systems.

SPEAKERS

- **Raed Arafat**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania
- **Adrian Efros**, Minister of the Interior of Moldova (TBC)
- **Daniela Jacob**, Director of the Climate Service Center, Germany
- **Maciej Popowski**, Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Commission
- **Annelies Verlinden**, Minister of the Interior of Belgium

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**

Session will have live international sign language interpretation (tbc)



Panel discussion:

Strengthening Disaster Resilience: Joining Civil Protection and Private Sector Efforts

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Plenary room

In times of crisis, the collaboration between public and private sectors emerges as a critical linchpin to alleviate the burden on affected communities. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how the private sector can complement state efforts not just in the delivery of services, but through know-how, data and technology. Similarly, amidst the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the establishment of the EU's 'rescEU Donations hubs' to facilitate additional private sector's donations stands as a brilliant example of collaboration, by providing logistics support and some coverage of transportation costs to private donors.

However, the potential for collaboration extends far beyond these examples. Some corporations have developed disaster relief divisions, leveraging existing resources ranging from information to logistics, to deliver relief efforts around the world. At the same time, certain countries have developed cross-sectorial cooperation initiatives between public authorities and public companies to supply goods and services in crisis, covering stockpiles, supply chains and changes in production.

Our panel brings together key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, providing insights into ongoing initiatives and facilitating discussions on concrete avenues for further collaboration. Join us as we delve into strategies to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response efforts through strategic public-private partnerships.

SPEAKERS

- **Adam Elman**, Head of Sustainability for Europe, Middle East, and Africa, Google Crisis Response
- **Frederik Hassel**, Senior Advisor, Saab
- **Johann Karlsson**, Managing Director Better Shelter
- **Camila Saad**, Global Leader, Amazon Web Services (AWS) Disaster & Preparedness program
- **Cynthia Spishak**, Associate Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, USA
- **Fredric Stany**, Analyst, The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Seppe Van Den Steen**, Federal Health Department of Belgium

Moderator: **Axel Hagelstam**, Director for the Planning and Analysis Division at the Finnish National Emergency Supply Agency



Panel discussion:

Open Science, Research Data Management and evidence-based Civil Protection Decision-Making

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 1

Different key actors are involved in Research Data Management supporting Open Science and Open Access to data and scientific products. Various international and national authorities are involved in supporting and developing Open Science, but with approaches that are also compatible with Disaster Risk Management. Different stakeholders are also involved in using research data for geo-hazard/risk assessment and risk mitigation from natural and anthropogenic phenomena, being committed in decision-making and delivering information to society.

The session is aimed at stimulating a discussion on the application of Open Science principles and practicalities focusing on their implications for sharing data that are used at EU and Member State level for decision-making, in particular in the field of Disaster Risk Management and civil protection.

The first goal is to present the current landscape on the topic from four different perspectives:

- Research infrastructures creating and managing data supporting Open Science;
- Pan-European initiatives fostering Open Science, such as the European Open Science Cloud;
- European civil protection within the European Union context;
- National civil protection agencies using these data for decision- and policymaking.

The overarching goal is to promote an open discussion among scientists and different stakeholders on Open Science and Disaster Risk Management, exchanging and sharing visions, perspectives and opinions on data sharing and managing with a particular focus on policymaking and decision-making in the civil protection area.

SPEAKERS

- **Daniela Di Bucci**, International Relations and Activities Unit, Italian Civil Protection Department
- **Patricia Gaspar**, Civil Protection Expert, Portugal
- **Erwan Marteil**, Head of Unit, Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building, DG ECHO European Commission
- **Giorgio Rossi**, The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Moderator: **Massimo Cocco**, Executive Director, The European Platform Observing Systems (EPOS)



Panel discussion:

Bridging the Inclusion Gap: Advancing Equality in European Civil Protection Teams

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 3

This session concentrates on promoting inclusion and empowerment within European Civil Protection Teams (EUCPTs) in emergency response operations.

Using an interactive methodology with the audience, the panel will address existing disparities and devise strategies for collaboration that empower all team members for enhanced effectiveness. The panel will do this by identifying positive examples and potential ways forward.

Guided discussions will explore data collected in the lead up to the Civil Protection Forum and their implications on teamwork, aiming to foster an environment where all team members are empowered to contribute equally and at their best.

The session underscores the pivotal role of leadership in cultivating inclusivity and encourages participation from underrepresented groups. Key considerations include implementing sustainable practices and embedding sensitivity to diversity within the organisational culture.

By facilitating dialogue and action planning centred on inclusion and empowerment, the session seeks to cultivate more equitable and effective deployments under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, ensuring that every member, regardless of background or personal differences, contributes meaningfully to emergency response efforts.

