



MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF THE UCPKN DRM SCIENCE AND PLANNING WORKING GROUP

18 SEPTEMBER 2024
15.00 – 16.00

Present: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, European Commission (DG ECHO, DG JRC)

1. OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED WORK PLAN OF THE DRM SCIENCE AND PLANNING WORKING GROUP FOR 2024–2025

Following the [in-person meeting of the working group on 3 June 2024](#), the Commission analysed the outcomes and comments provided by UCPM MS/PS. Building on these, the Commission revised the scoping paper and developed a work plan of the working group for 2024-2025 outlining the priority areas and cross-cutting themes identified in the previous meeting and concrete deliverables. DG ECHO outlined the coherence of the identified priority areas with the mission of the incoming Commission and emphasised the importance of scientific and research activities enhancing the resilience of the UCPM, on MS/PS as well as supranational level. The presentation of the Commission during this meeting is available [here](#).

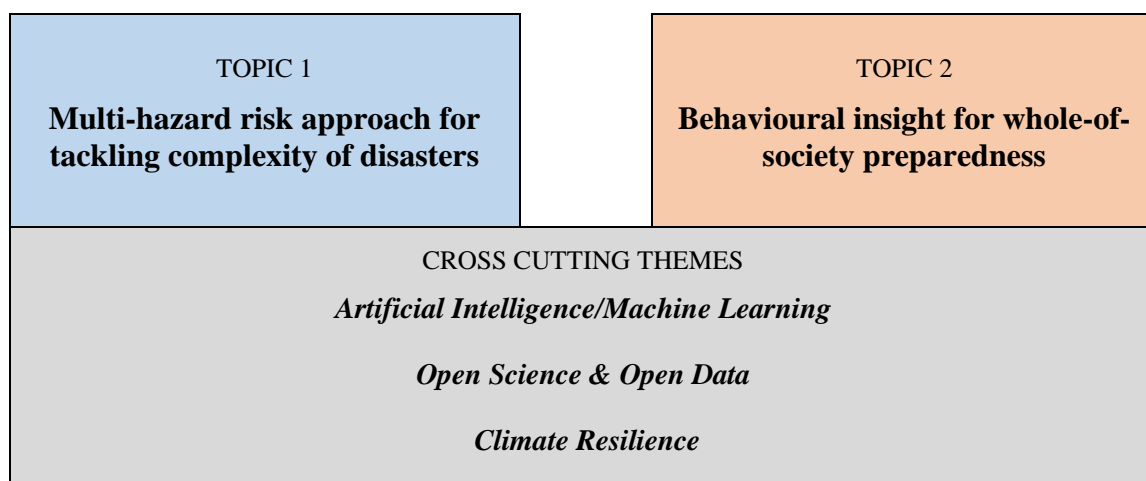
1.1. Objective of the Work Plan

DG ECHO, with the support of the Commission’s Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre ([DRMKC](#)), relevant EU services and the expertise of the DRM Science and Planning working group, intends to focus on the below areas of work on research & innovation during 2024–2025 to help the UCPM achieve its policy objectives, the [Union Disaster Resilience Goals](#) (DRGs), and drive innovation within the UCPM.

The final priority areas and cross-cutting themes are shown below in the figure. See details on these topics in the final Work Plan published on the UCP Knowledge Network website [here](#) together with [Annex A](#) and [Annex B](#).

1.1. Concrete deliverables

The Commission presented a mapping of concrete deliverables for 2024 and 2025 in the priority areas and cross-cutting themes. The deliverables are EU-wide (i.e., covering other institutions and MS/PS) and pinpoint activities that are scientific capacity building or where research input/output will be provided for other work strands (e.g., operational, planning, policy, analysis). The Commission expressed that the work plan is a living document which will incorporate the priorities of the new Commission and will adapt to evolving needs. To reduce duplication, it includes using already planned or existing assets that will be steered further towards the priority topics. Planning for 2025 is tentative.



Final priority topics and cross cutting themes for the work plan

2. DISCUSSION ON THE WORK PLAN

The draft of the work plan was shared ahead of the meeting for comments and views from the working group. During the meeting, the Commission opened the floor to MS/PS for further discussion on the work plan, its dissemination, and any other business:

- IT commented that draft topic 1 on ‘multi-hazard approach for tackling complexity of disasters’ should encompass the entire DRM cycle and should clearly express a focus on a multi-hazard *risk* (as opposed to hazard only) approach for tackling the complexity of disasters. The Commission expressed agreement with Italy’s suggestion.
- PL highlighted the crucial aspect of ensuring that knowledge products, outcomes of workshops and data available be provided in and open access format, for example, on the [UCP Knowledge Network website](#).
- NL expressed the need to further emphasise how the work on science-policy integration feeds into the UCPM and contributes to the overall goals of the Commission and MS/PS, such as the DRGs. A more concise overview of any knowledge products would be helpful as a first “entry point” for a practitioner to identify pertinent areas to their own work. In response, the Commission mentioned an upcoming knowledge page on the website which will provide an overview and gather resources on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) which follows a knowledge exchange held recently as part of the UCPM Knowledge Series. This page could

serve as an example for upcoming knowledge products, including for other events. The Commission also invited all representatives to provide feedback on science and knowledge related products put forward by the Knowledge Network. Practitioners' perspectives are very much encouraged to make sure such products are used.

- The Commission (DG JRC) raised a similar point that assessing the impact that scientific and research activities are producing to the end goal, for instance with the integration of Destination Earth, would be valuable knowledge in finetuning our output.

3. WAY FORWARD

The following action points were agreed:

- The Commission will address all received comments and subsequently disseminate the work plan publicly on the UCP Knowledge Network platform once it has been finalised (published on 2 October, links available above on p. 1).
- The Commission will share the link to the upcoming webpage on NBS on the UCP Knowledge Network for comments from the working group.
- Furthermore, a stock-taking online meeting of the working group will be organised tentatively in December to reflect on the deliverables for the last quarter of 2024 which are outlined in the work plan and to plan in more detail the timeline of deliverables for 2025.
