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Strategy and Policy
Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building

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WORK PLAN

Subject: **The way forward: List of topics and deliverables as areas of work (2024–2025) for the UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group**

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1. GENERAL

1.1. Background

During the first in-person meeting of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN) Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Science and Planning working group ([1]) on 3 June 2024 in Brussels, two items identified as cutting-edge scientific needs for UCPM MS/PS were put forward as possible areas of focus for the working group and DG ECHO (spanning 2024–2025):

- ***Topic 1:*** *Multi-risk and cascading issues of disaster*
- ***Topic 2:*** *Insights from behavioural sciences for disaster risk reduction (DRR)*

The topics were based on the scientific needs assessment conducted with the MS/PS in autumn 2024, results of the 7th DRMKC (Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre) Annual Seminar, internal consultations within DG ECHO and other services of the Commission, as well as by following other working strands (e.g., scenario-building initiative, the Article 6 report, and the EU Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA)).

During the floor discussion with MS/PS at the working group meeting as well as consultations with DG ECHO and other Commission services, opinions converged around framing ***Topic 3:*** *Open Science and Open Data for DRM* and ***Topic 4:*** *Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predict, prevent and respond to disasters* as cross-cutting themes ([2]).

In addition, the new EU strategic agenda 2024-2029 adopted on 27 June refers to the need to have an "an all-hazards and whole-of-society approach" (p. 4). DG JRC published a new report on 'Cross-border and emerging risks in Europe' in June 2024 that complements it. The recently issued (end July) Political Guidelines of the 2024-2029 Von der Leyen Commission refer to the upcoming Preparedness Union Strategy, to be built upon the Niinistö report, as well as a need to look all facets of crisis and disaster management, alongside community and climate resilience and preparedness (pp. 14, 22). Against this backdrop, the draft scoping paper, which was first presented to MS/PS on 3 June, has been amended into this work plan.

1.2. Objective

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**.

As a first step, this work plan proposes concrete deliverables and their timelines. The topics are not limited to a single hazard or domain but have broad applicability and impact across the Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs). They will consider climate change (e.g., extreme events and adaptation), the specific hazards highlighted in the needs assessment and promote greater regional cooperation.

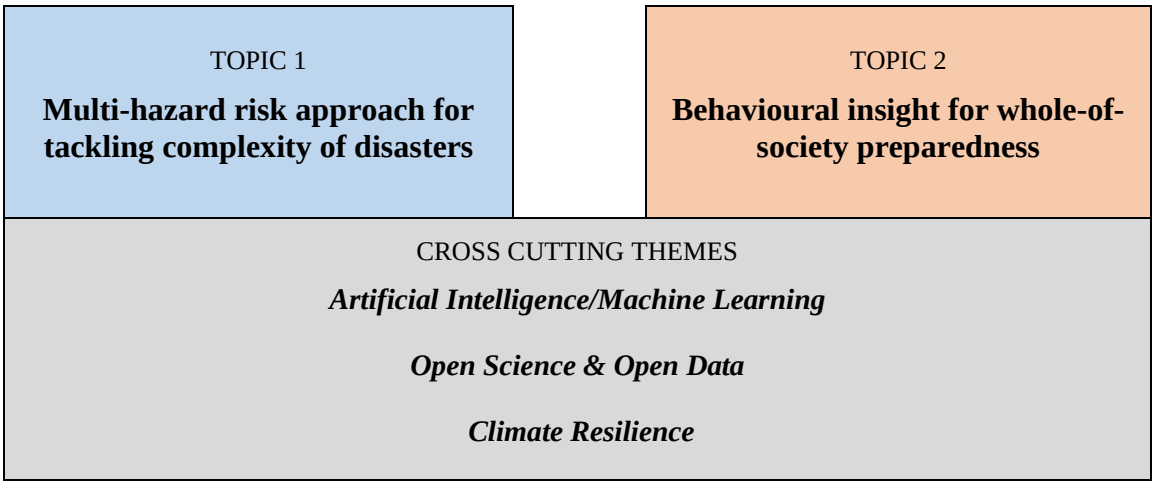
([1]) DRM & SP for short. See the terms of reference. Legally, it is a subgroup of the Knowledge Network Board and a Commission expert group (see link for more info on general purpose).

