Dear Reader,

As we mark four months of the Belgian presidency, it is an opportune moment to pause and reflect on our journey so far, the milestones we have achieved, and the path that still lies ahead.

Recent years have witnessed a surge in disasters. Record-high temperatures in January, at the start of our presidency, served as a stark reminder of the escalating impact of climate change that we witness in our work. Concurrently, man-made disasters have presented us with new challenges as well.

Assuming the presidency amidst this backdrop of uncertainty, our focus has been on fostering collaboration and synergies among the various stakeholders involved in disaster risk management, with the overarching goal of strengthening the EU’s disaster management, rendering it more robust and cohesive.

Surrounded by the rich biodiversity of the zoo in Antwerp, beyond the confines of the Brussels institutions, we started off our presidency with a workshop on this theme. Recognising the emergence of new or strengthening of existing actors to cope with the challenges we have been facing in recent years, it was time to take stock of the disaster risk management landscape.

We discussed in-depth some of these new actors, such as the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and the Integrated Political Crisis Response Mechanism (IPCR) in relation to the UCPM, to assess how we can better work together towards a more resilient Union. Considering the whole-of-society approach, we have also emphasised the importance of clear communication and coordination both between actors and in their interactions with citizens.

Further into our presidency, we developed this topic during the Council Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) meetings by inviting the Member States to reflect on the necessity of a cross-sectoral approach and looking beyond the borders of our own field. This provided the opportunity to take note of the work that is conducted in other working parties and explore the possibility of a broader mandate for the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

Looking ahead, we look forward to the upcoming 8th edition of the European Civil Protection Forum, which will take place in Brussels on the 4–5 June. This forum will provide another great opportunity to discuss recent developments in the field of civil protection, to share innovative ideas, and ultimately to foster cooperation.

It will bring together more than 1,500 civil protection stakeholders from Europe and beyond, including local, national, and regional authorities, first responders, the scientific community, and the private sector.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you there and working together during the final weeks of our presidency.

Yours sincerely,

Geneviève Van Der Meeren
Director-General for Civil Protection, Belgium
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In February 2024, ECHO underwent a reorganisation. Director General Maciej Popowski wanted to streamline the organisational structure to make the DG more policy driven.

In this context, a new Unit (B3 – Prevention and Preparedness, Capacity Building) was established inside the Policy and Strategy Directorate. Its mandate is to focus on knowledge sharing and developing capacity in civil protection. Erwan Marteil became the new Head of Unit. The Knowledge Network Coordination team (led by Artur Malantowicz) remains in the unit, and was joined by the Preparedness and Prevention Programme team (led by Cristina Brailescu). Gaetano Vivo is the Deputy Head of Unit.

Erwan originally hails from Brittany, France. 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 DG Environment, then Competition, he spent 11 years of his career abroad – in Afghanistan, Türkiye, and Geneva, working on development, migration and refugee issues. He became Head of Unit of the Field Network for DG ECHO (in Brussels) in 2022. Erwan regularly spends time in Verona, Italy, for family reasons.

Can you tell us more about your background and your journey to become Head of Unit B3 and the Knowledge Network?

I'm new to civil protection (though have a long background in development and humanitarian work), so for me the past few months have inevitably been a steep learning curve.

Although my background is not in civil protection, it has been very relevant. For example, the time I spent in Environment and Competition gave me experience in dealing with authorities in Member States.

I have wide experience of working in delegations – mostly on migration and displacement issues. I also led the Field Network in ECHO, which meant overseeing humanitarian experts, including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) specialists. There are many parallels with our work in civil protection, in the way that we respond to disasters through concrete actions on the ground. In a crisis, it is important to have credible people on the ground with concrete experience. I see this repeated in civil protection.

What have been your impressions so far?

I'm a very curious person, and I have found it fascinating to see what is being done in the civil protection community by various types of actors, administrators, academics, and scientists.

One thing that has struck me is that people are so committed to the community, to citizens, to making sure that we help to prevent disasters and minimise their impacts. This is definitely not a normal job, and there is a real cooperative spirit which reflects that.

I think the Knowledge Network is a great resource. I have certainly found it useful myself over the past few months. There are so many good things there for the community. I want to build on this and for it to become even more of a relevant tool for practitioners.

Civil protection responders are busy people, and it is easy to become disconnected and forget the reality of what our partners are living. The Knowledge Network should provide a window into what is happening elsewhere in Europe. It should connect our community – in spirit – with others who are facing similar challenges.
What are your thoughts on the Knowledge Library?

I’m very much looking forward to the roll out of the new Knowledge Library. We want it to become a central reference point, so that it becomes normal practice for a practitioner to go to the Library to find the resources they need. We have a wealth of academic research, scientific evidence, and reports on results and actions, but they can easily get missed. Sadly, I know as a parent that our young people are growing up in a climate where children are becoming used to accessing poor quality information online. Yet if you know a topic well, you quickly realise that there are mistakes in it. It is critical that we have credible sources where you can find trusted facts which are open and available. I hope this is the role that the Library will play.

Could you tell us more about what your priorities might be in your new position?

I think communicating more on the link between civil protection and science will be key. There is such an obvious connection there – we need to give it more visibility.

I want to establish a sense of the platform being there to serve the community. Whether you’re based in Brittany, Verona, or Poland – the challenges we face are very similar. It should be a window into the civil protection world.

I also feel strongly that we should put our colleagues in the spotlight more. There is such superb work being done in this community, but too often we work in our own ‘bubble’ and can forget that our colleagues are facing the same challenges. Let’s create a positive spirit of communication between us.

What about the main challenges that you see?

We need to ‘fight the fog’ in a way. When there is a disaster, there is often a scramble to find the culprit, apportion the blame. We should also make sure that prevention and preparedness get the traction and the interest that they deserve. Civil protection shouldn’t just be about reacting once a disaster has occurred, it should focus on prevention and supporting preparedness before it takes place.

