



European **Civil Protection** Forum

Shaping a disaster-resilient Union:

Charting a path for the future of European civil protection

Brussels, 4-5 June 2024

EVENT GUIDE



I am delighted to welcome you all to the 8th edition of the European Civil Protection Forum. With over 1,500 civil protection professionals expected to join, including researchers, practitioners and policymakers, this edition is the biggest yet in terms of attendance and marks a pivotal moment for civil protection in Europe.

The past 20 years have seen exceptional levels of cooperation at a European level within the civil protection community, and we are extremely proud of their achievements and of the success of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

However, it is clearer than ever before that we need to do even more to keep people safe. The twin drivers of conflict and climate breakdown mean we face more natural and man-made disasters than ever before – as seen in the record number of UCPM activations in recent years.

Unprecedented dangers call for unprecedented action. Let us use this Forum to come together and innovate, collaborate, and share good practices. It is only by responding together that we can continue to make a difference.

Janez LENARČIČ

Commissioner for Crisis Management,
European Commission



Foreword

The **8th European Civil Protection Forum** will take place in **Brussels on 4-5 June 2024**, on the eve of the European elections and at a critical point for the future of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

Over the past few years, the world has witnessed an increasing frequency and intensity of disasters of different origin, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Widespread wildfires, extreme weather events, earthquakes, major public emergencies, armed conflicts, and hybrid actions have caused devastation of human life, property, environment, and cultural heritage. Systemic shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine highlight the complex, cross-sectoral, and cross-border nature of challenges that Europe faces, as well as the need for continued solidarity and an integrated, multi-hazard and cross-disciplinary approach for effective prevention, preparedness, and response.

In collaboration with its Member States and other partners, the European Union has spearheaded efforts to **build a more disaster-resilient Union** that is equipped to confront an increasingly complex and evolving risk landscape now, and in the years to come.




Over two days, more than 1,550 individuals from 70+ countries will engage in discussions, exchange of knowledge and good practices, networking, and community building. They will represent civil protection and disaster risk management authorities at different levels of governance, first responders and civil society organisations, private sector, science and academia, EU institutions and partner international organisations. They will make the voice of the European Civil Protection Community heard, so that together we can critically reflect on the past, identify what worked well and what we could have done even better. So that we share a common understanding and the **knowledge for action** needed to make our future efforts efficient and sustainable. So that we can contribute to **stronger communities** on a local, regional, national, and European level, and chart a path for the future of European civil protection.

We strived to provide a space to present a diversity of ideas and perspectives, policies, and practices. Two **high-level plenary sessions** will set the scene for the event, celebrating our common achievements, and exploring challenges and opportunities laying ahead. They will be enriched with over 30 different breakout sessions, **discussion panels and participatory workshops** alike, outdoor **demonstrations and networking activities**. The **Civil Protection Village** (an exhibition space) will be the beating heart of the entire event and a stage for the very first **UCPM foosball tournament**, with 24 countries represented. Its winners will be engraved in the common memory alongside the second cohort of the **UCPM medal** recipients.

We count on all of you to make this 8th edition of the European Civil Protection Forum, once again, a success!

DG ECHO Organising Team

Tuesday 4 June 2024

Schedule: Panel Sessions		Schedule: Workshops				
Time	Plenary	Studio 1	Studio 2	Studio 3	Studio 4	Studio 5
08:30 - 09:30	 Plenary	 Studio 1	Studio 2	Studio 3	Studio 4	Studio 5
09:30 - 09:45	Registration and welcome coffee					
09:45 - 10:45	Opening remarks by Commissioner Janez Lenarčič (Plenary room)					
10:45 - 11:15	High-level plenary session - Turbulent Past, Challenging Present: Has the UCPM Met the Needs and Expectations? (Plenary room)					
11:15 - 12:45	Coffee break					
	Investing in Resilience: From Evidence to Practice	Bridging the Gap between local and EU level Response: Regional Cooperation in Disaster Management	Enhancing Cross-Border Collaboration through the Pre-Positioning Programme	20 years of GDACS: How Science and Technology has supported the Global Disaster Response Community	Behavioural Dimension of Disaster Prevention & Preparedness and Climate Adaptation	How to Support Psychological Recovery and Occupational Mental Health in Fire and Rescue Services?
12:45 - 14:15	 UCPM Foosball Championship (CP Village)	Lunch		Outdoor demonstrations	Intro to the Global Situation System (ECHO stand)	
14:15 - 15:45	rescEU: Five years of Evolution and its Challenges	Embracing Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies for Enhancing Disaster Risk Prevention and Response	Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication as a Pillar of Disaster Risk Reduction	Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid: Distinctions and Complementarity between the two Instruments	Governance for Disaster Risk Management: Involvement of Civil Protection National Authorities	Knowledge Transfer in Civil Protection Exercises
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee break					
16:15 - 17:45	Regional Cooperation as Catalyst for Trust-Building and Improved Collaboration among the European Union and its Neighbours	The Union Disaster Resilience Goals and Early Warning for All Initiative: How do they align?	How to Manage Spontaneous Volunteers during Disaster Response	Advancing Integrated Wildfire Management: Priorities for Action	Outdoor demonstrations	10 Years of the European Civil Protection Pool: Achievements and Future Challenges
17:45 - 18:15	Coffee break					
18:15 - 19:00	UCPM Medals Award Ceremony (Plenary room)					
19:00 - 22:00	Networking dinner and concert (Gare Maritime)					
						Outdoor demonstrations

Wednesday 5 June 2024




Schedule: Panel Sessions		Schedule: Workshops				
Time	Plenary 	Studio 1 	Studio 2	Studio 3	Studio 4	Studio 5
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee					
09:00 - 09:45	Keynote speeches (Plenary room) Sauli Niinistö Gaia Vince					
09:45 - 10:45	High-level plenary session – Enhanced European Resilience: Are Crisis Management Systems Fit for the Future? (Plenary room)					
10:45 - 11:15	Outdoor demonstrations		Coffee break Q&A Session: Gaia Vince (ECHO stand)			
11:15 - 12:45	Strengthening Disaster Resilience: Joining Civil Protection and Private Sector Efforts	Open Science, Research Data Management and Evidence-based Civil Protection Decision-Making	Bridging the Inclusion Gap: Advancing Equality in European Civil Protection Teams	Reducing Risks Together: Bridging Disaster Resilience and Climate Adaptation Strategies	Risk Communication and Awareness: the preparEU Initiative and Next Steps	Cassandra Complex in Foresight for Civil Protection: If you wait, it will be too late
12:45 - 14:15	 UCPM Foosball Championship (CP Village)		Lunch One Incident-One Response Demo (Studio 2)			
14:15 - 15:45	Crisis Management Principles: What is the ERCC's role?	Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disasters: Improving Engagement and Communication among Citizens and Authorities	Risk Reduction Strategies in Cultural Heritage	Satellites, Artificial Intelligence and beyond: the Future of Disaster Management	Expect the Unexpected: Preparing the Union for Large-scale, Cross-sectoral and Complex Disasters	Climate and Security – How Can the UCPM Manage Competing Priorities
15:55 - 16:00	UCPM Foosball Championship Award Ceremony (Plenary room)					
16:00 - 16:15	Closing remarks by Commissioner Janez Lenarčič (Plenary room)					



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Conference Venue

Tour & Taxis

Tour & Taxis is a historic site that offers a mix of industrial heritage and modern innovation, ideal for a variety of events and cultural activities. As a former postal, train, and shipping hub developed by the von Thurn und Tassis families, it has transformed into a key location for major cultural events, following renovations that preserve its historic charm and its historic industrial aesthetics, including original railway tracks and the Shed's metal framework.

Sheds of Tour & Taxis will be the venue for the main part of the event.

Location:

Avenue du Port 86c, 1000 Brussels

Gare Maritime

Gare Maritime is a hub combining retail, work, and 'hang out' experiences. It is located along the canal in the progressive city district of Tour & Taxis. It describes itself as a destination where all businesses are impact conscious. The Gare Maritime is an energy-neutral building. Renewable energy is generated on site: heat and cold are produced by geothermal energy, and solar panels generate electricity.

Gare Maritime will be the venue for the networking dinner taking place on the evening of 4 June.

Location:

Picard Street 5/7/11, 1000 Brussels

How to get there

The venue is easily accessible by public transportation in Brussels.

By bus

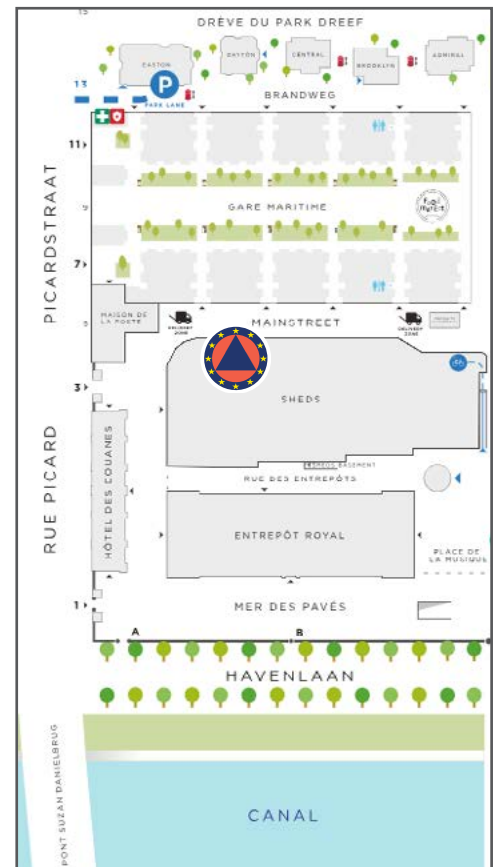
You can reach the venue directly by taking STIB/MIVB bus lines 14, 15, 57, 88 or 89 and getting off at the stop "Tour et Taxis". From there the venue is located a 4-minute walk away.

By tram

The nearest tram stop to the venue is "Saintelette" which is served by tram lines 51 and 93. From there the venue is located an 11-minute walk away, along Avenue du Port.

By metro

The metro stops "Ribaucourt" and "Yser" are located a 10- and 15-minute walk from the venue respectively. The stops are served by lines 2 and 6.



© Tour & Taxis

By train

The Brussels-North train station, where many national and international trains arrive, is the closest train station to the venue. From there you can either walk for 15 minutes via Boulevard Simon Bolivar to reach the venue, take one of the dedicated shuttle buses (see below) or take STIB/MIVB bus lines 14 or 20, getting off at “Suzan Daniel”.

By car

The venue can also be reached by car. Parking is available 24/7 at 13 Rue Picard and Drève Anna Boch.

By bike

The regional cycling route “CK” runs alongside the canal leading to the venue on Rue Picard. There are multiple outdoor bike parking spots available around the venue. A Villo! station is located right in front of Tour & Taxis at 3 Rue Picard.

From Brussels Airport (Zaventem)

The fastest way to reach Brussels city from the airport is via train. Get off at Brussels-North and follow the directions listed above.

Shuttle Buses

In order to facilitate easier access to the venue, shuttle buses will be operating between Brussels-North train station and Tour & Taxis on the days of the Forum.

From Brussels-North to Tour & Taxis

07:00 – 09:30: A bus will depart to the venue every 8 minutes.

09:30 – 12:00: A bus will depart to the venue every 15 minutes.

From Tour & Taxis to Brussels-North

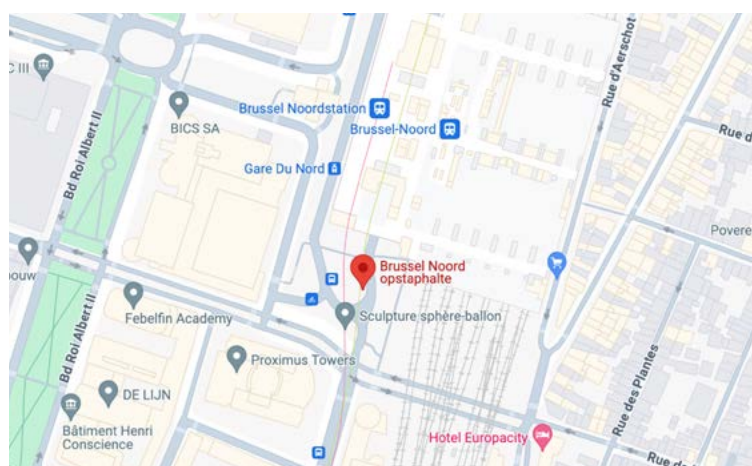
14:00 – 16:30: A bus will depart from the venue every 15 minutes.

16:30 – 18:30: A bus will depart from the venue every 8 minutes.

During the evening of 4 June additional buses will depart from the venue after the reception.

18:30 – 19:30: A bus will depart from the venue every 12 minutes.

19:30 – 22:00: A bus will depart from the venue every 15 minutes.