([2]) See minutes.

2. WORK PLAN 2024-2025

The work plan is divided below into the two priority thematic topics of interest (2.1) and indicative EU deliverables (2.2) by colour coding. The plan is non-exhaustive and will be a living document which will incorporate the priorities of the new Commission and will adapt to the evolving needs.

In Annex A, a mapping of ongoing, starting or recently closed relevant EU initiatives is included. Annex B contains a list of open data repositories.



2.1. Priority topics

2.1.1. Multi-hazard risk approach for tackling complexity of disasters

TOPIC 1

The complexity of disasters is characterised by an intricate interplay of various impacts which may include cross-border cascading effects, a combination of multiple hazards, a societal dimension such as conflict**. Understanding key components of compound disasters requires moving from single hazard to multi-hazard risk approaches.** There is a need to better understand the interactions between hazards which may happen simultaneously or consecutively and their potential cumulative and cascading effects and impacts to strengthen preparedness and response measures.

In addition, there is a need to look at the interactions between *hazards of different nature* including meteorological and geophysical (e.g., floods triggering landslides), or between natural and technological hazards (floods and dam breach). The changing climate will only hasten the need for action while also increasing uncertainty. Influence of societal hazards, such as conflict and terrorism, should be part of the analysis. ([3]) Ultimately, the research undertaken should help to improve the approach and tools used for forecasting and early warning.

([3]) Political Guidelines of the 2024-2029 von der Leyen Commission, p. 22.

Both artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are likely to be a force multiplier for the UCPM and DRM in the future when fully realised. The Commission flagship initiative Destination Earth is one example where AI is employed to boost interactivity and impact of numerical climate projections at a significantly higher resolution than before and thus, enable better prevention and preparedness, also for disaster risk reduction.

Keeping in mind the newly adopted AI Act, several EU-funded projects are already exploring the use of AI and other new technologies for DRM. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) is increasingly making use of machine learning methods to further enhance and develop its products. Ethical risks or too much dependence on either AI or ML in the decision-making apparatus should also be considered.

More specifically, the following areas have been identified as possible areas for research on early warning systems by the DG ECHO analytical team:

1) *General:* Integration of single-hazard systems (EFAS/GloFAS, EDO/GDO, etc.) into multi-hazard risk systems that can build connections between the cumulative and/or cascading effects and impacts of hazards.
2) *Landslide:* Need for a global monitoring and forecasting system for landslide risk, that can connect with flood systems
3) *Earthquake:* Cumulative impacts from several earthquakes ([4]) and aftershocks forecast for Europe ([5]).
4) *Heatwaves:* Need for systems that can forecast and monitor heatwaves and analyze cumulative impacts including on critical infrastructures (as being explored by the DG JRC drought team).
5) *Europe-level meteorological analyses:* Large-scale weather phenomena have been affecting several European countries at once, e.g., blocking systems causing long heatwaves, atmospheric rivers in Western Europe, marine heatwaves in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, a Mediterranean tropical-like cyclones (medicane), etc. There is a need for ways to identify and warn about these phenomena at European level before we warn about their consequences (floods, heatwaves, etc.).

Deliverables should make a distinction between the "phases" of the DRM cycle (e.g., disaster response, preparedness, etc.) or strategic decision-making (e.g., risk reduction investment, territorial planning, others) when possible. Similarly, clear focus on an individual theme, such as multi-risk, cascading or compounding disaster, a gap in analysis (e.g., landslide forecasting), should be kept. For example, there are no suitable tools to model risks from multi-hazard risk situations for short-term and mid-term events.