We need to demonstrate to citizens what good prevention and preparedness looks like. It is hard, though – it reminds me of the old adage that ‘no one ever talks about the trains that run on time’. The challenge for the civil protection community is convincing national authorities to make the right decisions in advance, in areas like urban planning, seismic and flood risks. I hope that our community’s work can make a difference here.
This year’s European Civil Protection Forum, which takes place on 4–5 June in Brussels, will be the 8th edition. It will take place under the theme ‘Shaping a disaster-resilient Union: charting a path for the future of European civil protection’. The event will be a timely opportunity to look back at what has been achieved by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, and to generate ideas for development, innovation and collaboration in the field of disaster risk management going forward.

### CP Forum 2024 in numbers

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nationalities</td>
<td>70+</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Villagers’ (exhibitors)</td>
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### Sectors and/or organisations represented by the participants of the 8th European Civil Protection Forum

- **UCPM member and participating state authority**: 25.0%
- **EU institution**: 13.0%
- **Academia/research institution**: 10.5%
- **International organisation**: 10.3%
- **Private sector**: 7.7%
- **Civil society organisation**: 12.4%
- **Other**: 21.1%
Celebrating the first five years: The story behind rescEU

The story of rescEU began in 2017 when devastating forest fires ravaged Portugal, resulting in more than 100 casualties and destroying 540,000 hectares of woods and property. It was that year that the need for an additional layer of European emergency resources, specifically a deployment reserve, became evident. Thus, in 2019, rescEU was born.

While DG ECHO worked on launching the initiative, the world was hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. In Europe, Italy was the first to experience the pandemic at full-scale, activating the UCPM. This led to the inclusion of medical capacities under the rescEU framework in record time.

Providing an additional layer of support in the UCPM

rescEU is an additional layer of the UCPM. This mechanism aims to strengthen cooperation between the EU Member States and participating states on civil protection to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters. When disaster strikes, the ERCC ensures rapid deployment of emergency support and coordinates the response operations worldwide.

When response capacities are exhausted and the affected state is overwhelmed by a disaster, the additional layer – rescEU – is mobilised; from firefighting aircrafts and medical capacities, to capacities to address chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

After its crucial responses to wildfires in both France and Greece, rescEU expanded to providing shelters for internally displaced people in the aftermath of the 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye. At the same time, rescEU capacities were also addressing the energy crisis triggered by Russia’s war in Ukraine, facilitating the deployment of more than 2,100 rescEU generators to Ukraine and Moldova.

In five years, rescEU has been deployed 152 times, providing assistance to 35 countries.

Currently, ECHO is developing around 50 response capacities: strategic reserves of medical and CBRN items, shelters, power generators, as well as specialised capacities in the fields of CBRN, aerial medical evacuation, aerial forest firefighting, emergency medical teams, and multipurpose transport assets.

Lessons learnt so far

Lessons learnt so far have demonstrated that rescEU is a ‘living organism’ that adapts to new and emerging threats. ECHO uses scenario-planning to anticipate needs and develop new capacities. This enables a robust European collective preparedness for any emergency.

Looking back at the birth of rescEU, there is a continuing dire need to fight forest fires at European level. Last year, the Commission announced the purchase of new firefighting airplanes, Canadairs, to guarantee their permanent availability for deployment. With the support of the Commission, Member States are now in the process of purchasing these airplanes, and the first units are expected to become available by 2027.

To bridge the gap until these new aircrafts become available, the Commission finances the stand-by or leasing of existing aircraft during the summer months to ensure their availability for countries that may need assistance with fighting forest fires on their territory.

The story of rescEU continues, with dedicated people working hard to keep Europe as well prepared as possible for the next emergency.
A day in the life of an ERCC Duty Officer (Part 2)

The European Commission’s ERCC plays a significant role in emergency response efforts, serving as the European Union’s coordination hub for disaster response. It has a key function in coordinating assistance through the UCPM, and is often described as the ‘heart’ of the UCPM.

The ERCC’s Duty Officers play a pivotal role in the ERCC’s day-to-day operations, responsible for monitoring and managing incoming emergency information. A few editions ago, our colleague Eric Adrien took us through a day in the life of an ERCC Duty Officer. Two years on, Karolina Moycho considers the roles and the adaptable environment at the ERCC – from shift patterns and specialised responsibilities, to the overall impact of a Duty Officer’s work.

Daily routine

Our daily routine involves a seamless transition between day and night shifts to maintain operational continuity. We begin by preparing the ECHO Morning Briefing, leveraging insights from previous shifts to inform stakeholders and coordinate response efforts effectively.

Throughout the day, we manage ongoing emergencies globally, from the conflict in Ukraine, through crises in the Middle East, to forest fires in Chile. Our responsibilities are diverse, requiring us to navigate complex situations with precision. Whether launching advisory missions in the Baltic countries or providing assistance to flood-affected regions like Libya, we are at the forefront of Europe’s crisis management efforts.

Collaboration is central to our work, as we closely liaise with UCPM member and participating states, governments, UN bodies, and other units within ECHO and ECHO Field Offices. Civil protection specialists’ expertise is instrumental, usually requiring the deployment of ERCC Liaison Officers to facilitate coordination on the ground.

Despite being a small team, we manage hundreds of daily emails with precision, meticulously collecting, verifying, and analysing emergency data to inform decision making and enhance disaster preparedness. Information management is central to our operations, ensuring accurate understanding of crises’ scale and implications.

Even as the day ends, we remain committed to documentation and reporting, ensuring transparency and accountability in our operations. Shift rotations provide for round-the-clock readiness to respond promptly, reflecting the EU’s dedication to unity in diversity.

However, the ERCC’s efforts extend beyond Duty Officers, with collaboration among colleagues essential for crafting effective response strategies and bridging civil protection and humanitarian aid as much as possible. In essence, the ERCC represents a collaborative effort dedicated to protecting and supporting communities in times of crisis.

The work of ERCC Duty Officers is essential for a coordinated and effective response to emergencies across Europe and beyond. Our dedication, expertise, and commitment to collaboration are crucial for safeguarding lives and communities during crises. As the ERCC continues its mission, Duty Officers remain at the forefront, embodying the EU’s spirit of unity and solidarity in disaster response.

As Duty Officers at the ERCC, we play a critical role in Europe’s management of crises, coordinating a wide range of efforts to respond to emergencies efficiently and effectively.