The bus stops will be clearly marked with the Civil Protection Forum logo for easy identification.

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

Opening remarks:

Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management



Tuesday, 4 June: 09:30-09:45, Plenary room

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 past few 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

Moderator: **Karin Helmstaedt**

Session will have live international sign language interpretation

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, Directorate-General for Civil Protection, Ministry of Home Affairs, Belgium

Moderator: **Shada Islam**

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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.



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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 Czermazowicz**, National Headquarters of the Polish State Fire Service

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

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **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 and 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

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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 EMYCIPSS, 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: 12:50-13:45, ECHO stand, 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**

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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
- **Monique Kuglitsch**, Chair of the UN focus group on AI 4 Natural Disaster Management
- **Grażyna Piesiewicz**, Head of Unit, Open Science and Digital Modelling, DG CNECT, European Commission
- **Saeid Vaghefi**, AI and Climate Consultant, World Meteorological Organisation

Moderator: **Andrea Toreti**, Team Leader – Scientific Research, Joint Research Centre European Commission

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?

The publication on *Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication: Analysis of Good Practices* will be presented during the workshop. The document 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



Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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 has increased in complexity. Emergencies now draw in a multitude of stakeholders and unfold over extended durations, demanding collective efforts to aid 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. This paradigm shift aims to streamline aid efforts, minimise redundant actions, and ensure relief reaches those in need swiftly and effectively. It calls for both national and international bodies to re-evaluate their strategies in response to these complex emergencies.

The 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.

SPEAKERS

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

Workshop:

Knowledge Transfer in Civil Protection Exercises

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

The 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. 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 harvest ideas for improving how we learn from each other, identify key barriers and challenges in capturing and sharing knowledge and lessons learned, and explore methods for prioritising what is actually captured and disseminated.

SPEAKERS

- **Armine Hayrapetyan**, Acting Rector, Crisis Management State Academy, Armenia
- **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

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
- **Ana Isabel Valdés**, Institutional Communication Specialist, Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPRENAC)

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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
- **Alabed Ibrahim Abdul Salam Khalil**, Director-General, Palestinian Civil Defence
- **Owda Younis**, Head of the International Relations, 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
- **Daniel Kull**, Director for Development Partnerships, World Meteorological Organisation

Moderator: **Amélie Grangeat**, Head of Division, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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, during which numerous volunteers offered help to the affected population. This prompted a reflection on how to best use the potential of the volunteers and how to streamline the spontaneous response.

The panellists will be invited to share their views and good practices on how to integrate spontaneous volunteers into response activities. The panel will 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. 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, 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: 17:05-17:50, Studio 3

One Incident - One Response is a new approach to emergency 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.

This new approach 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, 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

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

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

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, and 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)

Forum Programme – Day 1 – 4 June

UCPM Medals ceremony



Tuesday, 4 June: 18:15-19:00, 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.



The recipients of the second set of UCPM medals will be revealed at the 8th Civil Protection Forum.

Networking dinner and concert

Tuesday, 4 June: 19:00-22:00, Gare Maritime

Guests are cordially invited to continue celebration over an informal networking dinner with musical accompaniment by **Sodasoul band**.

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/sodasoulband/>

Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

Keynote address:

Sauli Niinistö, Special Adviser to the President of the European Commission, former President of Finland



Keynote address:

Gaia Vince, award-winning science writer and author

Wednesday, 5 June: 09:00-09:45, Plenary room

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
- **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, Institutional Reform and Democratic Renewal of Belgium

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**

Session will have live international sign language interpretation

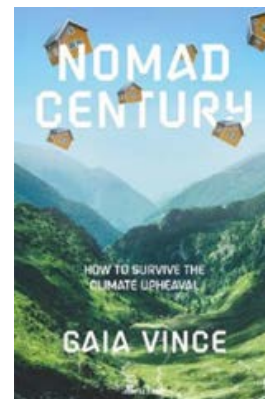
Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

Q&A session:

Keynote speaker Gaia Vince

Wednesday, 5 June: 10:45-11:15, ECHO stand, CP Village

Following her keynote speech in the beginning of the second day of the Civil Protection Forum, Gaia Vince, author, researcher and broadcaster, will be inviting participants to join her at the DG ECHO stand in the CP Village, to ask questions, respond to comments and exchange about her most recent book *Nomad Century: How To Survive The Climate Upheaval*.



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.

The 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
- **Sepe Van Den Steen**, Federal Health Department of Belgium

Moderator: **Ali Al-Jaberi**

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

- **Massimo Cocco**, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), EPOS
- **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: **Daniela DiBucci**, International Relations and Activities Unit, Italian Civil Protection Department

Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

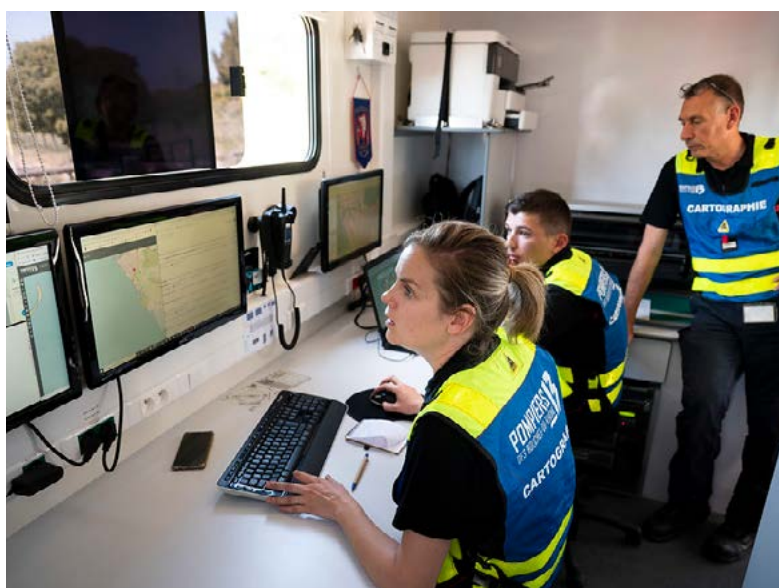
Panel discussion: **Bridging the Inclusion Gap: Advancing Equality in European Civil Protection Teams**

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**, Civil Protection Expert, 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

Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

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 citizens' 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 on 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

- **Carl Thomas Aarum**, Senior Communication Advisor, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection, DSB
- **Christina Andersson**, 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:

- learn about methods and discuss the importance of foresight and anticipatory analysis and how it can help prepare for climate change-related disasters,
- connect with other professionals in the field, and
- 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 17:15-17:45 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

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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
- **Maïke Vollmer**, Senior Researcher, Fraunhofer INT

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

Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

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

- **Alessandro Carrotta**, Policy Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission
- **Elisabeth Hamdouch**, Deputy Head of Unit, Earth Observation, DG DEFIS, European Commission
- **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, European Space Agency

Forum Programme – Day 2 – 5 June

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)
- **Leonardo Sartori**, Program Executing Officer, Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre
- **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, Directorate-General for Civil Protection, Ministry of Home Affairs, Belgium

UCPM Foosball Championship Award Ceremony**Wednesday, 5 June: 15:55-16:00, Plenary room****Closing remarks:****Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management****Wednesday, 5 June: 16:00-16:15, Plenary room**

Speakers and Moderators

Carl Thomas AARUM

Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)



Carl Thomas Aarum is a senior communications advisor with the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB) and has been working on risk communication for a decade. He was part of the team in charge of re-introducing the Norwegian authority's public advice on self-preparedness in 2018. He is also leading Norway's participation in the 'preparEU' initiative. Aarum has a mix of marketing and editorial background, stemming from Norway's biggest newspaper and award-winning PR agencies.

Ali AL-JABERI

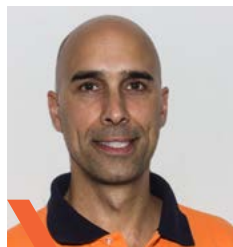
Master of Ceremony & Moderator



Ali Al-Jaberi has chaired high-level events in over a dozen countries. He is the winner of multiple public speaking awards, including the National Debating Championship of the Netherlands. A former Europe correspondent for Associated Press TV, Ali has a strong background in journalism. He was editor of a foremost current affairs program on national Dutch radio and foreign reporter for Dutch-language newspapers.

Miguel ALMEIDA

University of Coimbra (ADAI)



Miguel Almeida is a senior researcher at ADAI/University of Coimbra (Portugal), he holds a PhD in wildfires. He has been involved in various projects and has authored several publications, including the reports published by JRC on the major wildfires in Europe in 2021 and 2022.

Natalia ALONSO CANO

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Natalia Alonso Cano joined UNDRR in 2023, bringing over 25 years of professional experience in international development and partnerships. An agronomic engineer, she has worked nine years overseas, in India, the Dominican Republic, for the European Union and others. Previously, Ms. Cano was also Senior Adviser at the UNICEF EU Office, and Deputy Director at Oxfam International, as well as Plan International and Amnesty International.

Christina ANDERSSON

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB



Christina Andersson has a background as a journalist. Working with risk communication the last 15 years at MSB, Christina has introduced and continued to develop the work with risk communication at the agency. She was Project manager for the brochure 'If Crisis or War Comes' that was distributed to Swedish households in 2018. Initiator and project manager for the annual Swedish Preparedness Week since 2017 and project manager for the EU-project preparEU Pilot that started in February 2024 in order to support Union Disaster Resilience Goal 2 (Prepare) with an EU-added value.

Yasemin AKTAS

University College London (UCL) CEGE



Dr. Yasemin Aktas serves as Deputy Director at the UK Centre for Moisture in Buildings (UKCMB) and is an Earthquake Engineering Field Investigation Team (EEFIT) member, where she works on the impact of geophysical and climate-induced hazards on heritage

Faisal AL SUHAIL

Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU



Faisal Al Suhail is Crisis management & Resilience coordinator at the BE Permanent Representation to the EU. He is currently chair of the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) Roundtables, the Council's crisis management instrument.

Danica ANKH

Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU



Danica Ankh has been a Civil Protection Counsellor since 2016 and co-chaired PROCIV and PROCIV-CER during the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council in the second semester of 2021. She also spent another five years in the Notification Centre of the Republic of Slovenia as a senior government official and one year as the Deputy Head.

Raed ARAFAT

Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania



Being specialised in anaesthesia and critical care and having a European Master in disaster medicine, **Dr Raed Arafat** is the founder of Mobile Emergency Service for Resuscitation and Extrication (SMURD) and author of several scientific books and articles. Dr. Raed Arafat has received academic titles and prestigious distinctions from national and international organisations. He currently serves as State Secretary at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania.

Athanasios BALAFAS

Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection/Hellenic Fire Corps



Lt. Fire General Athanasios Balafas, currently the Chief of Staff at Hellenic Fire Service, has extensive experience in operational firefighting and rescue, including leading the 1st Special Rescue Unit. He holds a university degree in Physical Education and Athletics, a postgraduate degree in disaster management, and various certifications in emergency response. Balafas has served as an instructor and participated in numerous national and EU exercises and missions.

Speakers and Moderators

Tom BARNIG

Luxembourg Fire & Rescue Corps (CGDIS)



Tom Barnig is Director of Operations, responsible for the organisation and coordination of the operational division and activities of Luxembourg Fire and Rescue Services. He also supervises the national PSAP 112 and operational engagement in international civil protection. He started his career in the fire brigade of Luxembourg City in 2014, with a volunteer firefighter and paramedic background.

Claudia BERCHTOLD

Fraunhofer INT



Claudia Berchtold, PhD, is the Head of Sustainable Systems Transformation and Risk Reduction at the Unit for Public Technology and Innovation Planning at Fraunhofer INT. She coordinates the Green Deal Wildfire Risk Management Coordination and Support Action (CSA) Firelogue.

Nora BERGER-KERN

European Commission - DG ECHO



Nora Berger-Kern is a Policy Analyst for DG ECHO in the team “Contingency Planning, Analysis and Situational Awareness” in the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC). With a background in Political Science, Sociology and Peace and Conflict Studies, she is working on foresight and anticipation of crises with a focus on human-made disasters, as well as the future of EU crisis management.

Agnė BILOTAITĖ

Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania



Minister Agnė Bilotaitė is currently serving her fourth term as a Member of the Lithuanian Parliament. Today, in her capacity as the Minister of the Interior, Ms Bilotaitė is in charge of public security, migration, public administration and civil service, and regional policy. The main priorities in the field of civil protection for Minister Bilotaitė are the following: reinforcing preparedness and response to any crisis scenario, ensuring protection of critical infrastructure, and increasing awareness and resilience of society.

Grzegorz BOROWIEC

National Headquarters of the State Fire Service Poland



COL. Grzegorz Borowiec is a UCPM expert, and fire officer with extensive experience in international missions as a modules leader: Sweden (Fire - 2018), Lebanon (Blast - 2020), Türkiye (Fire - 2021), France (Fire - 2022), Türkiye (Earthquake - 2023) and Greece (Fire - 2023).