Advocating for **open science and open data** can boost multi-hazard risk decision-making, i.e. by increasing the "resolution" of risk information available and making it transparently available on public repositories and ready to be shared among policy, practice, and research for better impact without unnecessary constraints. For example, most of DG JRC's data is openly available to support MS/PS in their risk assessments ([6]) which made it possible to

([4]) Loss models are calibrated for buildings suffering a single earthquake but cannot account for several earthquakes in succession (e.g., Türkiye-Syria earthquakes).

([5]) Similar to the US Geological Survey aftershock forecasts (called Operational Earthquake Forecasting).

([6]) See Annex B.

use and leverage it, for example, in the Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness studies.

As the working group noted at the meeting of 3 June, fully exploiting the potential benefits of Destination Earth will require building up civil protection capacities. There is a learning curve on how to request modelling, how should it be integrated into European or national systems, etc. Thus, showcasing and co-designing examples of civil protection-relevant applications from Destination Earth and other similar digital twins will be the first step to make them understood and usable.

2.1.2. Behavioural insight for whole-of-society of preparedness

TOPIC 2

From risk awareness and communication to early warning and evacuation, there is an increasing need to further integrate behavioural information of citizens in the design and evaluation of disaster risk management initiatives. The new EU strategic agenda especially emphasises the need for societal resilience. Considering different levels of behavioural causes, such as individual, social, cultural, and contextual factors, it is now recognised as essential to create effective disaster risk management strategies. Grasping human behaviour before ("cold phase") and during disasters ("hot phase") is essential for more effective preparedness, prevention, and management of disasters.

This strand shall follow-up the upcoming report on EU civil and military preparedness to be presented by former Finnish President Sauli Niinistö later this year ([7]). Inputting research on societal resilience will be especially beneficial to preparEU, one of flagship initiatives of the DRGs, which will be directly linked to the findings of President Niinistö's report. In general terms, preparEU will aim to increase risk awareness and preparedness of the population. It is likely to include communication, capacity building and research actions, as well as direct engagement with representatives of UCPM MS/PS working on risk awareness and risk communication.

A whole-of-society approach entails integrating DRM knowledge into education (see the EUMA project as a pioneer of this), developing community campaigns for awareness raising, and including all public and private institutions to collaborate in behavioural change. It is important to get support from citizens and to consider behavioural analyses by looking at different approaches, comparing them, and learning from others. The intersection of open science and open data can be an especially powerful tool as it can ensure more fluid exchange of information to and from the population (e.g. crowdsourcing and other bottom-up approaches) and build trust ([8]).

DG JRC's Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights is gathering further evidence on the issue by conducting two studies on citizen response and disaster preparedness behaviour. Similarly, the UCPM peer review programme provides openly available findings of how to improve prevention and preparedness in different contexts.

([7]) Political Guidelines of the 2024-2029 von der Leyen Commission, pp. 14 & 22.

([8]) See Annex B for open data repositories.

Framing the cost of inaction and investing in training of key risk communicators are likely to be important elements of prevention and preparedness. It is essential to motivate societal resilience through evidence-based preparedness (e.g., via guidelines) and reduce ambiguity and uncertainty to empower individuals to react adequately in a wide range of possible outcomes. AI and ML, such as sentiment analysis on social media for effective risk communications purposes, can support in finding the optimal communication strategies for better preparedness and adaptation.

2.2. EU deliverables

The below is an indicative/tentative list of deliverables which focus on the priority topics for science that have been highlighted in this note. These deliverables are EU-wide (i.e., cover EU, MS/PS, and other institutions) 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).

All these deliverables, among others, have the potential to contribute, via the UCPKN and its science working group, to support knowledge and innovation within the UCPM. As mentioned, the plan is non-exhaustive and will be a living document as the priorities and the workplan of the new Commission are taking shape. To reduce duplication, it includes using already planned or existing assets that will be steered further towards the priority topics. Especially planning for 2025 is very preliminary at this stage.