Karolina Moycho, Duty Officer
Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness: Making smart investments in disaster and climate resilience in Europe

Three new analytical reports on prioritising investments in disaster and climate resilience, costing climate change adaptation, and advancing financial resilience have been developed by the World Bank, funded by the European Commission.

The launch for the publication of these reports took place on 15 May 2024. The event brought together high-level representatives from key Commission services, the World Bank, EU Member States, and UCPM participating states. The work will also be presented during a panel discussion on 4 June 2024 at the European Civil Protection Forum.

The following three reports aim to provide decision makers and practitioners with evidence, data, and tools to inform policy and investment efforts:

- **From data to decisions: Tools for making smart investments in prevention and preparedness**
  - The first report emphasises the need for focused and smart investments to strengthen critical sectors in Europe against disaster and climate risks. It highlights the urgency of investing in resilient critical sectors, such as emergency response, and emphasises the importance of informed decision making guided by risk data and analytics.

- **Investing in resilience: Climate adaptation costing in a changing world**
  - The second report promotes the development of adaptation pathways to build resilient futures in the face of evolving climate risks. It underscores the need to scale up investments in climate adaptation and provides guidance for decision makers on developing adaptation pathways to address climate impacts adaptively and iteratively.

- **Financially prepared: The case for pre-positioned finance**
  - The third report focuses on the financial impact of wildfires and drought in the EU, highlighting the funding gap faced by the EU and select Member States. It includes recommendations on how to reduce this gap through pre-positioned finance, and introduces the concept of ‘financial preparedness’.

Overall, these reports aim to provide valuable insights and tools for decision makers and practitioners to address disaster and climate resilience in Europe, ultimately contributing to more effective and strategic investments in prevention, preparedness, and adaptation.

Within the Commission, this work has been led by ECHO in collaboration with other services of the EC, including the Directorates-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) and Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), the Joint Research Centre (JRC), and other key departments. The report series is a follow-up to the successful collaboration between ECHO and the World Bank in 2020–2021, which resulted in a study and reports that demonstrated the economic value of investing in disaster resilience, enhanced financial preparedness, and capacity building.

The reports can be downloaded from the Knowledge Network website.

For further information, contact: ECHO-CP-P-P@ec.europa.eu
UCPM main activities 2017–2022

The Venn diagram below provides an overview of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism’s (UCPM) main activities in the areas of preparedness, prevention and response between 2017 and 2022. This formed part of the interim evaluation of Decision Number 1313/2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Following an initial interim evaluation of the UCPM in 2017, DG ECHO conducted an independent evaluation of all actions carried out under the framework of the UCPM in the EU Member States and Participating States between January 2017 and December 2022. The independent evaluation assessed the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value of the UCPM in relation to its aim to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the UCPM Member States and Participating States in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters.

The independent evaluation informed the Commission’s own Evaluation of the UCPM, which will be published as a Staff Working Document and Communication to the European Parliament and to the Council back-to-back with the 2024 European Civil Protection Forum.

UCPM activities in preparedness, prevention and response between 2017 and 2022 © EU
ECHO’s new Climate Adviser: Julia Stewart-David

Congratulations on your appointment as Adviser to the ECHO Director General on Climate Change and Resilience. Could you elaborate on your role and its purpose?

Thank you. It’s been a privilege to work in the European civil protection family for seven years. As those who’ve shared long hours in legislative negotiations alongside me know, I like a challenge. Climate change is our biggest global challenge. Last month marked the tenth consecutive month of record-high global temperatures. Too often we witness the devastating consequences of extreme weather. Last year, we faced the unprecedented scenario of activating UCPM responses for both intense wildfires and floods on the same day. Sadly, these once-extraordinary events are becoming our new normal. It is only by working across sectors, organisations, and disciplines to mitigate and adapt that we can still make a difference. This critical need to address climate change in a highly interconnected way has led to the creation of this new role of Policy Adviser to DG Popowski as part of the recent DG ECHO reorganisation. If I had to summarise the purpose of this role in one sentence, I’d say: it’s about connecting the dots.

What do you identify as the primary challenges for civil protection regarding climate change?

Simply put, we’re being overwhelmed by events. By collaborating through the UCPM on building capacities, especially the expanded national and rescEU aerial firefighting fleet, we’re just about able to manage the current situation. However, if climate change continues at the current pace, our collective disaster management capacities will soon be outmatched.

Another key challenge is that we need to look at our own ways of doing business to ensure we ‘do no harm’ when it comes to contributing to climate change. For instance, transportation and supply chains should be looked at with a ‘greening perspective’, even in emergency management. This has already been recognised in DG ECHO’s humanitarian partnerships, where minimal environmental standards are being implemented. Civil protection authorities need to consider following suit.

Lastly, unless we get ahead of the curve and accelerate both preparedness and prevention efforts, then all governments will face escalating disaster response costs. DG ECHO’s collaboration with the World Bank on the economics of disaster prevention shows that smart investment makes economic sense too.

How do you envisage the Knowledge Network’s role in your work on climate change?

Rapid emergency response and immediate life-saving action are central to civil protection. Sometimes longer-term preparedness and the structural shifts needed to prevent disasters are difficult to prioritise adequately for civil protection authorities, despite what the facts on the ground and the science are telling us. The beauty of the Knowledge Network is that by design it brings together civil protection practitioners, decision-makers and scientists.

I encourage everyone in the Knowledge Network to consider two questions: ‘How is climate change already impacting civil protection?’ And ‘what actions should we take?’ I intend to remain closely engaged with the Knowledge Network and look forward to meeting many of you at the Civil Protection Forum in June.
Commission releases first UCPM Report on disaster risk in Europe

The Commission has published its first Progress Report on prevention and risk management in Europe, and a supporting staff working document placing a spotlight on disaster prevention. This report, adopted on 12 March 2024, examines the implementation of Article 62 under the Article 6 under the UCPM. It underscores how the Commission, Member States, and participating states can enhance disaster risk management across Europe, including improvements in national risk assessments.

The report takes stock of progress in the application of instruments such as Peer Reviews and the establishment of the Union Disaster Resilience Goals. Additionally, it provides an analysis of national reports on disaster risk management. A supporting Commission staff document offers further details.