Alessandro CARROTTA

European Commission - DG ECHO



Alessandro Carrotta, PhD, has a background in engineering and a 20-years' experience in European affairs. Currently, among other responsibilities, his portfolio covers technology and innovation, including space, cyber security and new emerging technologies.

Antonella CAVALLO

European Commission - DG ECHO



Antonella Cavallo is Program Manager for rescEU, CBRN capabilities and strategic reserves and ERCC Liaison Officer at DG ECHO. Prior, Antonella worked in the South Australian Civil Protection in emergency relief and the private sector in Italy, France, Germany and the US. Being an industrial engineer with a PhD in disaster resilience and complexity management she is passionate about team empowerment and inclusion.

Zahi CHAHINE

National Disaster Management Unit, Lebanon



As the Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, **Zahi Chahine** is spearheading national efforts to enhance Lebanon's resilience to withstand natural and manmade disasters. Mr. Chahine is also the National Technical focal point for the international Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, and the national focal point for the ERCC mechanism of support.

Theodoros CHATZIVASILEIADIS

TU Delft, Economics and Finance of Climate Adaptation



Theodoros Chatzivasileiadis is an Assistant Professor in Economics and Finance of Climate Adaptation at TU Delft, focusing on the economic effects of households' and firms' climate adaptation.

Lorena CHAZARRETA-ABALOS

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



Ms. Lorena Chazarreta-Abalos joined OCHA in 2002. She occupied various functions related to international coordination, training, simulation exercises and information management and technology. In her current role in the "Coordination Platforms Unit", she manages the Virtual OSOCC, supports the GDACS Secretariat, and assists in coordinating the organisation of the annual HNPW (www.hnpw.org) since 2015.

Speakers and Moderators

Florin CHIREA

IGSU – Romanian Civil Protection Department



Colonel Florin Chirea is Head of Community Protection and Resilience Service - IGSU, Romania and Team Leader of the Romanian GFFF-V module. He has more than 15 years of experience, with four international missions in Greece, twice decorated for bravery and promoted.

Nathan CLARK

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



Nathan Clark is Assistant Professor in Crisis Governance at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Department of Organisation Sciences. He is an expert in the areas of innovation and crisis management with extensive experience in EU and national funding research programmes. He was the Scientific Coordinator for the H2020 project LINKS and currently leads research in the Horizon Europe SYNERGIES project.

Massimo COCCO

Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV)



Massimo Cocco is a Director of Research at the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), Rome. His research interests are focused on the physics of earthquakes and faults. He is currently one of the principal investigators of the FEAR (Fault activation and Earthquake Rupture) ERC Synergy project and was the Executive Director of EPOS ERIC from 2018 to 2021.

Eléonore COLIN

European Commission – DG ECHO



Eléonore Colin has a background in political science and war studies. She started her career working on EU external policy before joining the Emergency Response Coordination Centre of DG ECHO in 2020. She has worked on the response to various crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian war on Ukraine and several evacuation operations.

Irene CORTÉS CALVO

Civil Protection and Emergencies Agency, Castilla y León



Irene Cortés Calvo currently serves as Director General of the Civil Protection Agency of the Regional Ministry of Development and the Environment. Taught in Political Science and Administration, she is also General Director of Women's Affairs of the Junta de Castilla y León and became a member of the Castilla y León Parliament for her province.

Fabrizio CURCIO

Italian Civil Protection Department



Head of the Civil Protection Department of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers since 2021. **Fabrizio Curcio** previously served in the same position from 2015 to 2017, then, until 2019 he was advisor to Italian Prime Minister for civil protection issues. From 2019 to 2021, he served as Head of “Casa Italia” Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers dedicated to post-earthquake reconstruction. As Head of the Civil Protection Department, he directly managed all the major emergencies that affected the country and, at the same time, ensured the leadership and coordination of Italian operations in international emergencies.

Łukasz CZEMARMAZOWICZ

National Headquarters of the State Fire Service Poland



First Lieutenant **Łukasz Czemarmazowicz** works for the State Fire Service of Poland. He is a fire officer, civil engineer and leader of the Polish Team which was prepositioned in France in response to the wildfire season of 2023.

Luigi D'ANGELO

Italian Civil Protection Department



Luigi D'Angelo covers the position of Director at the Civil Protection Department-Prime Minister Office in Italy. He is an expert in planning and management of emergencies, and he was deployed as leader of some European Union Civil Protection teams.

Hans DAS

European Commission – DG ECHO



Since February 2024, **Hans Das** has been the Deputy Director-General and Chief Operations Officer of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Commission, following his position as Director for Emergency Management and rescEU. A holder of a PhD in public international law, Hans served in positions concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina and as consultant to the UN in Kosovo before joining the European Commission in 2004.

Luca DELL'ORO

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)



Luca Dell'Oro has accumulated 20 years of professional experience at the UN. Since 2018, he has been the Chief of the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Section of the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). He holds a master's degree in environmental engineering and a professional master's degree in Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation.

Speakers and Moderators

Ebru Baybara DEMIR



Chef Ebru Baybara Demir, the winner of the 2023 Basque Culinary World Prize (BCWP), which is called the Nobel of gastronomy, became the first chef to bring this honoured award to Türkiye. Recognised for her remarkable contributions to social gastronomy over the past two decades, Chef Baybara Demir has been acknowledged for her innovative solutions to societal challenges and needs, especially the socioeconomic repercussions of the migrant crisis, combating the impact of climate change on soil rejuvenation, and promoting local development through the perspective of gastronomy.

Giovanni DE SIERVO

Italian Civil Protection Department



Giovanni De Siervo is an expert on humanitarian aid and disaster risk management. He is serving as Policy Adviser on International relations, humanitarian affairs and risk management at the Department of Civil Protection of the Italian Government (IDPC).

Daniela DI BUCCI

Italian Civil Protection Department



Daniela Di Bucci is a structural geologist with a Habilitation as Full Professor of Structural Geology. She currently serves at the International Relations and Activities Unit of the Italian Civil Protection Department and is an expert in geo-hazards and the relationship between the scientific community and policymakers in the field of disaster risk reduction and civil protection with more than 110 publications.

Mario DI GENNARO

Johanniter EU Competence Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance



Mario Di Gennaro has been Director of the Johanniter EU Competence Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance in Germany since 2020. Prior to this, he worked for 30 years for the Red Cross and the ICRC. In the last four years at Johanniter, he has significantly expanded the department and projects such as EU MODEX, KnowEMS with DG ECHO and AGILE in Horizon Europe are coordinated in the department.

Sonja DOBO

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB



Sonja Dobo, a marine ecotoxicologist, has worked at MSB since 2010 on oil spill preparedness and response. She leads the National Cooperation Group (NSO), adapting strategies to evolving risks, supporting actors at sea and shore. Sonja represents Sweden's shore perspective in HELCOM Response.

Luis DOÑAS

National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED), Chile



Luis Doñas is a journalist and political scientist specialising in international relations and humanitarian affairs. He served in the Chilean Ministry of National Defence in strategic management and analysis of peace operations and the defence agenda for DRR. Currently, Doñas serves as Head of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation at the National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED).

Adrian EFROS

Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Moldova



Adrian Efros currently serves as Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Moldova. He has been a colonel and head of the logistics directorate of the national army, and a military engineer. Since 31 March up until 2023, he was the Head of the Single Crisis Management Centre. For his work he was awarded with the UNHCR High Commendation. Since 2012 he has been commander of the “Codru” Engineer Battalion of the land forces of the national army of the Republic of Moldova. At the age of 19, he began his career as an officer in the National Army. He took part in several peacekeeping missions in Iraq and Kosovo.

Susanna EKSTRÖMER

Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB



Susanna Ekströmer has worked at MSB since 2007. For a number of years, she has been Sweden’s representative in the EU’s CBRN Advisory Group. Today, she works as Senior Coordinator for EU and global affairs in the Executive Staff to support the department’s management at the Civil Protection Department. She is also a First Deputy at the Knowledge Network Board.

Geir ELLINGSEN

Civil Protection Expert, Norway



Geir Ellingsen is a Norwegian UCPM expert with a background in military and civil protection from regional to national level. He was previously a seconded national expert to DG ECHO and has been an active expert in the UCPM since 2011 and a trainer for UCPM experts over several years. He has deployed within the UCPM both as Team leader and ERCC Liaison Officer.

Adam ELMAN

Google Crisis Response



Adam Elman has over 18 years of experience in driving positive transformational change for some of the world’s most influential companies. As Google’s Head of Sustainability for Europe, Middle East, and Africa, he works at the intersection of the physical, digital, and natural worlds, coordinating with Google’s real-world and digital infrastructure teams, from real estate and supply chains to data centre and products.

Speakers and Moderators

Annika ELMGART

Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB



Annika Elmgart assumed her position as Head of Civil Preparedness Department at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in January 2021. Prior to her current position, she served as Head of Security of Supply Section. Ms Elmgart held the position as Head of the Crises preparedness section at the Public Health Authority 2016-2018. She has an extensive background from different positions at Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice. Between 2007-2011 she was posted to Brussels as Defence Counsellor to the Swedish Representation to EU.

Burcu ERTAŞ DENİZ

Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, AFAD



Dr Burcu Ertas Deniz is Geological Engineer, with a master's degree and doctorate in the same department at METU. Burcu is currently working at the Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Ankara in the field of preparing and executing projects on Disaster Risk Reduction. She is also working on an initiative to strengthen cultural heritage due to the climate change-based disasters in Türkiye.

André FERNANDES

National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection, Portugal



André Fernandes, graduated in Geography from Lisbon University, has worked in the Portuguese National Authority for Emergencies and Civil Protection since 2008, since 2020 he has been the National Commander. He is a Civil Protection Expert trained under the training program of the UCPM.

Carola FREY

Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre



Carola Frey is an expert with in-depth knowledge and practical experience in the Strategic Analysis and Cooperation Department of the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Center, where she coordinates the International Relations and Protocol Section. Since 2021, she is a PhD candidate on the topic of China's foreign policy in the new world order using foresight methods.

Patricia GASPAS

National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection, Portugal



Patricia Gaspar served in the Portuguese Navy between 1996 and 2000 and, in July 2000, joined the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC). At ANEPC, she served in the International Relations Office, was National Operations Assistant, District Operational Commander and Deputy National Commander. Between October 2019 and March 2024, Patricia Gaspar was State Secretary for Home Affairs, having since returned to ANEPC.

Elena GIRAL

European Commission – DG ECHO



Elena Giral is an architect and urban planner, specialised in shelter and settlements in emergencies and participatory projects. She is the program coordinator of the rescEU emergency shelter capacity in the European Commission – DG ECHO.

Peter GLERUM

IPA CARE



Peter Glerum has worked mainly in the sphere of European civil protection since 2005; first employed by the Dutch Government, later as a consultant and now as MSB employee. He is an expert on flooding, part of the Dutch Risk Reduction and Surge Support team leaders pool and has been leading a DG ECHO funded project on developing a flood rescue module.

Sofia GONZÁLEZ LÓPEZ

Spanish Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies



Sofia González is a geographer with a master's degree in land planning and expert in Natural Risks and Disaster Risk Management and has been working in Spanish civil protection as a senior expert since 1990. She has been a senior expert at the Spanish Civil Protection Presidency, actively participating in the design, development and execution of different events and providing support in any other matter related to the Presidency.

Agostino GORETTI

Italian Civil Protection Department



Dr. Agostino Goretti is a senior DRM expert at the International Unit of the Italian Civil Protection Department, managing and implementing technical assistance projects on Disaster Risk Assessment and Management in Western Balkans, Türkiye, EU Eastern Neighbouring Countries and EU Southern Neighbouring Countries. He holds a PhD in Structural Engineering from La Sapienza University of Rome.

Amélie GRANGEAT

ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau



After several years as a Product Manager in F24 on the National Multi-Channel Belgium Public Warning System and the Stellar EWSS (Early Warning Satellite Service by Galileo) for European Alerting Authorities, **Amélie Grangeat** transitioned to a Disaster Preparedness Specialist role at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Her current focus is on the groundbreaking Early Warnings For All Initiative, which strives to ensure that by 2027, every person on Earth is safeguarded by an early warning system. She has a PhD which focused on Resilience of Critical Infrastructures and Societies Facing Major Crises

Speakers and Moderators

Heli HAAPASAARI

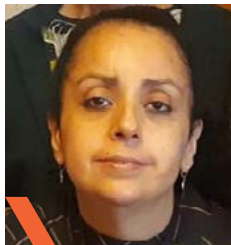
Finnish Border Guard



Heli Haapasaari has worked with oil spill preparedness and response for 30 years. She works for the national competent marine pollution response authority. Heli is a member of the National Advisory Board for Pollution Response, represents Finland in EMSA CTG MPPR and is the HoD in HELCOM Response.