The working group has noted that findings of the deliverables should be communicated through a combination of formats, such as 1-pager PDF for rapid distribution or web reports for in-depth information, short videos and infographics for quick summaries, and webinar recordings, when possible, to provide interactive explanations. The emphasis on open science and transparency is a key element. The UCPKN website is a good central hub for this purpose.

Later in 2025 and throughout the implementation of the plan, more detailed and concrete ways to assess the theory of change and final impact of the different strands (e.g., how well is the work plan supporting the EU and MS/PS to use Destination Earth?) could be envisaged.

2.2.1. Indicative deliverables in 2024

TOPIC 1: Multi-hazard risk approach for tackling complexity of disasters

- **3rd Destination Earth User eXchange, 15-16 October (DG CNECT.C1. implemented by ECMWF, ESA, EUMETSAT)**
    - Aims to convene current and prospective users of Destination Earth (DestinE) and developers of the DestinE system. During various sessions the resources available to users will be demonstrated, highlighting how they can benefit. Goals include sharing information about the system's status and use, showcasing user interaction examples, identifying expectations and requirements for future adaptations, fostering dialogue between stakeholders and potential partners, attracting interested parties, and exploring ways to enhance interaction and engagement.
    - The event offers both in-person attendance (Darmstadt, Germany) and remote participation via webstream, a dedicated Q&A tool, live polling, and interactive chat platforms. Training sessions on how to use the newly launched Destination Earth platform will also be provided and streamed to attendees.

- **Technical Scoping Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in DRM & DG ECHO – what is the state of the art and what the future holds, 22 October (DG ECHO.B3)**
    - The workshop will be held in Brussels (tentatively from 10 to 16). It is intended to include a presentation part with DG JRC, Destination Earth by ECMWF, the UN Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management, the MedEWSA project, and one of DG ECHO's Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) projects.
    - Afterwards, there will be breakout groups to advance the issue of using AI in DRM and for complex disasters and to draft recommendations on follow-up. These will then be implemented into a high-level event in 2025.
    - The UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group will be invited to attend online or in-presence (no travel reimbursement foreseen).

- **Multi-Hazard Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Academy, 23-24 October (Horizon Europe)**
    - The Academy aims to provide an inter- and transdisciplinary platform bringing together 40 Early-Career Researchers and Practitioners (ECRs and ECPs) who are currently advancing the field of multi-hazard DRR.
    - By engaging in various interactive formats, participants will get hands-on experience with a diverse array of innovative approaches, learn from each other, identify synergies and gaps in current approaches in multi-hazard DRR research and practice, and can form strong relations within the community. A joint effort by the projects Paratus, MYRIAD-EU, The-HuT and DIRECTED.

TOPIC 2: Behavioural insight for whole-of-society of preparedness

- **preparEU focus group online meeting on capacity building for risk awareness, October TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
    - This focus group will kickstart the preparEU's build-up of activities related to capacity building for risk awareness (e.g., pilot training).
    - There is a strong need to underpin EU activities in risk communication and population preparedness with scientific evidence, based on both internal work and research conducted by Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects (e.g., ENGAGE, RiskPACC, CORE, RESILOC, etc). Some of these partners will be invited to the focus group in addition to, e.g., the Red Cross EU Office.

- **Publication of primer on "Why are behavioural insights important for a whole-of-society disaster resilience", Q4 TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
    - DG ECHO will develop a knowledge product for the EU, partners and MS/PS that will showcase in a concise manner the key entry points and good practices for enhancing disaster reliance with behavioural insights. It will combine knowledge on behavioural insights from DG JRC, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, climate adaptation research at TU Delft and World Bank's Mind, Behaviour and Development Unit (EmBED) building upon the previous joint DG ECHO–World Bank economics studies.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES: Capacity building, climate change, emerging topics, and research project engagement

- **Workshop on nature-based solutions for DRM and climate resilience, 12 September (DG ECHO.B3)**
    - With a first meeting for European Commission staff, the knowledge sharing event will be delivered by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) of the World Bank. The possibility to follow up with dedicated training for MS/PS will be discussed.