For the first time, an overview of which risks European countries identify as emerging and high impact and low probability risks are presented. An overview of the most important cross-border risks identified and the different levels of cross-border cooperation is also provided.

Furthermore, the report makes recommendations for actions needed to strengthen risk management in a changing and more complex risk landscape. This involves improving risk assessments to avoid underestimating future risks, taking climate change into account. The report also demonstrates that disaster risk management actions need to increasingly follow an all-hazard approach and require effective coordination across sectors to further enhance resilience. Thus, it also suggests ways to maximise synergies with other risk assessment and sectoral policies.

The adoption coincided with the release of the Communication ‘Managing climate risks – Protecting people and prosperity’, in response to the EU’s first Climate Risk Assessment, published the previous day by the European Environment Agency (EEA). This highlights the Commission’s work on tackling climate-related risks, enhancing resilience, and safeguarding the well-being of its citizens.

Background

Article 6 of the UCPM decision introduces a general framework on disaster prevention with the aim of achieving a higher level of protection and resilience against disasters, and fostering a culture of prevention that also considers the likely impacts of climate.

Links:


European cooperation in civil protection training is crucial due to the rising number and complexity of disasters. Qualified personnel are essential for managing crises exacerbated by environmental degradation, global warming, and demographic shifts.

Recently, seven universities and colleges formed the European Higher Education Network for Master’s Programmes in Disaster Risk Management (EUMA). This consortium seeks to create a European master’s programme for disaster managers lasting two years, funded partly by ECHO’s 2023 Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) Call. The programme targets post-graduate students undergoing in-service training in civil protection within state, private, or support organisations.

Professor Thomas Glade from the University of Vienna, Austria, is coordinating EUMA. Partner research institutions include Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa (Italy), Bonn University (Germany), IMT Mines Alès (France), Twente University (The Netherlands), the Academy of Security Sciences (Estonia), and Dublin City University (Ireland).

The project will review university courses and create a joint master’s curriculum to enhance cooperation within the Knowledge Network. Practical activities like workshops and summer schools will be organised. Furthermore, the consortium will produce scientific publications on European and international disaster risk management.

The consortium will conduct a feasibility study to assess existing professional educational programs in European universities. It aims to identify best practices, gaps, and opportunities for improvement in educational offerings. This sharing of knowledge will enhance preparedness for disaster professionals and experts in Europe.

A Scientific Advisory Board supports the consortium, comprising of practitioners, scientists, and representatives from relevant networks like the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), the UCPM Training Programme, the Cooperation Network for Risk, Safety and Security Studies (CONRIS), and others.

Following a successful kick-off meeting in Vienna in early February 2024, the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna organised a workshop in Pisa on 11–12 April 2024, focusing on ‘Cross-border Humanitarian Assistance: Legal and institutional aspects’ as a crucial initial phase of the EUMA project. Another specialised workshop on ‘Natural hazards and risks within disaster risk management – Concepts, applications, and future trends’ will take place at the University of Vienna from 3–4 July 2024. Professionals from disaster management, civil protection, and related fields are invited to apply to attend by 27 May via the following link:


Attendee selection for in-person participation will occur promptly after the registration deadline. However, hybrid participation in the presentations on 3 July is open to everyone registered. Additional topical workshops by partner organisations and a winter school organised by Bonn University will follow later in the year.

Contact person: Prof. Dr. Thomas Glade, University of Vienna e-mail: euma@univie.ac.at

Continued education and training of disaster managers is a key component to enhance the resilience of our societies. Through the creation of a joint European Master’s Programme on disaster management, the EUMA project will significantly contribute to achieving this objective.

Prof. Thomas Glade
EET Training Course: Enhancing environmental response in emergencies

In March 2024, the sixth Environment and Emergencies Training Course (EET) took place in Bled, Slovenia, with 24 participants from civil protection and humanitarian aid sectors. Jointly organised by ECHO with the UNEP and OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU), hosted by the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), the course equipped experts to assess and mitigate environmental damage from disasters, safeguarding human health, livelihoods, and the environment.

During the course, participants developed skills to operate as environmental experts in international emergency response structures. They learned how to:

- Coordinate environmental responses, linking national and international efforts;
- Use tools like the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) and Disaster Waste Management (DWM) guidelines to meet mission objectives;
- Integrate environmental aspects into humanitarian assessments and information management;
- Communicate scientific findings effectively to decision makers;
- Manage results sensitively in politically charged environments;
- Advocate for early integration of environmental considerations in response and recovery planning.

The course combined classroom learning, seminars, discussions, and practical exercises, simulating a disaster scenario over two weeks and enabling participants to apply theory, contribute expertise, and hone communication and coordination strategies.

As a joint EC–UN training course, the EET facilitates networking between UCPM experts and humanitarian workers, promoting inter-agency learning and sharing of best practices. Sarah Muscroft’s visit as the new Chief of OCHA’s Response Support Branch underscores the strategic importance of this course considering ECHO and the JEU’s partnership in environmental emergency training and response. ECHO’s collaboration with the JEU has steadily grown, encompassing 80% of JEU missions from 2018–2024.

Since 2014, ECHO has received 40 requests from the UNEP/OCHA JEU, with 56 EU environmental experts participating in 34 missions. The JEU deploys experts and equipment, conducts rapid assessments, and offers remote support in response to international assistance requests. Experts can join UNDAC teams or undertake standalone missions based on the emergency and the assistance requested. By the end of the week, all 24 participants became deployable environmental experts.
Research in support of civil protection policies covers a wide spread of disaster risks, requiring strong dialogue among different stakeholders to make its programming meaningful and the uptake of its results effective.

This dialogue is well established within the Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS)\(^4\), DG HOME's Security Research and Innovation Unit, among policymakers, scientists, first and second responders, SME/industry, civil society, and regional/local authorities, as well as within the UCPM Knowledge Network. Both initiatives are strengthening their cooperation in an efficient way, with concrete actions developed since their launch.