Nadia HADAD

European Disability Forum



Nadia Hadad is the Vice President of the Brussels City Advisory Council of Persons with Disabilities. She is a Co-chair of the Board of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) and a member of the Executive Committee of the European Disability Forum (EDF). Nadia has a degree in Electromechanical Engineering and Philosophy.

Elisabeth HAMDOUCH

European Commission - DG DEFIS



Elisabeth Hamdouch is the deputy Head of Unit of the Earth Observation Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry & Space, in charge of the EU Earth Observation Programme Copernicus. Before, she was the deputy Head of Unit for Clean Technologies & Products in the Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs. She also worked for several years in Singapore, including as Executive Director of the European Chamber of Commerce.

Jon HALL

Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE)



Jon Hall is an emergency and disaster professional, a former fire chief and public sector executive director. He is the founder of the Resilience Advisors Network (RAN) specialising in international civil protection arrangements and disaster risk reduction. He now facilitates the Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE), a broader network of some 2,000 European crisis and innovation practitioners.

Frédéric HARRAULT

French Civil Protection Department



Lieutenant-Colonel Frédéric Harrault has 25 years' experience in firefighting and civil protection. He joined the Ministry of the Interior National operational crisis centre (COGIC), then the European and International Relations Unit of the French Civil Protection Department, in charge of bilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean region. He is now fully involved in the UCPM as national training coordinator and trainer.

Fredrik HASSEL

Saab



Fredrik Hassel is a Senior Advisor at Saab. Before this assignment he served as Deputy Director General at the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (2007 – 2019) and as Head of Staff at the Swedish Emergency Management Agency (2001 – 2007). Mr. Hassel has also served as political Advisor to the Minister for Defence in Sweden (1999 – 2001). He has a military degree and served as an infantry officer.

Louise HAXTHAUSEN

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Louise Haxthausen (Denmark) was appointed as UNESCO Representative to the European Union and Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels in February 2019. She joined UNESCO in 1993, as Associate Expert in the Human Rights Division at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris). She has an academic background in political science and international public law.

Armine HAYRAPETYAN

Crisis Management State Academy Armenia



Armine Hayrapetyan is the Acting head of the Crisis Management State Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) of Armenia, Colonel of the Rescue Service. In 2019, she was appointed as the National Focal Point for the Sendai Framework for DRR in Armenia. In 2021, she co-chaired the work on the roadmap 2021-2030 for a disaster-resilient European and Central Asian Region by 2030.

Karin HELMSTAEDT

Master of Ceremony & Moderator



Karin Helmstaedt is a Canadian journalist, TV host and reporter based in Berlin. She joined Germany's global TV broadcaster Deutsche Welle in 1999 and has been a regular on-camera personality ever since, presenting a variety of news and culture magazine formats as well as live panels and events. Karin is also a moderator and consultant for high-level conferences and events around Europe. Her cross-cultural background and experience with issues like sustainability, ESG, and Europe's green transition are appreciated by clients from a broad range of sectors.

Marion HEYMEL

German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance



Marion Heymel holds the 1st and 2nd state examination for English and History. In the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance she is responsible for further development of volunteer work to strengthen civil protection. She is Head of the office of the "Helping Hand award" of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In her free time, she is a volunteer firefighter.

Speakers and Moderators

David HOROBIN

Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)



As Head of Crisis Management, **David Horobin** specialises in contemporary crisis management courses for decision makers. He served as the Head of Crisis Management and Security at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (2011 - 2017). Mr. Horobin holds various fellowships and certifications and possesses an MSc in Transport Engineering from Imperial College, London and a BSc in Social Science.

Angela IGLESIAS RODRIGO

Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain



Angela Iglesias Rodrigo is a forestry engineer specialised in civil protection and forest fires. She has close to two decades of experience at operational, management and research level in several companies and regions in Spain and in the central government since 2009. She has been part of national and international missions and exercises also under the umbrella of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and has participated in several forums and working groups in and outside Spain.

Laura INDRILIUNAITE

European Commission – DG ECHO



Laura Indriliunaite is policy coordinator at the Civil Protection Policy unit of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. Laura is in charge of the disaster resilience portfolio and played an active role in developing the Union Disaster Resilience Goals adopted in 2023.

Shada ISLAM

Moderator



Shada Islam is an influential Brussels-based specialist on European Union affairs who works independently as a commentator, advisor, analyst, strategist and media trainer. Her areas of interest and specification include Europe, Asia, Africa, Geopolitics, Trade, Migration, Inclusion, Diversity and Women's Empowerment. She runs her own Brussels-based global strategy and advisory media company, New Horizons Project.

Daniela JACOB

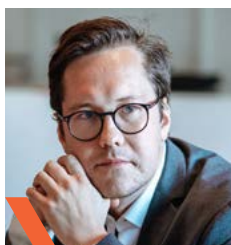
Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS)



Meteorologist **Prof Dr. Daniela Jacob** is the director of the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) and visiting professor at the Leuphana University, Lüneburg. She was coordinating lead author of the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and one of the lead authors of the fifth IPCC assessment report (WG II). She was member of the European Commission's Mission Board for "Adaptation to Climate Change including Societal Transformation". Currently, she is a member of "Earth League" and the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Destination Earth Initiative. Since 2021, Daniela Jacob is ECMWF Fellow.

Juha-Pekka JÄPÖLÄ

European Commission – DG ECHO



Juha-Pekka (J-P) Jäpölä is a Project Officer at DG ECHO currently coordinating the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network's science pillar. He holds a Bachelor and a Master of Administrative Sciences from the University of Tampere, a police officer's degree, and is currently writing a PhD in Applied Economics at the University of Antwerp on behavioural climate change aspects of humanitarian aid and disaster risk management.

Vasilis KALOGIROU

EU Agency for the Space Programme



Vasilis Kalogirou works at the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), where he is contributing to the definition and management of the Agency's Research & Innovation portfolio, as well as the market development in the area of Emergency Management and Humanitarian Aid.

Johan KARLSSON

Better Shelter



Johan Karlsson is the Managing Director of Better Shelter, a non-profit organisation founded in partnership with the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). Johan has an executive MBA from the Stockholm School of Economics and an MFA in Industrial Design from Konstfack, University College of Arts, Crafts and Design.

Michael KARNITSCHNIG

European Commission – General Secretariat



Michael Karnitschnig serves as Director for External Relations in the Secretariat General of the Commission. His team shapes and coordinates external action across the institution, from the EU response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine via strategic relations with the US and China to EU enlargement. Before joining the Commission in early 2000, Michael worked in the Austrian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Joel KAUPPINEN

Finnish Association for Fire Officers



Joel Kauppinen is Senior Specialist at the Finnish Association of Fire Officers. With an M.Phil in geography and firefighter training, he focuses on developing rescue services. He is specialised in the Arctic environment and has developed digital services.

Speakers and Moderators

Kamal KISHORE

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



Mr. **Kamal Kishore** is the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) since May 2024. He has nearly three decades of experience in DRR, climate action and sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Kishore was the Head of the National Disaster Management Authority in India. He also spent over a decade working for UNDP in Geneva, New Delhi, and New York, leading efforts to integrate disaster resilience in the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, he served at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre in Bangkok from 1996 to 2002 and worked on post-earthquake reconstruction projects in New Delhi from 1992 to 1994.

Anna KOSTERKIEWICZ

Humanosh



Anna Kosterkiewicz is a Logistics Leader at Humanosh EMT, Poland. She is an experienced paramedic at the Children's Trauma Centre and previously in intensive care units and EMS teams. For 14 months she was Head of the Polish Ambulance Station in Ukraine and local coordinator of Medical Evacuation to European countries during the Russian war of aggression.

Claire KOWALEWSKI

European Commission – DG ECHO



Claire Kowalewski is a French fire brigade colonel with 30 years of experience and a strong operational experience within the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. She is currently working at DG ECHO notably at developing an EU aerial forest firefighting fleet (rescEU) or setting up innovative projects such as the prepositioning programme.

Eirini KRAMPI

Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Greece



As the Director of International Relations at the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection in Greece, **Eirini Krampi** is involved in disaster management and emergency response planning. With extensive engagement in European and national forums, she has participated in multiple projects over the last 13 years. Her dedication to civil protection, backed by specialised training from the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, underscores her commitment to advancing disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Colin KUEHNHANN

European Commission – DG JRC

Colin Kuehnhanns is a Policy Analyst at the Competence Centre for Behavioural Insights (CBBI) of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Colin holds a PhD in Economics with a thesis on behavioural economics focusing on biases in political decision making as well as the use of behavioural insights in policy. His current projects include tax compliance, social identity, and disaster preparedness.

Monique KUGLITSCH

UN Focus Group on AI 4 Natural Disaster Management



Dr. Monique Kuglitsch is the Innovation Manager at Fraunhofer HHI and Chair of the ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management. She also serves as an Expert in the Working Group on AI Capacity Building for the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. As a researcher, she has investigated past climate change, extreme weather events, and regional climate model projections.

Daniel KULL

World Meteorological Organisation



As Director for Development Partnerships at WMO, **Daniel Kull** is responsible for resource mobilisation, partnerships and project management. Previously, he led disaster risk management projects at the World Bank, IFRC, IIASA, SDC and Swiss Re, and earned a MSc in water resource engineering.

Janez LENARČIČ

European Commission



Mr. **Janez Lenarčič** is Commissioner for Crisis Management within the Commission of President von der Leyen. Commissioner Lenarčič is responsible for the European Union's civil protection and humanitarian aid efforts, with a focus on ensuring the EU is ready to respond to disasters and humanitarian crises across Europe and beyond. Mr. Lenarčič has previously served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU in Brussels, as well as holding other positions in the government of Slovenia and international organisations.

Karsten Christoph LINDENSTROMBERG

Coordinator of the rescue EMT CIPSS



Christoph Lindenstromberg specialised in psychotherapy and trauma therapy, focussing mainly on supporting law enforcement, fire and rescue services. With Johanniter he developed and implemented an Emergency Medical Team Type 1 mobile, the first one classified in Europe and from an NGO. He also modelled a concept for a Crisis Intervention and Psychosocial Support Cell (CIPSS) for the European rescEU EMT project.

Giulia MACI

Cities Alliance/UNOPS



Giulia Maci is an urban planner specialised in gender-sensitive city development, youth engagement and community-based action planning, with work experience in more than 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Currently she works as urban specialist at Cities Alliance - UNOPS in Brussels, coordinating the work in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

Speakers and Moderators

Artur MALANTOWICZ

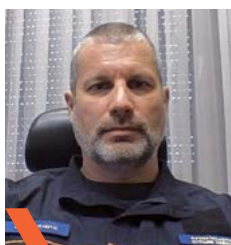
European Commission - DG ECHO



Artur Malantowicz, PhD, is a geographer and political scientist, who for the past 12 years has worked in the crisis management sector, in the context of both humanitarian and civil protection operations. He currently leads a team coordinating the development of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network in DG ECHO.

Tomislav MAREVIĆ

National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Republic of Croatia



Tomislav Marević is a disaster management expert. He brings rich experience and a focus on improvement. With rich professional experience and volunteer background, he excels in operational management and global missions, ensuring effective crisis response.

Erwan MARTEIL

European Commission - DG ECHO



Erwan Marteil is the Head of Unit for DG ECHO B3 – Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building. After studying in Paris (political sciences in Sciences Po, Development and Economic Law at the Sorbonne), he began his career in the European Commission in 1996. Following a period in Brussels with DG Environment, then DG Competition, he has spent 11 years of his career abroad – in Afghanistan, Turkey and in Geneva (migration and refugee counsellor).

Michela MATUELLA

European Commission - DG ECHO



Michela Matuella is the Director of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre within DG ECHO. She was previously Acting Director for the Western Balkans from 2021 to 2023 and Head of the Unit for Albania, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement negotiations of the European Commission from 2014 until 2021. She was a member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy (2012-2014). She holds a degree in Political Economy and an MSc in Development studies.

Cristina MARUGÁN

Spanish Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies



Cristina Marugán is Head of International Affairs at the Spanish Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Emergencies. She coordinates all activities of the DGPCE concerning both bilateral and multilateral relationships. She is the Spanish delegate at the PROCIV preparatory group of the Council and at the Committee for Civil Protection, as well as the person representing the DGPCE as focal point for the Sendai Framework for DRR. Recently, she coordinated the Spanish EU Presidency 2023 in the field of civil protection, which included acting as Chair of PROCIV. Ms. Marugan holds a Master's Degree in Law and a Master's Degree in Social Work and Public Intervention.

Carlos MENDES

Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection



Carlos Mendes is the Deputy Director for Prevention and Risk Management in the Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection. Currently, he is also the Portuguese Sendai Focal Point and national representative in the EC Disaster Prevention and Risk Management Expert Group and in the EC Early Warning Systems Expert Group. His activities are mainly focussed on prevention and preparedness, at a strategic level, including the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

Jenny MOLIN

Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB



Jenny Molin is a gender expert committed to enhancing gender equality and inclusion in the humanitarian, DRM, and peace support sector. In her current role at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), she is supporting international capacity strengthening operations to integrate a gender equality and human rights perspective into DRM efforts.