- **Evidence for Policy in DRM Summer School, 26-27 September (DG ECHO.B3)**
    - Due to the success of the previous Evidence for Policy in DRM Summer Schools (2020 and 2023), the Commission and the Civitas Soteria consortium (ICF and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna) are reorganising the school for 2024 in Vienna, Austria with the University of Vienna as host. In 2023, 85% of participants (N=80) rated the overall quality of the programme as above average or very high.
    - It includes masterclasses on, among others, 1) the multiple uses of AI in DRM; 2) preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding disasters; and 3) developing a behavioural and risk communication approach that engages the public.

- **Disaster Risk Management online training seminar series, 26 September - 28 November (DG JRC.E1 and CONRIS)**
    - Disaster and Emergency Management course at Coventry University will host a series of 10 online training seminars between September and November 2024, with the support from the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) and the Cooperation Network of Risk, Safety and Security studies (CONRIS).
    - The training seminar series is embedded as part of the undergraduate year 2 module 'Risk and Preparedness', which will reflect on current application of risk assessment and explore the possibilities for understanding the complexity of the multiple hazard risks and their interventions.

- **Enhancing risk awareness and promoting technologies for better prepared and resilient EU communities, 9 October (DG ECHO.B2 and REA)**
    - During this workshop in Brussels under the European Week of Regions and Cities, the main findings of a special Eurobarometer on the disaster risk awareness and preparedness of the EU population will be presented to shed light on how it perceives and prepares for different disaster risk scenarios. Speakers from Horizon 2020 projects will then discuss how to enhance European disaster resilience by strengthening technology and society and provide innovative solutions for leveraging societal resilience in emergency response.

- **CERIS Disaster Research Days, 8-10 October (DG HOME.F2)**
    - The event will take place in Vienna with a focus on Shaping the Future of Science and Research for Disaster Risk Reduction. The aim is to exchange about interactions among Science and Research and Disaster Risk Reduction policies, through dialogues involving scientists, practitioners, risk managers, policymakers, and local communities. The event will showcase the latest research findings and innovative solutions aimed at enhancing societal resilience.
    - Disaster Research Days 2024 is a joint event of the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's European Science and Technology Advisory Group (E-STAG). It will be co-hosted by the European Commission and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Education and the Disaster Competence Network Austria.

- **Open Call to fund regional or communal Climate Risk Assessments, 1 July – 15 October (Mission on Adaptation project CLIMAAX)**
    - The 2nd Open Call aims for regions or communities to generate Climate Risk Assessments by adhering to methodological coherence (addressing hazard, exposure, and vulnerability), addressing various climate risks (multiple hazards); and ensuring comparability across regions and time frames for a comprehensive climate risk synthesis.
    - Each public body or non-profit organisation can receive up to a EUR 300.000 lump sum for the activity. In the 1st Open Call, 33 regions are receiving more than EUR 5,5M in funding.

- **Evidence-informed planning for a new era of climate hazards roundtable, 4 November (EGU)**
    - The European Geosciences Union (EGU) will host an interactive roundtable in Brussels at TownHall Europe to stimulate discussions on how science is applicable to climate risk-related issues of the EU, such as floods, droughts, food security, etc.

- **Raising Awareness of Earth System Tipping Points: Implications for EU Governance, 5-6 November (DG JRC D.1 and various DGs, including CLIMA, ENV, RTD, ECHO, ECFIN)**

- This event aims at taking stock of new scientific developments and creating a dialogue with policy makers on the needs for better-informed risk assessments of Tipping Points affecting Europe, and more proactively strategies and policies for responding to emerging threats. It focuses on: (1) raising awareness of the risks and impacts of Earth System Tipping Points in Europe; (2) Assessing the implications for EU governance; and (3) Science for Policy. Presenters will include, for example, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, and the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

- **Civil Protection Capacity Building Week on DRM, 12-14 November (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - This DG ECHO-week will consist of a DRM funding tools workshop, the Knowledge Network Board meeting, and lessons learnt meeting for the UCPM peer review programme. The peer review programme especially is a DG ECHO asset for promoting open science & open data.