A good example of this is the active participation of Horizon Europe Cluster 3 – Disaster Resilient Societies (DRS)\(^7\) projects in Knowledge Network and CERIS discussions, which is reflected in CERIS event reports available on the CERIS website\(^8\), and will be highlighted in the CERIS Annual Report (to be published by spring 2024). The next joint gathering in this respect is scheduled at the European Civil Protection Forum\(^9\) on 4–5 June, held back-to-back with an annual CERIS DRS event on 5–7 June.

Another mark of efficient cooperation is the interest shown by DRS projects supporting UCPM (and Sendai Framework for DRR) implementation by uploading information about their scientific findings to the Knowledge Network platform. To date, six projects are publishing information about their findings on the platform, and it is hoped that this opportunity (and enlarged visibility for the projects) will be largely used by current and future projects. Besides this, CERIS events and synthesis reports are regularly tagged on the platform.

It is also worth mentioning the meaningful exchanges orchestrated around research needs and calls for proposals, with a new call opened on 25 March (deadline 25 November 2024) including a range of topics of direct relevance to civil protection policies and related policies (e.g. climate adaptation, flood risks, CBRN).

Finally, the effect of enlarged dialogue is reflected in clustering initiatives among projects in given areas (societal resilience, risk management and governance, technologies for first responders and interoperability, and CBRN) which include Horizon Europe projects, as well as capacity building projects (funded by the Internal Security Fund and/or ECHO). This clustering effort is described in more detail (including the projects involved) in a separate article in this newsletter (CMINE).

It is clear that a strong dialogue among different actors makes civil protection programming meaningful and its results effective.
Humanitarian crises increasing level of risk in the world

A recent report by the multi-stakeholder forum INFORM suggests that despite enhancements in the preparedness to tackle the consequences of extreme events, the global risk for disasters and humanitarian crises has increased in the last decade.

Despite improvements in infrastructure and risk governance, population exposure to natural hazards, climate change, conflicts, unexpected shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic, and socioeconomic challenges have increased from 2015 to 2024.

The report highlights that over 70% of crises are driven by human factors such as displacement, conflict, violence, and political instability. This human hazard has nearly doubled the average risk and vulnerability over the past decade, affecting all risk dimensions.

Over the past decade, there has been a general increase in average risk across most regions, although the impact has been uneven.

The Americas have experienced the most significant rise in risk, driven by heightened conflict, violence, and political instability, leading to the displacement of people. In 2023, the 'riskiest' countries in the region were Haiti, Guatemala, Colombia, and Mexico.

On the other hand, Asian countries have seen a notable decrease in risk, mainly due to improvements in socioeconomic vulnerability and infrastructure development. Higher-risk countries in Asia are predominantly located in Southern and Western Asia.

Africa continues to bear the highest average risk globally, with 10 out of the 15 'riskiest' countries situated on the continent. Despite some improvements in coping capacity and vulnerability levels, these have not been enough to offset emerging and structural deficiencies.

Europe scores lower for risks compared with other regional trends. However, it has also been experiencing growing impacts from climate-related hazards over the past decade, such as coastal floods, droughts, and river floods. Furthermore, since 2022, Europe has seen a dramatic increase in displacement. For example, the number of people exposed to coastal floods has risen to 2.1 million, marking a 3.3% increase from 2014.

Without implementing adaptation measures, climate change will escalate risks globally.

Climate change risk is set to intensify challenges for local populations dealing with its adverse impacts. By 2050, low-income countries in Africa and elsewhere will face the most severe consequences of climate change in the absence of adequate funding and subsequent adaptation measures.

Background

This data comes from INFORM - a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters, for the phases of adaptation, prevention, preparedness and response.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of INFORM since it was established in 2014 by the European Commission and the Inter-agency Standing Committee. The INFORM Risk Index and other operational INFORM products – INFORM Severity and INFORM Climate Change – are relied upon by organisations from the humanitarian and development sectors, by donors and technical partners.
Established in 2004 by the United Nations (OCHA/UNITAR-UNOSAT) and the European Commission (JRC/ECHO), the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Initially conceived when geospatial technology was emerging, GDACS filled a critical gap by connecting real-time seismological data with geospatial processing capabilities. There was no other way for the general media to be informed about remote disasters, and response time was too slow. The 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean spurred the integration of rapid satellite mapping capabilities and information management tools, fostering a productive collaboration.

Over the past two decades, GDACS has supported situational awareness and decision making during major disasters, providing rapid impact estimations and enabling anticipatory actions and early responses. By facilitating data access and exchange among stakeholders, it has enhanced coordination, minimised the production of unnecessary information, and streamlined decision making processes.

Central to GDACS’s mission are openness and transparency, ensuring accessible, science-based data that can be easily integrated into various web applications and portals. Emphasis is put on globally homogenous coverage and authoritative information sources. With a user base of about 80,000 subscribers, GDACS addresses seven natural hazards and has produced over 10,000 analytical products since its inception. Users can customise alerts, define regional interests, and choose preferred communication channels.

Data science and technology have come a long way since 2004, and GDACS is constantly pushing forward its capability for early warning and monitoring disasters. The team behind GDACS is working on a renewed web portal, which is going to improve the user experience and bring in new features and functionalities, in addition to the familiar icons and three colour levels.

While the website and tools may change, the goals and commitment of GDACS will stay the same: supporting humanitarian action with data and helping to protect people.

This spring, two events have been planned to provide the opportunity to celebrate 20 years of GDACS:

- The Humanitarian Network Partnerships Weeks (HNPW), where a dedicated session was held on 7 May to cover the anniversary as part of the annual GDACS meeting (session outcomes will soon become available at: https://vosocc.unocha.org/Report.aspx?page=o0t9pExuBwMwml9Wkc49cgxXequalxXequal.

- The European Civil Protection Forum will host GDACS during its gathering on the 4–5 June in Brussels. The session will focus on GDACS activity over the last two decades within the humanitarian and civil protection community.