Romana NAGLIČ

Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief



Romana Naglič, BSc in Computer and Information Science, is a Senior IT adviser at the SI ACPDR Informatics Department. She is responsible for several 112 projects and development solutions, now mainly concerned with implementing 'Reverse 112' and application 'Floods 2023'. She is also involved in managing, adapting, designing and implementing several web applications for special needs of the ACPDR staff.

Ivars NAKURTS

State Fire and Rescue Service at the Latvian Ministry of the Interior



Ivars Nakurts serves as the Deputy Chief of the State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia. He is a passionate supporter of bridging new forms of cooperation in civil protection with NGOs, academia, the private sector, and civil-military domain. His personal values are rooted in European ideals and commitment to promoting a collaborative team culture.

Bella NESTOROVA

European Commission – DG ECHO



Bella Nestorova leads the 'Disaster risk and resilience' team at the Civil Protection Policy unit of DG ECHO. Previously, Bella worked on international cooperation and on sustainable development at the European Commission and other international organisations.

Speakers and Moderators

Hugo NIJKAMP

Sea Alarm



Hugo Nijkamp, a marine biologist, has led Sea Alarm since 2000 and gained unique experience in marine oil spill preparedness and response, bridging governmental, industry and NGO interests as an independent and impartial facilitator and innovator.

Magnus NILHOLM

Emergency Preparedness, Ringerike municipality, Norway



Magnus Nilholm is Head of Emergency Preparedness in Ringerike municipality in Buskerud County. He has a background in emergency preparedness, health management, quality management and financial management. His work history includes the Swedish Armed Forces-special forces/paratroopers, United Nations protection forces, technical services, head of health services, and organisational development consultancy.

Hannah NOHLEN

European Commission – DG JRC



Hannah Nohlen is a behaviour scientist and joined the European Commission in 2020 as a policy analyst in the Competence Centre on Behavioural Insight. She works on the application of behavioural insights to support evidence-based policy. Together with her colleagues, she conducts behavioural research in various policy areas.

Kati ORRU

University of Tartu



Kati Orru is an Associate Professor of Sociology of Sustainability at University of Tartu, where she leads the interdisciplinary Risk & Resilience Research Group. Her research focuses on crisis management and social well-being and vulnerability. In the H2020 BuildERS project she led and in Horizon Europe SYNERGIES and UCPM ROADMAP2 projects she leads research on inclusive disaster governance and addressing societal vulnerabilities.

Mariangela PELLICCIA

European Commission – DG ECHO



Mariangela Pelliccia is working as a member of the Training, Exercises, and Exchanges of Experts team at the Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. She has been the officer responsible for the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) full-scale exercise programme since 2016 and fully in charge of the project's implementation since 2021.

Grazyna PIESIEWICZ

European Commission – DG CNECT



Grazyna Piesiewicz is head of unit C1 in DG CONNECT, Open Science and Digital Modelling. In this capacity she leads the implementation of the Destination Earth initiative to build the digital replica (the digital twin) of the Earth System, which promises to revolutionise our approach to climate change and environmental resilience.

Eduard PLANA BACH

Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia



Eduard Plana Bach is a Senior Expert and head of Forest Policy and Risk Governance at the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia. He holds an MSc in Forest Science, and an MSc in Wildfire Risk Management. His expertise is in socioenvironmental dimension of forestry policies, integrated wildfire risk management and risk communication and governance.

Simona POHLOVÁ

European Commission – DG REGIO



Since January 2023, **Simona Pohlová** serves as Deputy Head at the European Commission's DG for Regional and Urban Policy, overseeing 53 EU and EFTA state Interreg programmes. Previously, she led ENI CBC programme teams and managed EU relations with neighboring countries. With a career starting in 2006 at the Commission, Pohlová has extensive experience in cross-border cooperation, including in the Balkans and Turkey. Educated in journalism and social sciences, she is multilingual, fluent in Czech, Slovak, English, French, and conversant in Russian, Spanish, and German.

Maciej POPOWSKI

European Commission – DG ECHO



Maciej Popowski is the Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) of the European Commission. Before joining the Commission in 2008, he was a Polish diplomat with his last role as Poland's first permanent representative to the EU's Political and Security Committee. In 2009-2011 he served as Head of Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek. In 2011-2015 he was Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service. In 2016, Mr Popowski joined the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, serving as its Deputy Director-General and, in 2020-2023, as acting Director-General.

Roman PRYMUSH

State Emergency Service of Ukraine



Roman Prymush graduated from Khmelnytskyi University of Management and Law as a lawyer and holds a PhD in Public Administration. Having worked in several positions in the Khmelnytskyi Region and as Deputy Mayor of the region from 2020 to 2021, he is currently Deputy Head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine for Digital Development, Digital Transformation and Digitalization.

Speakers and Moderators

Mari RANTANEN

Minister of the Interior, Finland



Mari Rantanen is trained as a police officer, paramedic, nurse and practical nurse. Rantanen first entered Parliament in 2019. Since then, she has served in the Administration Committee, the Transport and Communications Committee, the Legal Affairs Committee and the Intelligence Oversight Committee. Rantanen chaired the Administration Committee from 2022 to 2023. She has been a member of Helsinki City Council since 2017. Mari Rantanen has been a Member of the Government since June 2023, working as Minister of the Interior of Finland.

Gordon RATTRAY

European Disability Forum



Gordon Rattray is a Programme Coordinator with the European Disability Forum (EDF) working on the response to the Ukraine war and advocating disability-inclusive humanitarian action, climate action and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Christian RESCH

Disaster Competence Network, Austria



Christian Resch is the Managing Director of the Disaster Competence Network Austria, facilitating knowledge and technology transfer in disaster risk reduction. He is also a Professional Military CBRN Defence Officer, Fire Service Officer, Union Civil Protection Mechanism Expert, and UNDAC member.

Maxime RIGAL

Departmental-Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Service, Lyon



Major Maxime Rigal is an officer in the field of civil protection with 18 years of experience. After being a volunteer firefighter for eight years, he started his career as an officer in the army within the military units of French Civil Protection. For seven years he acquired experience as a leader in managing teams and commanding them on field operations. In 2012 he left the army to become a professional firefighting officer at the Lyon Fire and Rescue Service. Now working at the Fire Chief's cabinet, he oversees European and international relations and is the executive officer for European Projects. He is also an incident commander at a local level and is a UCPM expert.

Giorgio ROSSI

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)



Giorgio Rossi is Professor of Physics at the Università degli Studi di Milano; he leads an experimental research group on the physics of matter at low dimension, exploiting and operating instrumentation at synchrotron radiation facilities in collaboration with CNR and Elettra in Trieste, Italy. He coordinates the NFFA-Europe (Nano Foundries and Fine Analysis – www.NFFA.eu) European research infrastructure for nanoscience since 2008. He has coordinated the expert group who wrote the Italian National Plan for Open Science that became effective in 2022. He represents Italy in the EOSC Steering Board and contributes as co-chair to the Policy sub-group.

Raffaella RUSSO

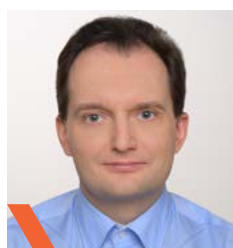
Senior Scientist and Senior Project Manager, UNISA



Raffaella Russo, a Senior Scientist and Senior Project Manager with an MSc in Economics and Finance, specialises in several key areas. Currently, she plays an active role in numerous European and Italian-funded initiatives, with a primary focus on socioeconomic stressors, trust within social contexts, social acceptance issues, and assessing the socio-economic impact associated with the adoption of new technologies across various domains.

Jakub RYZENKO

Crisis Information Centre SRC, Poland



Jakub Ryzenko is a space policy and crisis management expert. Since 2013 he has headed the Crisis Information Centre at SRC, which develops space- and UAV-related innovative solutions and provides operational support for crisis management institutions in Poland.

Camila SAAD

Amazon Web Services (AWS) Disaster & Preparedness program



Camila Saad is the global leader of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Disaster & Preparedness program. In this role, Camila partners with governments, multilaterals, and non-for profits to help them prepare and respond more effectively to climate disasters using cloud technology. She has coordinated response to multiple disasters, mainly in Latin America, including responses to the Haiti earthquake in 2021 or the current floods and landslides in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Before joining AWS, Camila worked at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and McKinsey & Company. Camila holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's in finance, magna cum laude, from Bentley University.

Brigitta SÁFÁR

Hungarian Red Cross



Brigitta Sáfár is Head of Disaster Management of the Hungarian Red Cross, also known as senior scientific researcher. Due to her background as a psychologist, her main research area is human behaviour and resilience of individuals and communities affected by disasters and other emergency situations.

Cătălin-Vasile ŞAMŞODAN

General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Romania



Colonel Cătălin-Vasile ŞAMŞODAN, is head of the Training Office of IGSU in Romania. He is EUCPM trained, a member of multiple different EU modules (GFFFV, CBRN, USAR), and peer certifier. He has participated in three international missions and several EU exercises. Currently he is completing a PhD in wildfire management.

Speakers and Moderators

Marzia SANTINI

European Commission – DG JRC



Marzia Santini is leading the European Crisis Management Laboratory of the European Commission Joint Research Centre. She is chairing the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) and works for integrating knowledge and providing science advice for early action and anticipation of complex crises.

Marie SATTLER

Luxembourg Fire and Rescue Corps



Marie Sattler is the head of the International Relations Unit of the Luxembourg Fire and Rescue Corps. Responsible for regional, European and international relations, she believes that cooperation is key to further strengthening disaster management. As a volunteer firefighter and paramedic, she believes that civil protection is more than a job, it's a calling.

Tessa SCHMEDDING

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



Tessa Schmedding is the Partnerships Specialist at the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. Over the last four years, she has dedicated efforts to bolstering disaster resilience across the region, particularly through EU-related initiatives, policies, and collaborative engagements. Prior to her role at UNDRR, she worked on advocating for gender equality at UN Women and renewable energy at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the European parliamentary network of the European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources (EUFORES).

Henri SCHWAIGER

German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)



Henri Schwaiger is a project coordinator and duty officer at the International Division of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief with more than nine years of experience in working in international projects (six cycles of Modules Tabletop Exercises), preparing for and coordinating international deployments of THW modules & capacities, member of different COM working groups.

Daniel SEMPERE-TORRES

Center of Applied Research in Hydrometeorology, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)



Daniel Sempere-Torres is a Professor at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - Barcelona Tech, (UPC). He is also Director of the Centre of Applied Research in Hydrometeorology (UPC-CRAHI). At the moment he is co-coordinating the Mission Climate Adaptation project CLIMAAX.

Nejc SMOLE

Deputy President of the Central Slovenia region & Committee of the Regions



Nejc Smole is the mayor of the Municipality of Medvode, deputy president of the Central Slovenia region, and the co-chairman of the Association of Municipalities of Slovenia. As a long-standing volunteer, he believes that a strong community is the right answer to the challenges of our time.

Mirnesa SOFTIC

Ministry of Security Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mirnesa Softic is working as an Expert Advisor at Operational Communication Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina – 112, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mirnesa is national contact point for cooperation with EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Mirnesa is telecommunication engineer, graduated at the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Traffic and Communications.

Cynthia SPISHAK

Federal Emergency Management Agency, USA



Cynthia Spishak serves as the Associate Administrator of FEMA's Office of Policy and Program Analysis. As a career member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), Ms. Spishak has advanced the agency's disaster response and preparedness efforts through her leadership across all major FEMA programs including Response and Recovery, Resilience, Continuity, and Mission Support.

Zuzana STANTON-GEDES

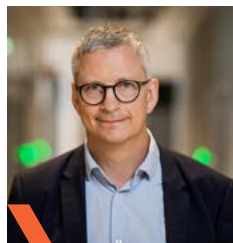
World Bank Group



Zuzana Stanton-Geddes is a Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist at the World Bank with over 15 years of professional experience working on countries in Europe and East Asia. She holds degrees from John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and the University of Cambridge.

Fredrik STANY

Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB



Fredrik Stany is an analyst at MSB, working with issues concerning the development of the Swedish civil defence and security of supply systems. Fredrik has previous experience from organisations such as Saab Automobile, the Swedish Standards Institute, and Save the Children Sweden.

Speakers and Moderators

Cathelijne STOOF

Wageningen University



Cathelijne Stoof is a pyrogeography researcher at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, working on integrated fire management based on four axes of diversity: cross-geography, cross-risk, linking science and practice, and embracing social diversity. Dr. Stoof is the national delegate of the Netherlands to the EU Expert Group of Forest Fires and coordinator of the Innovative Training Network PyroLife, which trains 15 early career researchers to become our new generation of integrated fire management experts.