SPEAKERS

- **Geir Ellingsen**, Special Advisor, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway
- **Anna Kosterkiewicz**, Paramedic, Polish NGO Humanosh
- **Michela Matuella**, Director Emergency Response Coordination Centre, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Inger-Johanne Tjoflaat**, Consultant, Norway

Moderator: **Antonella Cavallo**, Programme Manager, rescEU, CBRN capabilities and strategic reserves, DG ECHO, European Commission



Workshop:

Reducing Risks Together: Bridging Disaster Resilience and Climate Adaptation Strategies

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 2

What are the synergies between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation? How to integrate multi-hazard risk, climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions to enhance EU Disaster Resilience Goals (DRG) implementation? Do binding regulations improve alignment between civil protection and climate strategies? What scientific support do policymakers need?

These questions will guide a workshop on aligning strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, fostering discussions among policymakers, scientists, and professionals.

Short presentations will give an impulse to the discussion. Professor Daniel Sempere-Torres will shed light on the importance of aligning disaster risk reduction with climate change risk assessment and adaptation. Professor Silvia Torresan will showcase examples of how climate change risks have been integrated in disaster risk assessment within the MYRIAD-EU project and how it is relevant for the DRGs.

Following the presentations, discussions in smaller groups will focus on the five DRGs: anticipation, preparation, alert, response, and security. Each group will address specific questions to assess, adapt, and generate new ideas. Results will complement stakeholder consultations in pilot regions from MYRIAD-EU and CLIMAAX projects.

SPEAKERS

- **Laura Indriliunaite**, Policy Coordinator, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Daniel Sempere-Torres**, Director, Center of Applied Research in Hydrometeorology, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- **Silvia Torresan**, Co-director, Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies division, Centro Euro Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici



Workshop:

Risk Communication and Awareness: the preparEU Initiative and next Steps

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 4

The workshop primarily targets Member States' representatives and experts involved in risk communication but welcomes anyone interested in citizen's risk awareness and preparedness.

The workshop will kick off with a brief update on 'preparEU' – the flagship initiative for the second goal of the (five) Union Disaster Resilience Goals called "Prepare". The initiative is at an important interval. The CIMA Research Foundation presented the final report of its feasibility study and mapping exercise of risk communication initiatives in Europe. Now, a 'preparEU' pilot project by Sweden, Belgium, Spain, and Norway has started with a focus on deepening the knowledge about how EU Member States and UCPM Participating States can work closer together to strengthen a culture of preparedness within the union, identify the needs of and possibilities to introduce a European dimension on national risk communication activities, and facilitate sharing of national good practices, risk information material, latest research and guidelines.

Participants are invited to discuss suggested recommendations of the preparEU pilot on how to take concrete steps on strengthening national efforts on citizens' risk awareness and preparedness with an EU added value. Participants are also invited to discuss knowledge goals of a future EU-funded training programme on risk communication. They will also look into the usefulness of creating a European community of practitioners on risk communication to facilitate collaboration, information sharing and synergies.

SPEAKERS

- **Christina Andersson**, The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Artur Malantowicz**, Team Leader – Knowledge Network Coordination Team, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Magnus Nilholm**, Head of Emergency Preparedness, Ringerike municipality, Norway



Workshop:

Cassandra Complex in Foresight for Civil Protection: If you wait, it will be too late

Wednesday, 5 June: 11:15-12:45, Studio 5

Human-induced climate change affects millions of people every year: extreme weather events and disasters such as droughts, floods, and wildfires deteriorate living conditions, destroy livelihoods, and multiply the needs of already vulnerable communities. Managing these disasters and taking care of the aftermath have become ever-increasing tasks.

To build resources and capacities as well as mitigating measures before disasters strike, the effective use of anticipatory analysis and foresight is becoming indispensable. With the help of early detection and the proper recognition and analysis of alarm signs and patterns, civil protection authorities can react pre-emptively. Foresight can also potentially help assess disaster impact and cascading effects.

The question is whether the civil protection community is adequately prepared to face the magnitude of effects of climate change that are foreseen.

Crisis managers from the entire disaster response cycle are invited to join the participatory and interactive workshop to:

- a) learn about methods and discuss the importance of foresight and anticipatory analysis and how it can help prepare for climate change-related disasters,
- b) connect with other professionals in the field, and
- c) share best practices and challenges to create a mutual learning space.

SPEAKERS

- **Nora Berger-Kern**, Policy Analyst, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Carola Frey**, International Relations and Protocol Section, Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre



Lunch session:

One-Incident – One-Response Demonstration

Wednesday, 5 June: 13:15–13:45, Studio 2

Following the panel discussion “Marine incidents and Civil Protection: One Incident – One Response” taking place on 4 June from 17:00-17:45 in Studio 3, there will be a demonstration of one of the serious games in the OneX family during this lunchtime session.