To learn more about GDACS’ 20th anniversary, check out its newest flyer: https://www.gdacs.org/documents/GDACS_flyer_v7.pdf

Or visit the dedicated webpage on the GDACS website: https://www.gdacs.org/anniversary.aspx

Subscribe to GDACS Alerts at: https://gdacs.org/gdacsregister

GDACs celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2024 © EU
Enhancing scientific support to the ERCC and UCPM participating states

On 5–6 February 2024, representatives of the 24 scientific and research institutes composing the Aristotle consortium, which operates the European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership, met together with the ERCC and the scientists of the JRC in Ispra (IT) to identify scientific gaps and discuss ways to improve scientific support to the ERCC and UCPM before, during and after a disaster.

More than 30 experts from the JRC and Aristotle consortium met under the moderation of the ERCC. They exchanged information on respective available data sets, models and methodologies to estimate the impacts of hydrometeorological (floods, droughts, wildfires or tropical cyclones) and geophysical (earthquakes and earthquake-triggered tsunamis or volcanic eruptions) events. For example, the JRC presented its systems for the provision of rapid impact assessments of events, like the GDACS and the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

The importance of using authoritative sources of data and information was highlighted, together with the need for further advocacy in this direction, facilitating the access and sharing of these sources of information. Challenges – like the sensitivity of some data and products – were also addressed.

In a broader discussion on effectively conveying scientific messages in an actionable manner, participants reviewed sample situational awareness products and event/anticipatory analyses, such as the JRC and Aristotle reports, or the ECHO Daily Maps produced by the JRC and ERCC. Challenges were identified, such as sensitivity of data/products, as well as opportunities, like leveraging the Knowledge Network and its scientific pillar, led by the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre.

The ERCC moderated the discussion with the aim of identifying possible synergies, strengths, and areas where there might be room for improvement.

The discussion also encompassed how technological innovation can support risk assessments and scientific advice. The JRC presented some of its exploratory activities in this domain:

• Exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence in some of the EU Early Warning Systems (e.g. European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), European Forest Fire Information System (EFFS), European Drought Observatory (EDO), and the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) initiative and for the production of exposure datasets (GHSL).
• Use of Large Language Models and other AI components for the rapid extraction of impact information from media and social media sources.

The ERCC, supported by the JRC, is committed to integrating state-of-the-art science in its activities, focusing on delivering on the ‘Anticipate’ and ‘Alert’ Disaster Resilience Goals. Continuing this type of exchange between its scientific partners is encouraged.
As Europe faces simultaneous cross-border risks – climate change, natural hazards, pandemics, and conflicts – accurate data and science-based tools are increasingly vital. Local and regional authorities must know and understand their risks and vulnerabilities to ensure effective responses, plan investments, enhance preparedness, and bolster resilience.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) called for the creation of a territorial vulnerability scoreboard to comprehend risks tied to local areas and populations. Responding to this call, the EC Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) Risk Data Hub offers an online platform for risk assessment across Europe. Since 2017, it has provided a collaborative space for hazard, exposure, risk, and disaster loss data at national and sub-national levels. The new dashboard, highlighting territorial vulnerabilities in disasters and crises, featured prominently during a resilience panel discussion led by former JRC Director General, Stephen Quest, at the tenth European Summit of the Regions and Cities in Mons (Belgium) on 19 March.

Assessing local disaster risk management with the vulnerability dashboard

The vulnerability dashboard – developed by the JRC in a collaborative effort with the CoR – aligns closely with the objectives of the CoR; providing a consolidated national and regional scoreboard for vulnerability to disasters. The methodology underpinning it is also being used by various partners and stakeholders, such as the European Environment Agency, and has been proposed to monitor parts of the Union’s Disaster Resilience Goals.

The dashboard uses an index that reflects the social, economic, political, environmental and physical dimensions of vulnerability in a single number derived from around 50 indicators from open sources.

The next developments include incorporating feedback from CoR members, regional and local authorities, and Policy Officers, who are invited to use the dashboard and provide feedback. This will help the team to fine-tune the dashboard by addressing data gaps. Pilot projects for the dashboard’s implementation at local and regional levels might also be organised. Contact RC-RISK-DATA-HUB@ec.europa.eu for further details.

Launch of the new Data Viewer

In March 2024, the DRMKC Risk Data Hub released the Data Viewer, a user-friendly platform that facilitates access to Europe-wide geographic data on disaster risk-related components. Curated from various robust data sources, this platform empowers users with the ability to dynamically visualise and explore various types of hazards interactively. Through this intuitive tool, users can overlay multiple hazard types and observe how they intersect with exposure data related to population or human settlements, both residential and non-residential. This provides a comprehensive understanding of the spatial dynamics between hazards and populated areas, supporting informed decision making and risk mitigation strategies.
2023 ranks as EU's fourth-worst wildfire season in this century

In 2023, Europe witnessed its fourth-worst wildfire season of the century. The season commenced with an unusually high number of fires in February and March, scorching over 100,000 hectares within the EU alone. According to the Advance Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East, and North Africa 2023 report, the wildfires scorched an area twice the size of Luxembourg within the EU, totalling over half a million hectares, with 120,000 hectares affecting forests. Ignited on 19 August near Alexandroupoli (Greece), it resulted in a burnt area of over 96,000 ha and caused numerous human casualties. The occurrence of these types of severe wildfire events is related to very high and extreme wildfire danger conditions under climate change.

The extensive burning of various types of vegetation across EU territories emitted CO2 amounts equivalent to about a third of all emissions from international aviation in the EU for one year.

Urgent wildfires measures needed for a challenging 2024

In 2024, droughts and high temperatures conducive to igniting and spreading wildfires have been recorded globally. Across Europe, the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) of the Copernicus program has already recorded wildfires in many areas, particularly in mountain ranges across the north of the Iberian Peninsula, with an unprecedented number of wildfire events occurring. Although Spain experienced larger-than-average fires in March and May 2023, the peak of wildfire activity was during the summer months, with the Mediterranean region particularly affected as critical fire danger conditions intensified.

As Europe contemplates the challenges posed by the devastating wildfires of 2023, impacting human health, critical infrastructures, tourism, and the economy in the affected regions (EUCRA, 2024), there is a pressing need for proactive measures to mitigate future risks. The unprecedented scale and intensity of previous wildfires underscore the urgent need for enhanced wildfire prevention strategies, especially as the EU summer period approaches. The situation in 2024 is already concerning, with March 2024 reported as the warmest on record and the ninth consecutive warmest month, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Mitigation measures to address wildfire risks may include nature-based solutions such as vegetation management, bolstering preparedness through early warning systems, and ensuring the availability of effective firefighting resources provided by mechanisms such as the UCPM.