Bengt SUNDELIUS

Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB



Bengt Sundelius is Strategic Advisor to the Director General of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Professor Emeritus at the Swedish Defence University. He has served as Chief Scientist of the Swedish Emergency Management Agency and as Director of Research for Security Studies at the Swedish National Defence Research Agency. He has published and lectured widely on societal security and crisis management studies and has served on EU based commissions such as ESRAB and ESRIF.

Saku SUTELAINEN

Finnish Association of Fire Officers



Saku Sutelainen is a senior specialist of occupational mental health for first responders. He has worked for 14 years in Helsinki Fire and Rescue Services as a firefighter and paramedic. He was also leader of the MentalFireFit project for five years.

Orhan TATAR

Ministry of Interior of Türkiye, AFAD



Orhan Tatar is a distinguished expert in disaster management, focusing on earthquake geology, earthquake disaster management, and risk reduction. He began his academic journey at Çukurova University in Türkiye, later earning his PhD from Keele University, England and conducting postdoctoral research at the University of Liverpool in England. Since 2002, he has served as a Professor of Geology. He currently serves as the General Director of AFAD Earthquake and Risk Reduction (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye).

Inger-Johanne TJOFLAAT

Consultant, Norway



Inger-Johanne Tjoflaat is a Norwegian crisis management consultant and social anthropologist with extensive humanitarian experience at the UN. UCPM expert since 2012 and trainer since 2015, she specialises in critical infrastructure and has served in multiple UNDAC and UCPM missions, including in leadership roles.

Christopher TOPPING

European Space Agency



Christopher Topping is Head of Civil Security from Space Programme Office for the European Space Agency. He led the Rapid and Resilient Crisis Response (R3) Accelerator initiative, which has a focus in developing space enabled solutions for civil protection and crisis management. He has over 25 years of experience in the satellite sector.

Andrea TORETI

European Commission – DG JRC



Andrea Toreti is a senior scientist at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. He is the coordinator of the European and Global Drought Observatory of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service. His research focuses on climate extremes; climate variability; climate change including impacts and adaptation. He has published more than 70 papers on these topics and got several awards for his contributions. Andrea is currently a member of the UNCCD Science Policy Interface and the MedCLIVAR steering committee. He is also the co-chair of the modelling group of the UN Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management, and of the EU ad-hoc Task Group on water scarcity and drought.

Silvia TORRESAN

Centro Euro Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici



Silvia Torresan is senior scientist and co-director of the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies (RAAS) division at the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC). Her research focuses on methodologies for the assessment of multi-hazard risks to inform climate adaptation.

Saeid VAGHEFI

World Meteorological Organisation



Saeid Vaghefi is a climate scientist at the University of Zürich with a focus on climate claims fact-checking and greenwashing. He is also a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford working on sustainable finance. He also serves at WMO as an AI consultant, where he is leading the development of two pilot projects called AskWMO AI assistant and Earth Observation through Large Language Models.

Arabela VAHTARIĆ

Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, Croatia



Arabela Vahtarić has been the Head of International Relations and Project Preparation of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior since 2005. Her primary area of responsibility is the coordination of international relations in civil protection through facilitating the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements; she represents the Croatian Civil Protection Directorate in the working bodies of the EU, NATO, UN and regional initiatives.

Speakers and Moderators

Ana Isabel VALDÉS

Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic



Ana Isabel Valdés is an Institutional Communication Specialist, currently working at the Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC), as a consultant, conducting communication processes and visibility for CEPREDENAC, additionally supporting efforts to strengthen strategic alliances for the organisation. Focused on user engagement for institutional positioning through social networks, developing digital campaigns, and creating both printed and digital materials to promote education for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Seppe VAN DEN STEEN

Belgian Civil Protection



Seppe Van den Steen is an attaché working for the Federal Health Department of Belgium in crisis management. Since May 2022 he has been involved in the RescEU for Ukraine project during which he has helped guide donations of private companies to Ukraine.

Katrin VANHAMME

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, NATO



Leonardo Sartori has worked at NATO since 2022, first at the NATO Office of Resources and now at the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). In his current role, he has been managing projects related to NATO's assistance for Ukraine, pandemic response, and capacity-building support for partner countries. Leonardo is passionate about coordination and works closely with other NATO staff, the military authorities, Allied governments and partner organisations such as the United Nations. Prior to joining NATO, he worked at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the private sector.

Irina VAȘTAG

General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Romania



Irina Vaștag is a Lieutenant-Colonel, psychologist officer in the Emergency Situations Inspectorate "Banat" of Timis County and associate professor at the West University of Timisoara, Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, Department of Social Work. She has been practicing in the field of emergency situations since 2009.

Annelies VERLINDEN

Minister of the Interior, Institutional Reform and Democratic Renewal of Belgium



Annelies Verlinden was appointed Minister of Home Affairs, Institutional Reforms and Democratic Renewal in October 2020 the De Croo government. Among other duties, she is also responsible for managing major national incidents, like the floods in the south of Belgium that took place in the summer of 2021. Her policymaking in Home Affairs includes civil security, the support of the prevention and security policy of municipalities, private security, registration and updating of the Belgian National Register.

Gaia VINCE



Gaia Vince is an author, researcher and broadcaster exploring the interplay between human systems and the planetary environment. She is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Anthropocene Institute at UCL and a host of BBC programmes. Her first book, *Adventures In The Anthropocene* won the Royal Society Science Book of the Year Prize. Her latest book, *Nomad Century: How To Survive The Climate Upheaval*, explores global migration and planetary restoration in a radical call to arms.

Gaetano VIVO

European Commission – DG ECHO



Gaetano Vivo is a Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (DG ECHO). Gaetano has 20 years of experience working on disaster and climate resilience, including in post-disaster and crisis situations. Previously he worked for the World Bank as a Team Leader for investment projects in Latin American and Caribbean countries and for the Civil Protection Department of the Italian Government.

Maike VOLLMER

Fraunhofer INT



Maike Vollmer holds a diploma in Geography and a PhD in security studies. She is a senior researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis – INT in Euskirchen, Germany. She is working on innovation management in resilience and disaster management, in EU projects and national initiatives. Currently, she coordinates the EU Horizon 2020 project RiskPACC, which develops solutions to strengthen two-way communication between civil protection authorities and citizens.

Pieter WYNANT

Chair of the Council Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV)



Pieter Wynant is currently the chair of the Council's Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) under the Belgian Presidency. As the deputy head of the international relations department of the Belgian Civil Protection, he has been the Belgian delegate in PROCIV for eight years and the representative of the Civil Protection in BFAST, the Belgian organisation responsible for providing international assistance.

Stefan ZOTTI

European Commission – DG EAC



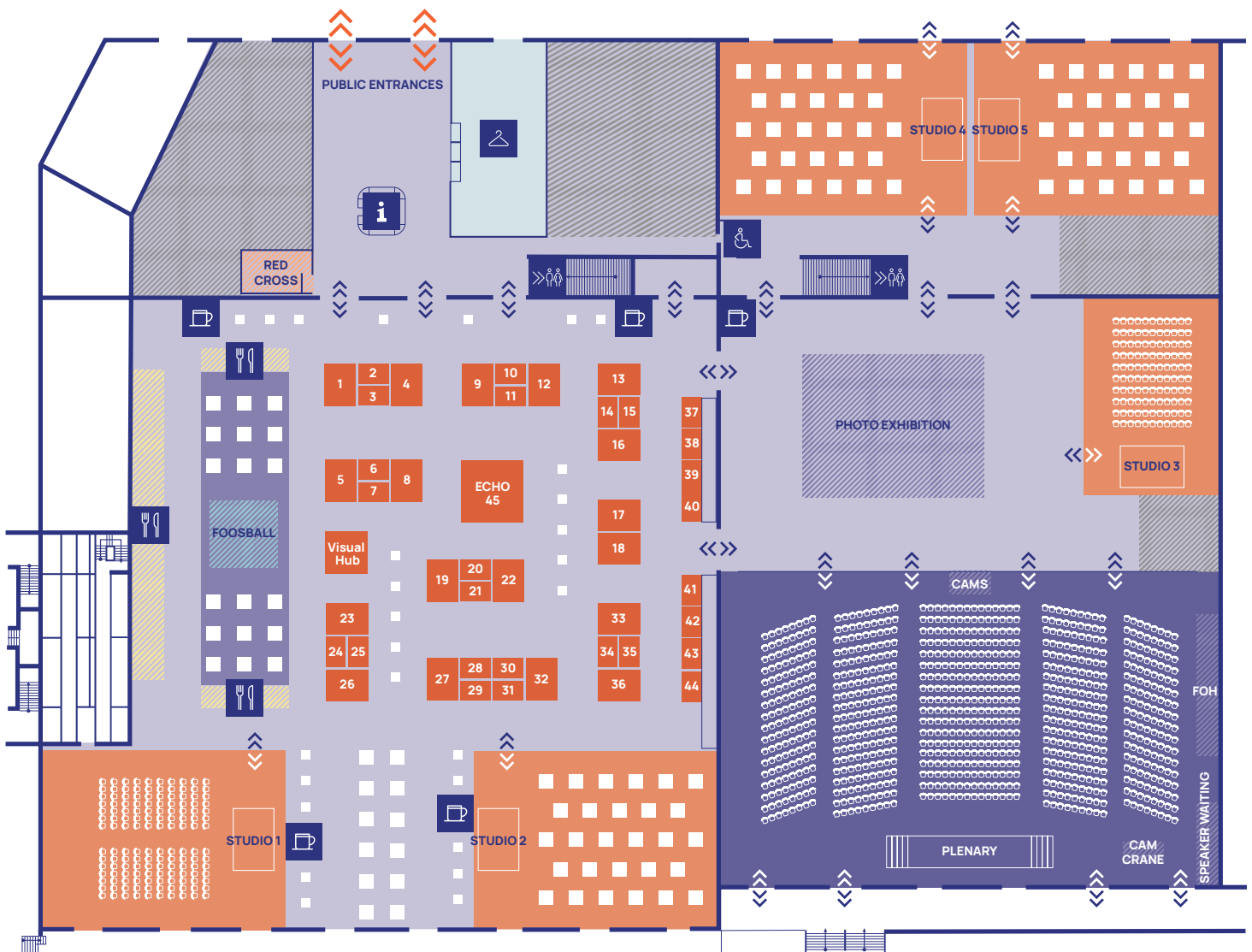
Stefan Zotti is team leader for cultural heritage policy in the European Commission, DG EAC. Before rejoining the Commission 2020 he was Director of the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research, between 2010 and 2013. He served as cabinet member of Commissioner Hahn.

Civil Protection Village

The Civil Protection Village is a central highlight, featuring 45 stands that collectively showcase a broad spectrum of themes including CBRN response, research advancements, new technologies, and capacity-building efforts among other. This space is designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and foster collaborations among over 1200 participants.

Exhibitors will present their innovative solutions and strategies, demonstrating how diverse approaches contribute to enhancing disaster resilience and strengthening civil protection across various domains. The Village serves as an interactive platform for attendees to explore the latest in civil protection and disaster preparedness.

Located centrally in the Village will be the **Visual Hub**, where graphic recorders will be visually summarising the collective knowledge that is resulting from the plenary sessions, panels and workshops. We invite you to regularly visit this space to come to: (1) see the emerging bigger picture of the Civil Protection Forum, (2) explore workshops and panels that you were not able to attend, (3) surface patterns and connections from the wide variety of topics being discussed, (4) connect and add your own insights and discoveries.



- INFO DESKS
BILATERAL MEETINGS
JOURNALISTS' DESK
- CLOAKROOM
- ACCESSIBLE WC
- TOWARDS WC
- COFFEE STATION
- CATERING AREA

Stand Nr. 1

CBRN & explosive aerosols assessment rescue and decontamination by **STBERNARD project**

Stand Description:

Several cutting-edge technologies, namely six prototypes related to rescue and recovery in CBRN-E environments, will be showcased. Attendees can try the award-winning fast decontamination system and discuss emergency CBRNE procedures. The stand will emphasise the escalation of CBRN threats, especially in explosive atmospheres, and explore civil protection advancements for large-scale events.

Rescue Dogs in CBRNE emergencies demonstration - 4-5 June, lunch breaks

The demonstration will highlight a search and rescue operation where a dog adeptly locates a hidden victim in a simulated CBRN environment. New technologies will be used to manage hazards and facilitate the search, followed by a rapid decontamination process, showcasing advanced safety protocols.

Stand Nr. 2

NEST – An Interoperable Multidomain CRBN System by **AMPER SC IoT SL**

Stand Description:

The NEST project aims to develop a versatile system for detecting CBRN threats embedded in buildings. It can potentially identify pandemic viruses and incorporates various sensors. NEST aids facility owners and security teams by offering threat alerts and security guidance, validated across multiple transport and commercial sites.