One Incident One Response initiates and engages cross sectoral discussions by visualising incident scenarios of the future. OneX, a “family” of serious games, provides playful settings which allow representatives from multiple authorities and stakeholders to explore common interest in the response to ranges of known and less known incident scenarios. Together they can detect and discuss apparent gaps and explore ways to fill them, which is the key of One Incident One Response philosophy.

SPEAKERS

- **Hugo Nijkamp**, General Manager, Sea Alarm



Panel discussion:

Crisis Management Principles: What is the ERCC's role?

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15–15:45, Plenary room

The session will look at the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and its journey in EU Crisis Management. Since the launch of the ERCC 2.0 initiative in May 2021, and amid Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the ERCC has evolved into a key operational crisis management hub with enhanced anticipatory and analytical capabilities, coordinating amongst Commission Services, and managing requests for assistance and offers from Member States, including private sector offers. The ERCC has developed a combination of operational foresight, preparedness and response capability, including a scientific and technical advisory facility and rescEU, as well as a network of hubs and donor relations to meet the needs of future crises. It already has several services and tools for observation, detection, and foresight to complement national systems and support situational awareness and readiness to respond at European and global level.

The new international guidelines on Crisis Management (ISO 22361:2022) to enhance crisis management at EU level are a benchmark of principles for the development of crisis management capabilities. The objective is to identify the challenges and opportunities for the ERCC to strengthen its function as a cross-sectoral operational crisis management hub.

SPEAKERS

- **Faisal Al-Suhail**, Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU, Chair of PROCIV and IPCR
- **David Horobin**, Head of Crisis Management, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- **Michael Karnitschnig**, Director of External Relations, General Secretariat, European Commission
- **Michela Matuella**, Director Emergency Response Coordination Centre, DG ECHO, European Commission

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**



Panel discussion:

Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disasters: Improving Engagement and Communication among Citizens and Authorities

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 1

Societal resilience to disasters is embedded in international policies such as the UN Sendai Framework for Action and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), leading to recommendations that guide policy actions at national, regional and local levels.

While EU policies mix coordination mechanisms of voluntary character in the civil protection sector and of legislation of binding character in other sectors (e.g., Flood Directive), awareness of citizens and local authorities often seems far away from the EU policy framework.

When speaking about EU research related to Disaster Risk Management, the situation can be even worse with large gaps between applied research results and their recognition at regional or local levels.

A panel of current experts looking to improve citizen involvement and engagement with communities will discuss the creation of these synergy-building efforts by representing the work of some 20 projects involved in this area through the “Societal Resilience Cluster of Projects”. It will present the evolving policy recommendations and look towards future actions based on multi-sectoral and cross-disciplinary knowledge in support of improved civil protection.

A short panel will be followed by a facilitated interactive session gaining ideas on how best to engage citizens resulting in a white paper.

SPEAKERS

- **Irene Cortés Calvo**, Director General of the Civil Protection Agency of the Regional Ministry of Development and the Environment, Castile and León
- **Jon Hall**, Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE)
- **Kati Orru**, Associate Professor of Sociology of Sustainability, University of Tartu
- **Raffaella Russo**, Senior Project Manager, UNISA
- **Maike Vollmer**, Senior Researcher, Fraunhofer INT

Moderator: **Nathan Clark**, Assistant Professor in Crisis Governance, Vrije University Amsterdam



Panel discussion:

Risk Reduction Strategies in Cultural Heritage

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15–15:45, Studio 3

The increasing natural and human-induced risks threatening cultural heritage assets call for a holistic approach, that requires strengthening inter-sectoral and multi-territorial connections.

While the goal of the European Union is to support and encourage Member States' efforts to preserve and promote the protection of cultural heritage, there is a growing interest among UCPM Participating States to understand how to best develop this sector at national and European level.

To achieve this goal, the EU and other initiatives supporting technical and operational knowledge in this field have recommended the creation of a thematic community, as well as the development of common elements for the protection of cultural heritage at risk at European level.

For this reason, this session, organised with strong cooperation between AFAD (Türkiye) and PROCULTHER-NET, aims at collecting feedback and opinions from EU institutions, UNESCO and UCPM Participating States and discussing approaches to be promoted at European level to enable risk-informed strategies for reducing disaster risks in this field.

As an example, relevant experience from Türkiye, which is working in a DG ECHO-funded initiative to reinforce cultural heritage project at the Turkish level, as well as activities in non-EU countries such as the UK, will be presented and discussed.

