



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)
Emergency Response Coordination Centre
Civil Protection Emergency Response Capabilities

ECHO.A.4/SR

National Training Coordinators Meeting

Online session

12 November 2024
09h00 – 13h00 CET

WebEX

Meeting Report

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The representative of the National Directorate General from Disaster Management in Hungary welcomed the participants to the online part of the annual NTC meeting on 25-28 November in Budapest on behalf of the Hungarian Presidency.

COM informed that all documents relating to the meeting, including the Powerpoint presentations from all speakers, will be accessible on the UCPKN platform ⁽¹⁾. COM explained that the topics of this online meeting will not be addressed during the face-to-face part in Budapest. COM invited participants to take this online meeting as an opportunity to ask questions on operational and policy topics.

2. UCPM OPERATIONAL UPDATES BY ERCC

ECHO A1 presented some statistics on UCPM activations and deployments as well as lessons learned on UCPM deployments (atypical deployments - advisory missions, secondments of EU experts (OCHA-UNEP Joint Environmental Unit (JEU), WHO, Cyprus Maritime corridor and deployments in high-risks countries).

Regarding the division of roles in missions in relation to Information Management (IM) or other experts, COM explained that in the presented figures, IM are included under coordination and assessment experts. COM agreed to provide more detailed statistics on coordination and assessment experts training after the meeting.

⁽¹⁾ [NTC Annual meeting 2024 | UCP Knowledge Network](#)

COM clarified that the percentage of trained experts (66%), includes all experts who attended at least one training course. COM highlighted that 34% of the experts deployed in 2024 are not trained and despite the increase in the deployment of non-trained experts, trained experts are preferred for efficiency and security reasons, among others. This year there was a huge increase of non-trained experts due to the EU support to WHO in Gaza (secondments) and the advisory missions. COM also explained that the percentage of trained experts will need to be looked at more closely to check if the training happened before or after the deployment. Non-trained experts deployed were medical experts, CBRN experts and some wildfire experts on risk preparedness, forest fire analysis and forest fire prevention experts. It was noted that once deployed, experts are interested in participating in training courses.

COM clarified that to increase preparedness for Hurricane season, JEU asked to launch a call for interest to know what kind of experts would be available to respond to a hurricane activation. Several MS replied providing names of experts, which proved that there was willingness and capacity available and allowed a pre-selection of experts and the deployment process.

COM explained that the partnership between UCPM with OCHA-UNEP Joint Environmental Unit (JEU) has been there for long, but for the first time there was a request from WHO to support with secondment of experts. This will not become a norm but an additional modality.

Regarding the question of a possible pre-warning to make easier the identification of highly specialised experts for advisory missions, COM replied that the skillset of the experts deployed need to be broadened (competencies should go beyond technical skills: communication skills, meeting management, political sensitivity, diplomacy, report writing). National pools of experts need to be diversified, to include more profiles.

COM highlighted that regarding security, participants nominated for SEC Adv course are not always those who want or will be deployed under this function. Identification of the right candidates will need to be discussed. In the future, thanks to the ECPP, the link between training and deployments will be strengthened. ECHO A1 also added that coordination and assessment experts on safety and security are most challenging to recruit due to lack of nomination by EU Member and Participating States.

3. UCPM POLICY HEADLINES

ECHO B2 presented some of the results of the [New EU Eurobarometer on disaster awareness and preparedness of EU citizens](#), as well as the priorities of the new Commission; and the Niinistö report which focuses on strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness. The [mandate](#) of Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Preparedness and Crisis Management and Equality was also presented, together with the list of Directorates-General with which DG ECHO will collaborate in the years to come.

4. UCPM TRAINING, EXERCISES AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS PROGRAMMES

ECHO A4 presented the status of the UCPM Training, Exercises and Exchange of Experts Programmes. Figures for 2024 were provided on the number of courses and participants in:

- the courses of the deployable training path,
- the courses for civil protection and disaster management stakeholders,
- the EC-UN joint courses,
- the ad-hoc, online, ToT courses, seminars and workshops.

The EU MODEX cycle 12 (2024-2026) was presented with the number of exercises, locations, dates and scenarios. ECHO A4 also reminded NTCs about the use of the Online Registration Tool (ORT) as of EU MODEX cycle 12. The full-scale exercise projects under the 2023 and 2024 KAPP calls were presented as well. ECHO A4 mentioned the ongoing procurement procedure for the Host Nation Support Table-Top Exercise outside the EU. Finally, the presentation provided the figures on the 2024 exchanges within the exchange of experts programme.

5. RESCEU NEWS

ECHO A4 presented the status of rescEU, first recalling the historical and legislative backgrounds. The purpose of rescEU was mentioned as well as the UCPM capabilities and strategic stockpiles, the geographical distribution and the overall budget (3.1 billion euros). The number of deployments from 2019 to 2024 were provided as well as the new rescEU AFF permanent fleet. The presenter highlighted the 2024 rescEU response to Ukraine.

6. EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION POOL (ECPP) OF EXPERTS – STATE OF PLAY

ECHO A4 presented the legal framework of the ECPP of experts, and mentioned the draft guidelines for certification, registration and selection of experts (including the different scenarios applicable to the commitment phase, training & certification phase, validation & registration phase). These guidelines still need to be discussed with MS at the level of the Commission Expert Group on Capacities.

COM explained that the recertification process is not yet defined but is expected to be light, similar to the recertification of modules and other response capacities. There are refresher courses and exercises in the UCPM Training Programme that could serve for recertification. Internal coordination between the services committing experts for the pool and those in charge of training will be crucial.

COM proposed to share the experts group distribution list with NTCs, to allow NTCs to have an overview of those involved in the discussion on the ECPP.

COM confirmed that only TL/TDL will be included in the pool of expert with names, whereas for the other EUCPT function profiles, MS/PS will have the possibility to commit to the pool a number of experts without providing names. The UCPM training and exercises programme will serve as the certification process for the nominated experts to the pool (for the time being only TL/DTL). COM mentioned that the nomination by names of other EUCPT function profiles to the pool should be envisaged once the pilot phase of the pool of TL/DTL is finalised. It was mentioned that the EUCPT function profiles adopted in 2018 are now outdated and will have to be revised.

COM confirmed that the ECPP for experts should be operational next year. The revised implementing decision is expected to be adopted in January 2025. COM is developing the guidelines accordingly.

Regarding the training requirements for TL/DTL, in the guidelines, there will be an equivalence table. Once TD/TDL will be committed to the pool, COM will be able to identify immediately TL/TDL for specific missions as they will be registered as certified. The equivalence of deployments to replace exercises may have to be considered.

7. CECIS 2.0

ECHO A1 presented the different available access rights to the tool and user management approach, the infrastructure of the tool and the environments accessible in the portal. The different categories of resources and the new resource tree were presented. The main improvements compared to the old CECIS were listed, such as enhanced operations, integrated functionalities and modules, interoperability with other system – including experts database and real time access data.

COM explained that contractors willing to access CECIS for training purposes should ask access (read only) to their CP authorities.

Regarding the interconnection between the ERCC portal (ORT and expert database), COM explained that the information on an expert in the ORT will be updated automatically in real time in CECIS. Experts' profiles will only be available to the creator of the expert and the ERCC duty system. For the MS, it will be possible to share data with other users (nationality and ID). Regarding special characters (not available in ORT) in CECIS the character match system will be used to be able to retrieve the correct expert.