- **Workshop on update of risk assessment guidelines and DPEG, 19-21 November (DG ECHO.B2)**
  - A workshop (19-20) to be held together with the Expert Group for Disaster Prevention and Risk Management (DPEG) meeting (21) in Brussels.

- **Workshop on synergies between EMTs and EU-funded projects, 26-27 November (DG ECHO.A4)**
  - DG ECHO workshop event on synergies between Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) and EU funded projects (both KAPP and Horizon Europe) that have produced outputs strongly relevant to the EMTs.
  - These connections are crucial for advancing shared goals in the following areas: 1) EMT Capability Development: Strengthening the skills and resources of EU EMTs to better respond to emergencies; 2) Operations under the UCPM: Enhancing operational coordination and effectiveness within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM); and 3) Networking, Training, and Exercises: Facilitating professional contacts and collaborative opportunities across research, training, and practitioner communities.

2.2.2. Tentative deliverables in 2025

TOPIC 1: Multi-hazard risk approach for tackling complexity of disasters

- **Disaster Loss Data workshop with GRADE / The World Bank, January TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - The workshop is intended to advance our understanding and capacity of rapidly estimating disaster loss data and will be held by the Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) team of the World Bank. Other discussants may include the ERCC Analytical team, DG JRC, and capacity-building & research projects dealing with loss data collection and management.

- **Possible High-Level Research & Innovation Event on a Multi-Hazard Risk Approach and Artificial Intelligence, Q1 TBC (DG ECHO B.3)**
  - Following the scoping workshop of 22 October in 2024, a more impactful event is planned based on its findings.
  - The event will include a UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group in-person meeting (travel reimbursement foreseen).

- **Publication of primer on "How to advance Artificial Intelligence in DRM for multi-hazard risk", Q2 TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - DG ECHO will develop a knowledge product for the EU, partners and MS/PS that will showcase in a concise manner the key entry points and good practices on how artificial intelligence and machine learning can be practically used in governmental work (such as Destination Earth) while complying with ethical needs.

- **4th Destination Earth User eXchange, June (DG CNECT.C1, implemented by ECMWF, ESA, EUMETSAT)**
  - Continuing from the 3rd User eXchange, this aims to convene current and prospective users of Destination Earth (DestinE) and developers of the DestinE system. The event is hosted by ESA and will offer both in person attendance (possible locations include Vienna, Austria) and remote participants.

- **Possible hosting of a meeting of the UN Global Initiative on AI for Natural Disaster Management, Q3-Q4 TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - DG ECHO will consider and discuss with the chair of the current UN Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM) whether their meeting (as the focus group will be elevated into a UN Global Initiative in November 2024) could be hosted in Brussels. This would be in conjunction with other Commission activities, for example, with a UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group meeting.

- **Destination Earth Impact Sector Pilot Services and Machine-Learning Demonstrators (DG CNECT.C1, implemented by ECMWF)**
  - A set of pilot services and demonstrators will be implemented to showcase the added benefit of DestinE capabilities, including for DRM users. The objective is to demonstrate the added value of the data produced by the digital twins that ECMWF is delivering for the Destination Earth initiative of the European Commission, for some of the sectors most directly affected by climate change or weather-related natural disasters.

- **Training on machine learning in Destination Earth (DG CNECT.C1, implemented by ECMWF)**
  - Training resources will be established for DestinE users and developers – including users in the field of disaster risk management.