SPEAKERS

- **Yasemin Didem Aktas**, Deputy Director at the UK Centre for Moisture in Buildings, University College London, UK
- **Burcu Ertaş Deniz**, Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, AFAD
- **Louise Haxthausen**, UNESCO Representative to the European Union
- **Stefan Zotti**, Team leader for cultural heritage, DG EAC, European Commission

Moderator: **Giovanni De Siervo**, Policy Adviser, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Civil Protection Department, Italy



Workshop:

Satellites, Artificial Intelligence and beyond: The Future of Disaster Management

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15–15:45, Studio 2

The rising incidence of global disasters underscores the critical role of advanced space technologies in supporting civil protection efforts. This workshop aims to prioritise the development and application of these technologies to enhance the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

A cornerstone of space-based assets is the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS), which provides vital Earth observation data to the Emergency Response Coordination Centre. This information supports prevention, preparedness, and response activities, enabling more effective disaster management.

Future space initiatives, such as the Galileo Emergency Warning System and GovSatCom, will further enhance capabilities. Leveraging space and ground data analytics, AI, and simulation software can improve the accuracy and timeliness of disaster information.

This workshop will also explore the potential of ESA's and EUSPA's space initiatives to drive technology development for disaster management. The goal is to define the most critical research and development areas to strengthen both Copernicus EMS and the UCPM in the face of escalating challenges.

The workshop invites experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to contribute to this vital discussion. Together, we can ensure that space-based technologies play a pivotal role in enhancing disaster resilience and protecting lives and livelihoods worldwide.

SPEAKERS

- **Vasileios Kalogirou**, European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)
- **Jakub Ryzenko**, Head of Crisis Information Centre, Space Research Centre, Polish Academy of the Sciences
- **Christopher Topping**, Head of Civil Security, Space Programme Office for the European Space Agency
- **TBC**



Workshop:

Expect the unexpected: Preparing the Union for large-scale, cross-sectoral and complex Disasters

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15-15:45, Studio 4

The risk picture facing Europe has evolved significantly over the past years, resulting in numerous large-scale, cross-sectoral and complex disasters, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Although both disasters were foreseeable and are within the realm of reasonable worst-case scenarios, overall prevention and preparedness arrangements were lacking and response measures had to be put together on an ad-hoc basis.

Based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 amendment to UCPM's legal framework introduced a more scientific and forward-looking approach to preparedness, e.g., by introducing the need to develop disaster scenarios to improve disaster risk management planning at Union level, in particular regarding large-scale, cross-sectoral, multi-country transboundary events.

Over the past two years, DG ECHO has developed ten Union-wide disaster scenarios, in close consultation with experts from UCPM Member and Participating States, and with the support of other Commission services, in particular the Commission's Joint Research Centre. The disaster scenarios are deterministic and exploratory in nature, and focus on cross-sectoral, multi-country and reasonably-worst-case disasters. The high-level recommendations resulting from this initiative include the need to further:

- Enhance the operational response capabilities of the UCPM;
- Strengthen EU preparedness and resilience in strategic areas through an all-hazards approach and cross-sectoral coordination with non-civil protection actors;
- Share knowledge and expertise on risk identification and early warning, including to citizens;
- Consider the needs of vulnerable groups in existing prevention, preparedness and response arrangements;
- Reinforce resources for disaster management.

In this session, DG ECHO would like to discuss and gather input from a broad range of stakeholders on how these recommendations may be practically implemented. Different actors may have significantly different approaches, priorities and solutions to this complex challenge.

SPEAKERS

- **Nadia Hadad**, Executive Committee, European Disability Forum (EDF)
- **Irina Novakova**, Head of Disaster Response and Coordination NATO EADRCC
- **Marzia Santini**, Coordinator of European Crisis Management Laboratory, Joint Research Centre, European Commission



Workshop:

Climate and Security – How can the UCPM manage competing Priorities?

Wednesday, 5 June: 14:15–15:45, Studio 5

Climate change and the increased global insecurity provides a multitude of challenges for national and European civil protection. Robust societies need to be able to tackle both slow-onset and sudden-onset disasters simultaneously. Civil protection has to be able to function during conflict. Data and analysis need to be used to identify unknown risks. Redundancies need to build readiness for cascading effects.

This workshop will develop recommendations on how the UCPM can support Member States as risks multiply and priorities diverge across the Union. With a specific focus on risks related to climate change and risks related to conflict, the workshop also aims to increase the understanding of different Member States operational plans and priorities.

Member and Participating States will be encouraged to discuss their national state of play as well to provide recommendations for the UCPM. The panel debate will set the scene by providing three perspectives on how to tackle climate and security; the perspective of a Nordic Member State, the perspective from a Member State in Southern Europe, and the perspective from the Belgian Presidency for the Union as a whole.

SPEAKERS

- **Luigi D'Angelo**, Director of Operations, Italian Civil Protection Department
- **Annika Elmgart**, The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB
- **Pieter Wynant**, Deputy Head of the International Relations Department of the Belgian Civil Protection, Directorate-General for Civil Protection, Ministry of Home Affairs, Belgium