Background information

The Advance Report on Forest Fires in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa 2023 describes the conditions under which wildfires developed and their impact across the pan-European territory, with a focus on the situation in the EU. This report is regularly published by the Commission’s JRC to facilitate access to data and information on previous years’ fire campaigns. It is available prior to the publication of the annual report on Forest Fires in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, which will come out in October this year.
FROM THE COMMUNITY

**Smart education and training programme for central and local government servants: Embracing vulnerability as our greatest strength and innovative tools for risk management**

Disasters threaten individuals, communities, economies, and the environment, often leading to secondary disasters amplifying the initial impacts. The rising global cost of disasters, driven by factors like the climate crisis, urbanisation, and industrialisation, necessitates robust disaster risk management strategies. Civil protection and private sector security personnel face challenges in assessing critical issues and making informed decisions under complex conditions. Diverse training approaches are required to optimise task performance while minimising risks and costs.

In response to these challenges, the SETOFF project, co-financed by the Erasmus+ VET programme, aims to improve disaster management practices and build resilience. SETOFF supports lifelong learning, skills development, and awareness-raising on the risks and impacts of disasters through targeted training activities and individualised learning pathways.

The project consortium brings together eight partners across four countries, including universities, civil protection training bodies, municipalities, non-profit research organisations, and technical consulting firms. It is led by Retired Lieutenant General Michail Chalaris, Assistant Professor and Research Director on Risk, Hazards, Crises, and Safety at Hephaestus Advanced Laboratory. 12 affiliated partners support the project, recognising the need for structured knowledge exchange and collaboration in disaster management. The overarching goal of SETOFF is to enhance the skills of disaster management personnel, improve response strategies, and alleviate the adverse impacts of disasters through a high-quality training initiative.

The implementation phase begins with a comprehensive training needs analysis to validate training requirements and identify knowledge and skill gaps. This is followed by a training methodology developed to focus on collaborative curriculum design. The project emphasises the creation of tailored learning scenarios and lesson plans to meet the specific needs of participants.

The e training platform is the main pillar of the project, serving as a user friendly interface to host training modules and foster a vibrant community of learners. It facilitates collaboration and knowledge sharing among trainees, ensuring easy access to educational resources. SETOFF places significant emphasis on skills development services, providing ongoing support and maintenance to an ever-growing community of volunteers.

SETOFF is an innovative approach contributing to the digitalisation of disaster management. It strengthens institutions, offering online training and establishes simulation training as a core methodology, and ultimately promoting effective disaster management practices within the EU. Moreover, SETOFF provides custom-made learning paths available in multiple languages. The most groundbreaking aspects of the project are the use of table top exercises (TTX) as part of the curriculum content design and the individualised learning paths that correspond to the trainees’ needs, but also to the various local, national and international needs.

**The SETOFF e-training comprises 13 autonomous modules that the trainees may acquire independently, or as part of the complete training.**

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Considering the needs of vulnerable groups

When a disaster strikes, affected communities rely heavily on clear communication and swift action, including possible evacuation and medical assistance. Vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, children, the elderly, and pregnant women, often require specialised support in terms of communication, transportation, and medical care.

Over the past decade, more than 20 civil protection projects have been funded under the UCPM to address the additional needs of vulnerable groups and enhance their inclusion in prevention and preparedness efforts. Several recent initiatives have specifically focused on persons with disabilities.

The SEE ME project, which commenced training operational forces in addressing the needs of persons with disabilities during emergencies, has developed guidelines, protocols, and easily accessible leaflets to support their protection and rescue, as well as their involvement in prevention and planning activities. Building upon this foundation, SEE ME 2, launched in January 2024, seeks to compile EU-wide best practices, conduct training for first responders, empower persons with disabilities to bolster their resilience to disaster risks, and enhance the geographic information system facilitating the location and rescue of persons with disabilities.

Similarly, the ENABLE-DMC project aims to raise disaster awareness, particularly among persons with disabilities, and foster a culture of prevention through training, education, and improved access to disaster risk information. By collecting data on the emergency needs of persons with disabilities from diverse sources, and conducting sociological surveys and study visits to Ukraine and Sweden, this initiative aims to tailor its efforts effectively.

While not exclusively targeting vulnerable groups, other projects integrate their needs into their activities. For instance, the preparEU pilot project seeks to optimise member and participating states' risk information activities, with a particular focus on reaching and engaging vulnerable groups. Likewise, the eNOTICE-2 project aims to enhance preparedness for CBRN events, including the development of decontamination guidelines specifically addressing assistive devices for persons with disabilities.

The SAFE-LAND project aims to create a tool combining artificial intelligence and analytical methods to assess hydrogeological risk. It will generate personalised guidelines to heighten risk awareness, particularly among vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities, with input from psychology and neuropsychiatry experts.

These projects are examples of good practice in supporting the needs of vulnerable groups, and highlight the needs of the whole population.

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Persons with disabilities face many obstacles in various areas of social life, especially in disasters and their aftermath. With the SEE ME 2 project, Croatia continues working towards equalising opportunities for persons with disabilities in emergencies and improving their safety and security.

Damir Trut (PhD), Director of the Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia

Training organised for first responders on rescuing persons with disabilities © SEE ME Project
Strengthening societal resilience to disasters: Connecting stakeholders to share good practices

The recent evidence document on ‘Strengthening societal resilience to disasters: Improving engagement and communication among citizens and authorities’ sets out recommendations and actions based on multi-sectoral knowledge. It seeks to improve engagement and communication among authorities and citizens in DRM.

Over 100 organisations and 9 Horizon projects (LINKS, ENGAGE, RiskPACC, CORE, MEDIATE, PARATUS, BuildERS, RESILOC, and DIRECTED) took part in the project under the Societal Resilience Cluster. It was coordinated by the Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe (CMINE) – a professional network for European Crisis Managers from many disciplines.