- **Possible start of co-organising the 4th international conference on Natural Hazards and Risks in a Changing World, TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - DG ECHO could possibly co-organise and support the next edition of the research conference to be held in Brussels and steer its agenda towards the work plan's priorities. Likely timing for the conference would be 2027.
  - The 3rd International Conference focused on Addressing Compound and Multi-Hazard Risk and was organised by the MYRIAD-EU Horizon 2020 project, Risk KAN and NatRiskChange. It brought together 200+ scientists, practitioners, and policy personnel

around sessions such as 'science for policy and practice: synergising disaster risk reduction and climate change' or 'how can stakeholder engagement and knowledge co-production enhance effective multi-risk management?'

TOPIC 2: Behavioural insight for whole-of-society of preparedness

- **Studies on citizen response and disaster preparedness behaviour, Q1-Q2 (DG JRC.S1)**
  - DG JRC's Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights (CCBI) will conduct a study testing citizen response and their susceptibility to (mis)information during disasters. The study is planned from June 2024 to February 2025 and will use an immersive VR environment to simulate disaster events.
  - A further proof-of-concept study the CCBI is intending to start in select MS will examine the impact of imagining a disaster scenario on citizens' disaster preparedness intentions and behaviours. This study is planned to run from summer 2024 to spring 2025.

- **Risk communication hub and preparEU training pathway, TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - An open risk communication repository of knowledge on risk awareness and communication is intended to be built. It will include good practices, data and scientific resources featured, alongside dedicated support materials for MS/PS.
  - Similarly, a comprehensive capacity building offer is planned for risk awareness that will target professional audiences from within CP/DRM authorities. For bigger impact, in a long-term it should form a dedicated learning pathway.

- **EU Preparedness Days, TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - Drawing inspiration from UNDRR's successful International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October), as well as other existing national activities dedicated to risk awareness and population preparedness, definition of the concept of the EU Preparedness Day(s) after the publication of the Niinistö report, with a possible first implementation of the initiative in 2025.

CROSS-CUTTING: Capacity building, climate change, emerging topics, and research project engagement

- **Substantive input to the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe work programme, Q1-Q2 (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - The drafting of the last work programme for Horizon Europe in 2026-2027 will proceed throughout Q1-Q2 of 2025. DG ECHO will input and mainstream needs of the UCPM, based also on MS/PS feedback, as well as of the humanitarian sphere into appropriate clusters of Horizon Europe, such as Cluster 3 Civil Security for Society and EU Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change. These topics will be available for proposals in 2026-2027.

- **DIREKTION Innovation Awards, January–Summer (Horizon Europe project DIREKTION)**
  - The goal of the awards is to support groundbreaking disaster resilience solutions with a prize of € 10,000 and give them visibility on a European level. The call for proposals will be opened in January 2025 while the 10 winning solutions will be announced in Spring 2025 and an award ceremony held during a major event in Summer 2025.

- **Disaster Risk Management online training, February, TBC (DG JRC.E1, Saxion University of Applied Sciences)**
  - This DRM online training is an integrated part of the third year's semester 'crisis & disaster management'. Main objective of the course is that students understand the main concepts of disaster risk management, from understanding the risk to communication and management; but also consider possible future challenges.

- **"EU's scientific needs for Disaster Resilience" session at the European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 27 April–2 May (DG ECHO.B3)**

- DG ECHO will possibly propose to have a scientific needs session at the EGU 2025 General Assembly (with 20,000+ participants) to inform and mainstream the research community of the UCPM's needs on disaster resilience.

- **Possible 2nd cycle of the scenario-building initiative, TBC (DG ECHO.B2)**
  - After the dissemination phase of the 1st cycle of the scenario-building initiative under UCPM Decision Article 10 (informing technical expert discussions, forging cross-sectoral linkages, and high-level agenda setting) is concluded, a possibly 2nd cycle could be initiated under the UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group based on MS/PS needs.

- **Evidence for Policy in DRM Summer School, September TBC (DG ECHO.B3)**
  - The 4th iteration of the school will be hosted in a different location, but likely to replicate the previous version with lessons learnt and emerging priorities.

Enclosures: Annex A - Examples of relevant EU initiatives
Annex B - Example list of open data repositories available within the Commission for DRM