Stand Nr. 3

EU Network of Training Centres for Preparedness to CBRN Events (eNOTICE-2): key methodologies and outcomes by **Université Catholique de Louvain, Centre for Applied Molecular Technologies**

Stand Description:

The eNOTICE-2 project enhances CBRN first responder training with AR/VR and a digital library. It showcases decontamination techniques for assistive tech, discussing technical and legal aspects. A case study from UCLouvain B-LiFE's mission to Georgia illustrates AR/XR training benefits for safe lab work.

Stand Nr. 4

Training and R&D for CBRN-E and Disaster Medicine HE TeamUP – H2020 NIGHTINGALE - H2020 MED1stMR by **Institute of Communication and Computer Systems**

Stand Description:

At the joint stand, three EC-funded projects—HORIZON EUROPE TeamUP, H2020 NIGHTINGALE, and H2020 MED1stMR—showcase their R&D in Disaster Medicine and CBRN-E. They offer interactive demos: a digital triage

system, XR emergency training, exercise simulation tools, and advanced diagnostics technology. The stand also features educational initiatives in disaster medicine and a new decontamination system.

Stand Nr. 5

Competence Center for EU Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (EUCC) of Johanniter Germany by **Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.**

Stand Description:

The EUCC highlights three civil protection projects: rescEU EMT boosts UCPM medical response with 21 new teams; KnowEMS aims to build a robust EMS network fostering collaboration and learning; AGILE develops a framework for managing high-impact, low-probability events, aligning with CP village goals of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation.

Stand Nr. 6

HoloZcan: Deep Learning Powered Holographic Microscopy for Biothreat Detection on Field by **IDEAS Science Ltd.**

Stand Description:

The HoloZcan project (EU-funded) introduces cutting-edge biodetection with the HoloZcan Compact device and HoloZcan-View platform. Attendees will experience the Compact's modular design and View's AI-driven hologram analysis, demonstrating their practicality and versatility in biosensing applications.

Stand Nr. 7

Vehicle fleet design and VR applications for Civil Protection the rescEU-CBRN-DSIM-IT project by **Fondazione Safe**

Stand Description:

This stand will feature a roll-up on rescEU CBRN DSIM IT objectives and a continuous presentation on "shaping new disaster resilient capacities." It will highlight the new fleet design through visual renderings and offer a VR demo for CBRN situational awareness training. The stand targets the training of 140 operators, including firefighters and consortium experts, and provides an immersive VR simulation experience for visitors.

Stand Nr. 8

Empowering Nations: Innovating disaster response through comprehensive registration systems by **Bprepared and Ministry of Public Health Belgium**

Stand Description:

Post-2016 attack evaluations in Belgium identified a critical need for improved victim registration, prompting the creation of an innovative national system for efficient tracking and tracing. The stand at the forum will offer insights into setting up such a system, its implementation, and the technology required for enhanced disaster response and victim support.

Stand Nr. 9

Beyond Preparedness - Full-Scale Exercises Leading the Way by **Disaster Competence Network Austria**

Stand Description:

Full-Scale Exercise projects are displayed to exchange knowledge and good practices. They highlight innovative response methodologies, multi-agency cooperation, and community resilience. Interactive simulations and case studies engage visitors, showing FSX's role in strengthening Europe's disaster response capabilities. Related projects include CASCADE, DOMINO, RESPONSEE, FORMATEX, BALANCE, HOPE, MAGNITUDE, FloodNorth.

Stand Nr. 10

UCPM Exchange of Experts Programme by **CN Apell RO**

Stand Description:

The Mechanism's Exchange of Experts Programme, part of the Knowledge Network, addresses specific knowledge gaps beyond typical training. It fosters expertise sharing among Member States and eligible countries.

Stand Nr. 11

TRACENET - A virtual reality online collaborative framework to support training activities of UCPM by **Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)**

Stand Description:

TRACENET is a co-funded EU project offering a VR-based framework for remote collaborative training and knowledge sharing. Geospatial data and 3D environments enable simulation scenarios for decision makers, experts, and civil protection teams. It involves the Autonomous Province of Trento, FBK, DPC, AU-RC, and ENB of Portugal.

Stand Nr. 12

EU MODEX by **MODEX CN APELL-RO Foundation**

Stand Description:

EU MODEX, part of the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme, conducts table-top and field exercises to improve civil protection coordination, compatibility, and interoperability among emergency intervention teams. Contractors aim to showcase these exercises through videos, photos and printed materials.

Stand Nr. 13

Integrated Romanian Emergency Situations Management System by **the Department of Emergency Situations of Romania**

Stand Description:

The integrated emergency management system fosters a collaborative network of professionals and civil society, including national and local authorities, civil protection experts, firefighters, paramedics, technical experts, medical personnel, and volunteers. This system aims

to enhance the protection of citizens and save more lives through coordinated cooperation, preparedness, response strategies, and post-event evaluations.

Stand Nr. 14

EUMA - Creating an European Higher Education Network for MAster's Programmes in Disaster Risk Management by **University of Vienna**

Stand Description:

The EUMA project enhances networking and cooperation within the broader DRM community by creating a European higher education network for master's programmes in DRM. It connects institutions, professionals, and policymakers to promote knowledge exchange and innovation, aiming to build resilience against disasters.

Stand Nr. 15

Paragon by **the National Crisis Centre of Belgium**

Stand Description:

NCC will present Paragon, a software platform for incident management, which offers live demos of real-time data analytics, an interactive interface, and crisis management case studies, showing how it integrates weather, traffic, and population data for informed decision-making.

Stand Nr. 16

Germany as active player within the UCPM - projects and activities from local to international level by **the Federal Agency for Technical Relief - THW & Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance - BBK**

Stand Description:

The stand will highlight Germany's contributions to the UCPM, such as the EU-financed rescEU CBRN Decon project by THW, BPOL, and BBK, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs-funded KulturGutRetter project for cultural heritage protection, and the new EU-Competence Centre at BBK. It aims to underscore Germany's role in the UCPM and its visibility across all levels.

Stand Nr. 17

Safe citizens from risk management to risk awareness: a virtual journey to discover volcano Stromboli by **the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) & Italian Civil Protection Department (ICPD)**

Stand Description:

The stand presents an innovative solution from ICPD and the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, designed to educate tourists on the volcanic risks of the Aeolian Archipelago, particularly Stromboli. It features an information centre with AR/VR tools to simulate overflights, explain hazards, and demonstrate self-protection measures.

Stand Nr. 18

Satways: Your Partner in Disaster Preparedness and Response by **Satways Ltd**

Stand Description:

Satways is set to showcase operational solutions derived from research. The company led the STRATEGY project, focusing on pre-standardisation for crisis management interoperability. It proposed two new standardisation items, including forest fire management symbology and emergency response structuring. The stand will feature STRATEGY's tested technologies, such as the ENGAGE IMS/CAD suite, novel triage systems, and earthquake mitigation devices for critical infrastructure.

Stand Nr. 19

Space-based technologies for civil protection: the PPRD Med project by **PPRD Med**

Stand Description:

The exhibition highlights the PPRD Med project's use of AI and VHR earth observation technologies for disaster prevention and preparedness in ten Mediterranean countries. It promotes knowledge exchange, showcases work by Geo-Spatial Insight and the University of Twente, fosters networking, and encourages regional cooperation. The presence of technical assistant Col. Maj. Mohamed Ataknit enhances cross-border connections.

Stand Nr. 20

JRC Data Clinic: scientific tools for disaster risk management by **the Joint Research Centre, European Commission**

Stand Description:

The stand will showcase JRC's disaster risk management tools and data, including INFORM, DRMKC, CEMS, RDH, and GDACS. Emphasising proactive measures and informed decisions for resilience, it will feature an interactive GHSL quiz and display reports on DRM topics like wildfires and droughts to support policymaking and capacity building.

Stand Nr. 21

Added value of regions to EU disaster management by **Danube and Baltic Sea (EUSDR, EUSBSR) and the Grande Region**

Stand Description:

Added value of regions to EU disaster management by EU Strategy for the Danube Region Environmental Risks Priority Area (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary): The stand is the result of cross-regional cooperation and will be organised jointly by two EU macro-regional strategies: Danube and Baltic Sea (EUSDR, EUSBSR) and the Grande Region.

Stand Nr. 22

PPRDEAST 3: Strengthening Resilience and Collaboration IPA CARE: Focus on Earthquakes and Health Emergencies by **PPRD East 3 and IPA CARE**

Stand Description:

The PPRD EAST 3 program and IPA CARE initiative aim to strengthen community resilience in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans, including Türkiye, by implementing innovative EWEA practices and good practices in hazard information, EWS tools, and emergency planning. Both align with the Forum's goals of building a disaster-resilient union and promoting innovation within civil protection.

Stand Nr. 23

From the Disaster of the Century to the Solidarity of the Century: Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes by **Ministry of the Interior of Türkiye, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD)**

Stand Description:

Türkiye's stand highlights the extensive international support following the three major earthquakes on February 6, which led to a level 4 disaster declaration and calls for aid. Through photo exhibitions and video screenings, the stand showcases the collaborative efforts of the UCPM and various countries in the search and rescue operations. It emphasises the challenges and experiences of one of the world's largest response and recovery efforts.

Stand Nr. 24

International Humanitarian Partnership - strengthening response by cooperation and joining resources by **International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP)**

Stand Description:

The International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) exhibition will demonstrate its commitment to improving emergency response by showcasing its decades of support for the UCPM and UN agencies since 1995. It highlights IHP's specialised surge capacity, operational efficiency, coordination, and cooperation, with a chance for visitors to interact with experts involved in missions like the Türkiye Earthquake response.

Stand Nr. 25

Trusted Extremely Precise Mapping and Prediction for Emergency Management by **TEMA project**

Stand Description:

The TEMA Horizon Europe project presentation will focus on developing an AI-enabled platform for natural disaster management. This technical solution aims to replicate and model real events accurately, providing semantic 3D mapping and event prediction, with enhanced AR visualisation for an interactive and user-friendly experience.

Stand Nr. 26

Building Disaster-Resilient Europe: Northern Perspectives from Knowledge Sharing to VR Shelters by **The Finnish Association of Fire Officers**

Stand Description:

Finland's exhibition showcases its civil protection advancements, highlighting three objectives to boost EU resilience. It emphasises the 72-hour home preparedness concept, features the Virtual Shelter VR simulator for civilian crisis training, and presents the Arctic Countries Fire and Rescue Network of Knowledge, demonstrating the importance of cross-border cooperation in challenging environments.

Stand Nr. 27

ENGAGE-ing – Exploring collaboration between DRM stakeholders using the ENGAGE project serious game by **Deep Blue**

Stand Description:

The ENGAGE project's serious game simulates DRM inter-agency cooperation, challenging participants to optimise resource use, share information, and coordinate priorities among different organisations and volunteers. The immersive game experience uses advanced DRM technology and concludes with a debriefing to evaluate actions against set criteria, enhancing real-world collaboration.

Stand Nr. 28

ICEYE NATURAL CATASTROPHE SOLUTIONS Strengthen community resilience with satellite-powered disaster impact monitoring by **ICEYE**

Stand Description:

ICEYE showcases its natural disaster solutions at the booth, featuring a large SAR satellite constellation that meets European Civil Protection standards. It offers real-time Flood Insights and Wildfire Insight solutions, providing impact information every 24h during crises. The booth highlights over two years of results from 200+ global events with interactive GIS demos, emphasising private sector integration in EU crisis management.

Stand Nr. 29

Stronger together - supporting the future of European Civil Protection by **Guardia di Finanza**

Stand Description:

The stand hosted by Alpine Rescue personnel from Guardia di Finanza will showcase their involvement in national and international emergencies. Highlights include the work of canine units during recent seismic events in Albania and Türkiye. The stand will also feature innovative technologies such as IMSI catchers, drones, and thermal cameras used in various emergencies like earthquakes and floods. It will present details of a recent

mission to the Arctic Circle, where Guardia di Finanza personnel supported Italian climate change research.

Stand Nr. 30

Knowledge, Tools, and Approaches for Regional Cooperation Projects The IPA-FF program and the Multi-country project by **Italian Civil Protection Department**

Stand Description:

The exhibition showcases DG ECHO-funded projects coordinated by the Italian Civil Protection with CIMA and EUCENTRE Foundations, focusing on flood and forest fire risk management in the Western Balkans and Türkiye. It includes a multi-country disaster risk study and aligns with the Civil Protection Village objectives by displaying innovations, supporting knowledge exchange, encouraging collaboration, and highlighting achievements in regional civil protection.

Stand Nr. 31

Operation Management system for large scale disaster and multiple agents and organisation coordination by **CS Group**

Stand Description:

The CS Group stand features Crimson, an advanced operations management solution from European R&D projects. Crimson allows first responders to visualise emergency areas in 2D/3D, share information, and use data fusion for comprehensive situational awareness. Widely adopted by firefighters, police, industrial sites, and municipalities across Europe, Crimson incorporates innovative technologies like drones, robots, and AI, enhancing disaster relief efficiency and safety.