Towards a culture of risk prevention

The report’s recommendations are grounded in an all-of-society approach, aimed at strengthening societal inclusion in DRR. This entails broad participation in DRM through engagement with different stakeholders, such as authorities and response organisations, businesses and private actors, and volunteers and citizens, including those which are marginalised and most vulnerable. The recommendations contribute to the achievement of the goals and outcomes within the Sendai Framework for DRR around building resilient communities, as well as the European Union’s Disaster Resilience Goals and Climate Adaptation Strategy towards increasing preparedness and enhancing a culture of risk prevention amongst the population.

CMINE helps projects work together to support the UCPKN

With over 2,000 members, CMINE supports the interests of those involved in crisis management and civil protection by encouraging innovation of crisis and emergency prevention, preparation, and resolution.

It seeks to provide space for all responders, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and industry to connect and discuss ideas relating to process and product innovation, in an informal and neutral environment.

One of CMINE’s main activities is the creation of groups of similar projects looking into related areas of innovation – for example, CBRNE, responder technology, standardisation and societal resilience.

Known as ‘Clusters’, these groups have been created as informal, voluntary, and free subsets of the CERIS DRS framework. DRS is made-up of projects working on thematic and related research areas. Membership includes projects from diverse programmes including the UCPKN and European Defence Fund (EDF). The focus is entirely on the application of the innovation, not the source of funding.

‘Clusters’ are facilitated with the aim of promoting good practice in research through collaboration, while recognising opportunities for efficiency through combined activity. A good example of this is the Civil Protection Forum in June, where one panel session will outline policy priorities from 15 Societal Resilience projects. One booth will also present the activities of ten responder technology projects.

These groupings are an opportunity for projects to gain added value derived from shared working, thinking, innovation and dissemination. CMINE endeavours to be supportive and facilitate without taking the lead, and to deliver quality content for vital and growing platforms such as the UCPKN.

Membership of the Clusters is open to any project funded by European Grant Agreement.

For more information, contact projects@cmine.eu
A man-made white tide

Plastic pellets are the third-largest source of microplastic emissions in the European Union. Every day, the equivalent of up to 20 truckloads of pellets spill into the environment across Europe as they traverse a supply chain of plastic producers, converters, recyclers, and logistics companies. This constant loss of pellets has been documented at every stage of the plastic supply chain.

In late 2023, Galicia, Spain, experienced a man-made ‘white tide’ when a merchant ship lost six cargo containers, releasing 26.25 tonnes of microplastics into the sea. Each tonne contained roughly 50 million pellets. These lentil-sized pellets littered the coastline from Pontevedra to Asturias, and parts of Portugal. This event, reminiscent of the ‘black tide’ from the Prestige tanker oil spill in 2002, garnered significant attention. Unfortunately, this is not the only major ‘nurdle’ spill in European waters. Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Dutch, and French responders are familiar with them too.

According to a UN report, the largest ever plastic spill is the X-Press Pearl disaster, which took place in Sri Lanka in 2021. A ship caught fire and sank, spilling 87 containers of plastic pellets into the sea. The incident had severe ecological repercussions, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of marine animals and leaving 20,000 fishermen’s families without livelihoods.

These pre-production plastic pellets, fundamental to plastic production, pose grave risks once released into the environment. They are ingested by wildlife, contribute significantly to ocean micro pollution, and act as ‘rafts’ for harmful bacteria like E. coli or even cholera, one study found. Moreover, their decomposition releases toxins that can contaminate groundwater and disrupt ecosystems, potentially affecting the behaviour of aquatic organisms.

In the autumn of 2023, the European Commission released a proposal to regulate pellet losses. The European Parliament and the Council may now strengthen this proposal by introducing mandatory measures for all operators handling pellets in the supply chain, as well as strengthening and harmonising systems for risk assessment and certification to ensure implementation on the ground. Progress on this issue is likely to be carefully watched by emergency responders and policy makers, who have long had this topic on their radar due to its long-term consequences on both the environment and people.
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Attention, Policy Officers: New tool to assess conflict risk

The Dynamic Conflict Risk Model (DCRM) is a new tool introduced at the Science4Peace portal to enhance early warning and crisis preparedness amidst rising global conflicts. Using near real-time conflict data and machine learning techniques, DCRM takes the shape of an interactive map that provides detailed risk assessments of potential violent conflicts for 140 counties at the sub-national level, projecting up to six months into the future.

The DCRM also evaluates internal conflict risks by leveraging georeferenced data and contextual variables, which results in a categorisation of different conflicts. It is funded by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, supporting the EU conflict prevention system led by the European External Action Service. The DCRM is a flagship initiative of the Joint Communication on Climate and Security complementing the Global Conflict Risk Index. Ongoing developments are focused on refining the model and estimating conflict intensities, helping policymakers to identify future conflict hotspots.

Prolonged drought and record temperatures hit the Mediterranean region

The Joint Research Centre released a new report highlighting persistent droughts across the Mediterranean. Above-average temperatures and little precipitation have intensified drought conditions across southern Italy, southern Spain, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

The European Drought Observatory (EDO) warns of critical impacts on agriculture, ecosystems, and water availability, with forecasts indicating a warmer spring. In early February, water restrictions were already in place in Morocco, Spain, and Sicily, while drought emergencies were declared in Catalonia and southern Portugal. Reduced crop growth and warm spells have exacerbated the situation, emphasising the urgency for adaptation measures and climate mitigation strategies to combat the escalating risks of prolonged droughts.

Knowledge Library – going live soon!

Work has continued apace on the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network’s Library – a ‘one stop’ shop of useful resources for civil protection practitioners. The Library will be launched to the public on 4–5 June at the Civil Protection Forum.

Users will be able to upload their resources for the library using an interactive dashboard. Once a document is uploaded, they will be able to keep track of the workflow, as well as any feedback or questions from the librarian. The Library has been the most requested item on the Knowledge Network, with 80% of practitioners saying that it is the section of the Platform that they would find the most useful.

To find out more, contact: ECHO-CP-KNOWLEDGE-NETWORK-PLATFORM@ec.europa.eu