

# Improving the Evaluation of Civil Protection Exercises

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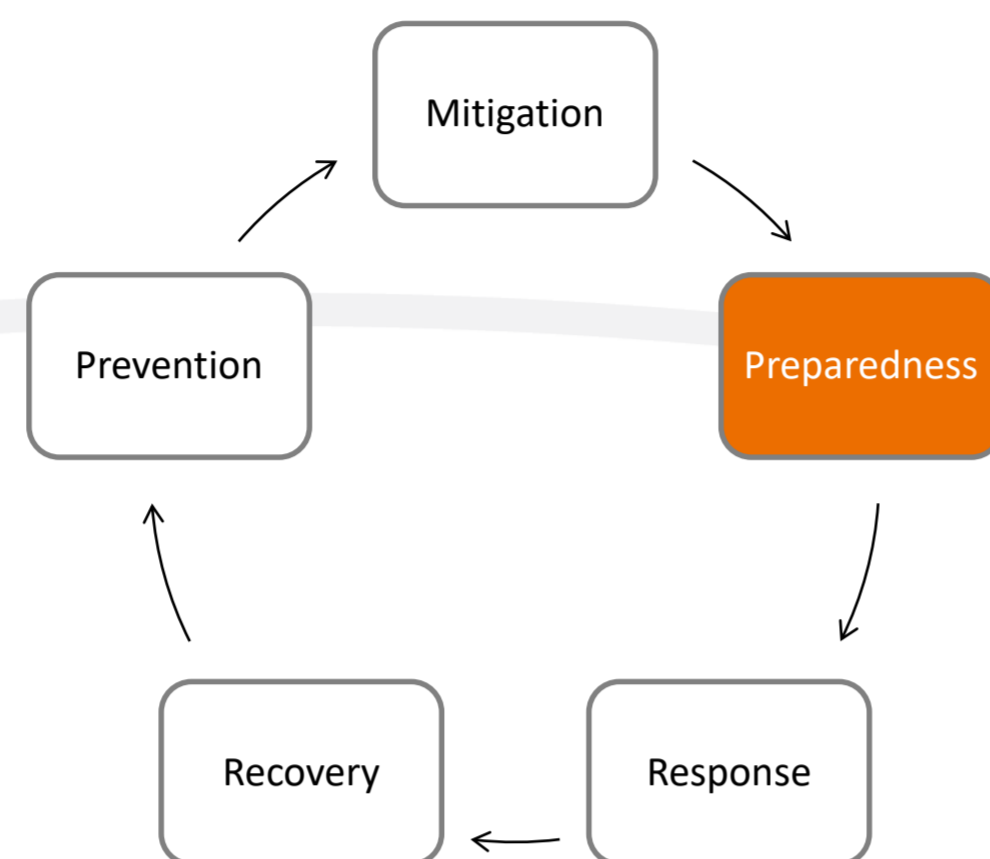
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## Introduction

In order to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response, exercises form an integral part of disaster preparedness from local to global level (1).

They provide a framework that enables operations in a controlled environment to be better prepared for future crises.



## Motivation and Aim

Exercise formats are faced with the challenge of how to document, assess and sustainably implement the knowledge gained from these exercises in order to fulfil the requirements listed on the left (2).

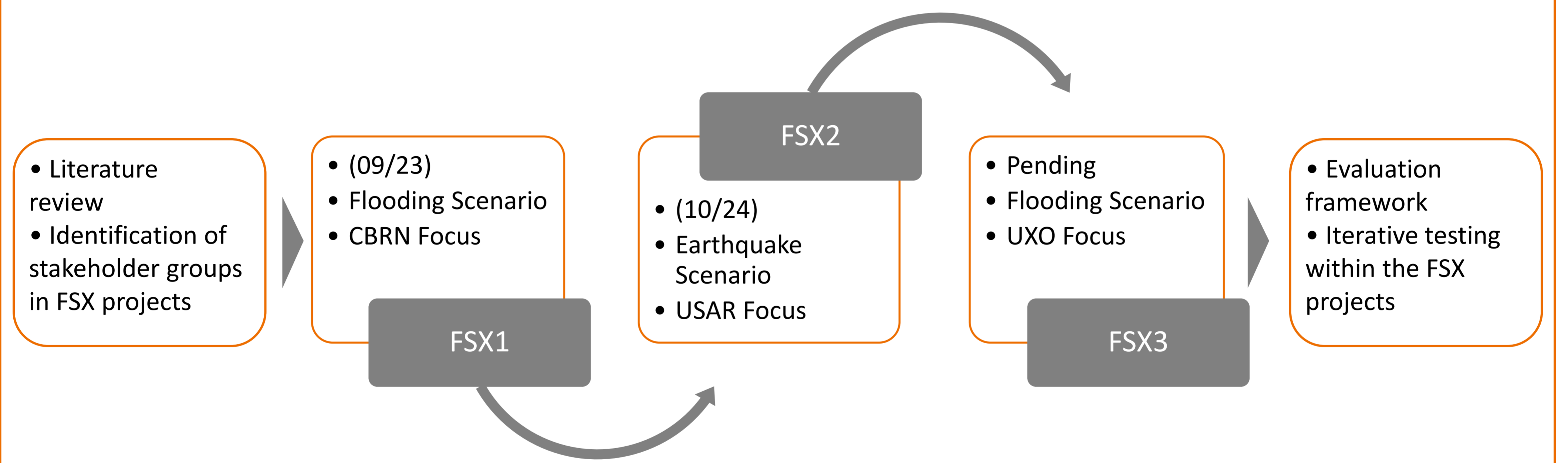
The research project aims to answer the following questions, among others:

- How should an evaluation process in civil protection exercises be designed?
- What aspects must a structured evaluation process address?

## Methods

According to the research gap identified in previous research (3), a qualitative-explorative research design is used to develop a process for exercise evaluation. Based on three full-scale exercises (FSX) within the framework of the European Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), requirements, influencing factors and implications for the evaluation process in the context of international civil protection exercises are analysed.

The data collection is based on interviews with various stakeholder groups and participatory observation within the FSX projects in order to iteratively develop and validate the resulting evaluation framework.



## Preliminary Results

- Recurring evaluation aspects can be identified that are relevant from the perspective of the various stakeholder groups during the course of the exercise.
- The participatory design of the evaluation process helps to map the complex interdependencies and increase the commitment of the exercise participants in the evaluation process and implementation afterwards.

## Conclusions

A comprehensive evaluation approach can support the sustainable utilisation and implementation of the results of civil protection exercises. To this end, the results of the evaluation must be comprehensible to those involved in order to create ownership of them.

Possible approaches include the creation of a comparable and standardised methodology. The resulting comparability and reproducibility increases the efficiency of the exercise design and the quality of the informative value of the evaluation results.

## References

- (1) United Nations (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- (2) Albris et al. (2020). Disaster Knowledge Gaps: Exploring the Interface Between Science and Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Europe. IJDRS 11: 1-12.
- (3) Beerens, R. J. J. (2021). Improving disaster response evaluations: Supporting advances in disaster risk management through the enhancement of response evaluation usefulness. Lund University.