Stand Nr. 32

Emerging technologies for responders – A joined-up approach to research and innovation by **Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE)**

Stand Description:

This stand will highlight the significance of technological innovation for responders safety and situational awareness, showcasing 12 ongoing research and innovation projects involving over 100 organisations. Demonstrating pilots and tangible benefits of collaboration with practitioners, each project works closely with European Civil Protection entities, emphasising the added value of cross-project synergy. Hosted by the SSRI project DIREKTION, the booth complements individual presentations with a focus on collective impact.

VR4CBRN - Enhancing first responders training using Virtual Reality Demonstration - 5 June, 13:00-13:20

The VR4CBRN project aims at reducing costs of first responders training, building solid multi-user CBRN scenarios contemporary usable in VR and classic PC workstations.

Stand Nr. 33

Innovation in Integrated Wildfire Risk Management by **Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis (INT)**

Stand Description:

The exhibition will showcase wildfire risk management innovations from FirEUrisk, FIRE-RES, SILVANUS, TREEADS, and Firelogue. On display will be integrated wildfire risk assessments, European scientific results like fuel classification maps, lessons from pilot sites, and fire-resilient landscape overviews. Technical solutions featured include high and low payload drones, seeding capsules, fire-resistant materials, an AR helmet, forest blackbox, a wildfire management platform, and wearable sensors for firefighter health monitoring.

Stand Nr. 34

PrepaRED: Fostering Resilience aCROSS Communities by **Red Cross**

Stand Description:

The stand highlights the collaboration between the Commission and the Red Cross on community resilience, focusing on preparedness as recommended by the Commission. It features an interactive game on disaster kits to engage visitors on personal resilience and presents Red Cross UCPM-funded projects that enhance civil protection, including in cross-border contexts.

Stand Nr. 35

Wildfire Risk Awareness and Communication as a pillar of Disaster Risk Reduction by **the Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC)**

Stand Description:

A printed publication at the stand analyses DG ECHO's sample of wildfire risk awareness and communication initiatives, highlighting the escalating wildfire risk landscape's impact on society. It details strategies to boost Europe-wide wildfire awareness, underlining the vital role of citizens in prevention and preparedness, and proposes a foundational European-level approach to enhance regional efforts through expanded awareness, knowledge exchange, and stakeholder networking.

Stand Nr. 36

Demonstration on fire behaviour analysis: Forest Fires affecting tourist areas in the Mediterranean region by **Pau Costa Foundation**

Stand Description:

Europe faces escalating wildfire challenges, impacting societies and environments across various regions. Climate change and land use shifts have increased fire frequency and complexity, necessitating improved response strategies. Sharing knowledge from severe fire events is crucial for developing effective management

systems, as seen in countries with specialised analysis capabilities like the UK and Spain.

Stand Nr. 37

Presentation of NOJAHIP Norwegian Jet air Ambulance for transport of Highly Infectious Patients. Aircraft and crewing are part of rescEU available to all member states **by the Norwegian Directorate of Health (Department of Emergency Preparedness)**

Stand Description:

The stand presents NOJAHIP, the Norwegian Jet Air Ambulance for transporting highly infectious patients. As part of rescEU, this service is available to all Member states, offering rapid response Medevac and patient transfer for suspected or confirmed HCID cases. It is crucial for all member states to be familiar with this 24/7 capacity and the opportunities it provides for Medevac operations.

Stand Nr. 38

Shaping resilient communities globally through education, science, and culture by **UNESCO**

Stand Description:

UNESCO's stand highlights Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts focused on gender equality, development in Africa, support for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and youth empowerment. Integrating advanced technology with cultural and indigenous knowledge, UNESCO enhances community resilience and sustainable development. The stand features solutions from major DRR projects, immersive VR demonstrations, digital tools, and key publications to inspire resilience-building actions.

Stand Nr. 39

Veterinary Services' role in emergency and disaster management - WOAH contributions by **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) WOA Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels**

Stand Description:

WOAH emphasises the crucial role of Veterinary Services in multi-sectoral emergency responses involving animals or pathogens. Committed to enhancing global health security and inter-agency collaboration, WOAH supports member preparation and response through scientific evidence, expertise networks, and partnerships. It promotes early warning, training, advocacy, and risk communication, showcasing activities that enable networking and knowledge exchange globally and in Europe.

Stand Nr. 40

One Incident One Response – an innovative approach for incident management preparedness by **Sea Alarm Foundation**

Stand Description:

Sea Alarm will showcase the “One Incident, One Response” approach, fostering collaboration for marine pollution emergencies. The strategy, backed by DGECHO, involves stakeholders from civil protection to volunteers. Interactive learning is provided through the OneX serious game, and the stand features materials on emergency preparedness and response collaboration.

Stand Nr. 41

Protecting civilians and nature against the devastating impact of climatic extremes by **General Directorate of Water Management, Hungary**

Stand Description:

At the stand, the Hungarian Council Presidency’s civil protection priority of EU-level flood protection will be displayed, following the Forum’s “Knowledge for action” theme. The display includes a 3D model of the Karcagi Gábor training centre, an interactive flood modelling game, Hungary’s drought monitoring system demonstration, short films on water management challenges, and information on research projects, all emphasising strong disaster and water sector cooperation.

Stand Nr. 42

Safeguarding communities through innovations in public warning - AWARE Project by **European Emergency Number Association (EENA)**

Stand Description:

The AWARE project booth will exhibit the first Galileo EWSS receiver, a technology for decoding alert messages from satellite broadcasts during disasters. The display highlights public warning advancements, seeking user feedback from ECP participants. It underscores the European Civil Protection community’s achievements with the impending Galileo EWSS launch and discusses the future of public warnings.

Stand Nr. 43

Sweden’s situational awareness and emergency management system by **the Swedish Contingencies Agency (MSB)**

Stand Description:

Sweden’s stand showcases WIS, a situational awareness and emergency management system for information sharing in Swedish emergency management. Highlights include mapping, GIS, and a user-friendly interface. The stand aims to inspire situational awareness and crisis information sharing, promoting collaboration on IT solutions and methodologies among civil protection stakeholders.

Stand Nr. 44

Civil Protection in Wartime Ukraine by **the State Emergency Service of Ukraine**

Stand Description:

Ukraine’s stand features a presentation on the work of civil protection forces, primarily SESU, during wartime. It covers responses to Russian attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure, delivering food and water, and evacuating people from affected areas. Additionally, a video will showcase the efforts of SESU rescuers and the war’s impact on civilians.

Stand Nr. 45

Union Civil Protection Mechanism by **the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)**

Stand Description:

The ECHO Stand is a central, interactive space within the CP Village that allows attendees to engage, collaborate, and learn about selected UCPM activities. It will feature the rescEU five-year anniversary campaign, projects and publications from ECHO, including an opportunity to visit the newly launched Knowledge Library and explore the publications on Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness. Additionally, the stand will include a presentation area and an interactive miniature ERCC simulation called “A Day in the Life of a Duty Officer.”

UCPM Foosball Championship 2024

The 2024 UCPM Foosball Championship will be an exciting side event of the Forum, right on time to warm up the crowds ahead of the UEFA European Football Championship hosted by Germany in June-July 2024.

UCPM Member and Participating States were given the chance to nominate two team members to represent the country and compete in the tournament. They were further strengthened from among the Forum participants coming directly from Member and Participating States or EU institutions. **A total of 24 countries have registered and will be part of the tournament.** And who knows... maybe the winner of the UCPM Foosball Championship will go on to claim gold in UEFA EURO 2024 as well?

Tournament Groups

All registered teams were randomly drawn to form six tournament groups, each composed of four teams. **The group phase will take place during the first day of the Forum (4 June)**, with each of the teams playing three games.

Group A	Group B	Group C
Austria Estonia Slovakia Slovenia	Belgium Bulgaria Italy Norway	France Ireland Luxembourg Romania
Group D	Group E	Group F
Cyprus Denmark Netherlands Sweden	Germany Finland Portugal Spain	Croatia Greece Latvia Poland

A total of 16 teams will advance to the second round: all teams from first and second places and the best four of teams placing third in their respective tournament groups. They will then compete in the **tournament bracket during the second day of the Forum (5 June)**.



Outdoor Demonstrations

B-FAST: Air Operations Support and CBRN Mobile Laboratory demonstrations, Belgian Civil Protection Agency

1) Air Operations Support Capacity (AOSC)

This is a specialised capacity proposed by the Belgian Government via B-FAST. It can reopen an airfield or airstrip when local infrastructure is not usable anymore because of a disaster.

The new AOSC capacity is a first military contribution to the B-FAST modules and capacities. B-FAST participates in the UCPM mechanism, as the interdepartmental coordination system set up by the Belgian government to effectively render emergency aid in the event of disasters abroad.

The AOSC is composed of two different sections:

- The Deployable Air Traffic Management (DATM) team conducts assessments and provides air traffic services in an operational theatre, according to the required international civil aviation standards. It is possible to provide these services to both military and civil aircrafts, on a 24/7 basis.
- The Mobile Ground Handling Team (MGHT) consists of airplane and cargo ground handling personnel, which includes trained and authorised staff to conduct custom procedures according to international standards.

The key management personnel are familiar with the international context of humanitarian operations and trained in accordance with the actual UCPM standards.

The technical equipment of the AOSC is available within the Belgian military and all material is air transportable with one single cargo plane, allowing a quick and smooth deployment. The AOSC aims to be on site within 48 hours after the request for assistance and is fully self-sufficient for 10-14 days, which allows the local services to gradually restart their activities.

2) CBRN Mobile Laboratory

A fully-equipped, mobile laboratory that can be used anywhere, where samples can be fully analysed. The laboratory can be divided into several zones. One of these is dedicated to receiving samples via a pass-box to a glove box that can be pressurised with nitrogen. This increases safety at the time of aliquoting or primary analysis of the sample.

A second area of the mobile lab houses a range of measuring instruments for chemical analysis of solid, gaseous and liquid samples.

A third area is set up for the collection, processing and transmission of all the results of the analyses carried out. This is also where the communications equipment is located, so that field data from mobile beacons, for example, can be sent back.

Finally, the logistics zone contains all the equipment needed to install and operate the mobile lab. In particular, this zone contains the beaconing, the generator and the storage of the necessary gases.



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Photo Exhibition

Against the backdrop of increasing climate change impacts, rising geopolitical tensions, and the post-COVID-19 pandemic context, the UCPM remains indispensable in safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of citizens in Member and Participating States, and beyond.

This photo exhibition serves as a timely reminder of the importance of solidarity, cooperation, and resilience-building in addressing complex challenges and ensuring the safety and well-being of all Europeans. By sharing stories of resilience, highlighting good practices, and inspiring collective action, the exhibition aims to foster greater awareness, engagement, and support for European civil protection efforts, ultimately contributing to a safer, more resilient Europe for generations to come.

Themes

2023 Türkiye-Syria Earthquake: In February 2023, a devastating earthquake struck the border region between Türkiye and Syria, causing widespread destruction and loss of life. This theme honours the collaborative efforts of European Civil Protection teams in providing immediate assistance, search and rescue operations, to affected communities. Through striking imagery and narratives, the exhibition captures the spirit of solidarity and the rapid mobilisation of resources across countries to mitigate the impact of the disaster and support recovery efforts.

“The Faces of European Civil Protection”: At the heart of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism are the dedicated individuals – first responders, policymakers and researchers alike – who work tirelessly to protect and assist those in need. This theme celebrates the diversity and dedication of the men and women who work in civil protection. Through a series of poignant portraits and accompanying stories, the exhibition highlights the human face of resilience, showcasing the courage, compassion, and expertise of emergency responders, volunteers, and professionals from across Europe.

Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs): Recognising the need for greater resilience, the European Commission introduced the 'Union Disaster Resilience Goals' in February 2023. These goals unite Member States and UCPM Participating States in improving anticipation, preparedness, and response to disasters. They include ways to better prepare European countries for natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. This theme explores the DRGs within the context of European civil protection, emphasising the importance of collective action and investment in resilience-building measures. Through descriptions of successful projects, the exhibition demonstrates how the implementation of DRGs can strengthen communities, mitigate risks, and save lives, contributing to a more resilient and sustainable future for Europe.



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European Civil Protection Forum

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General Information

Registration and access:

Registration and badge collection will take place inside the venue (Tour & Taxis) at the registration desk:

- Tuesday, 4 June, 08:30-09:30
- Wednesday, 5 June, 08:30-09:00

For security reasons, all participants must be registered and wear their badges at all times both days.

Contact:

Should you have any enquiries, please contact the Forum organisation team at ECHO-CP-Forum@ec.europa.eu.

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