THE UCPM 2020-2024 PEER REVIEW PROGRAMME CYCLE

Lessons learnt meeting

Veronica Casartelli, Angelica Marengo, Dana Salpina, Soraya Melinato, Soheil Mohammadi, Elena Niero, Clara Beffa, Monica Eberle, Jaroslav Mysiak
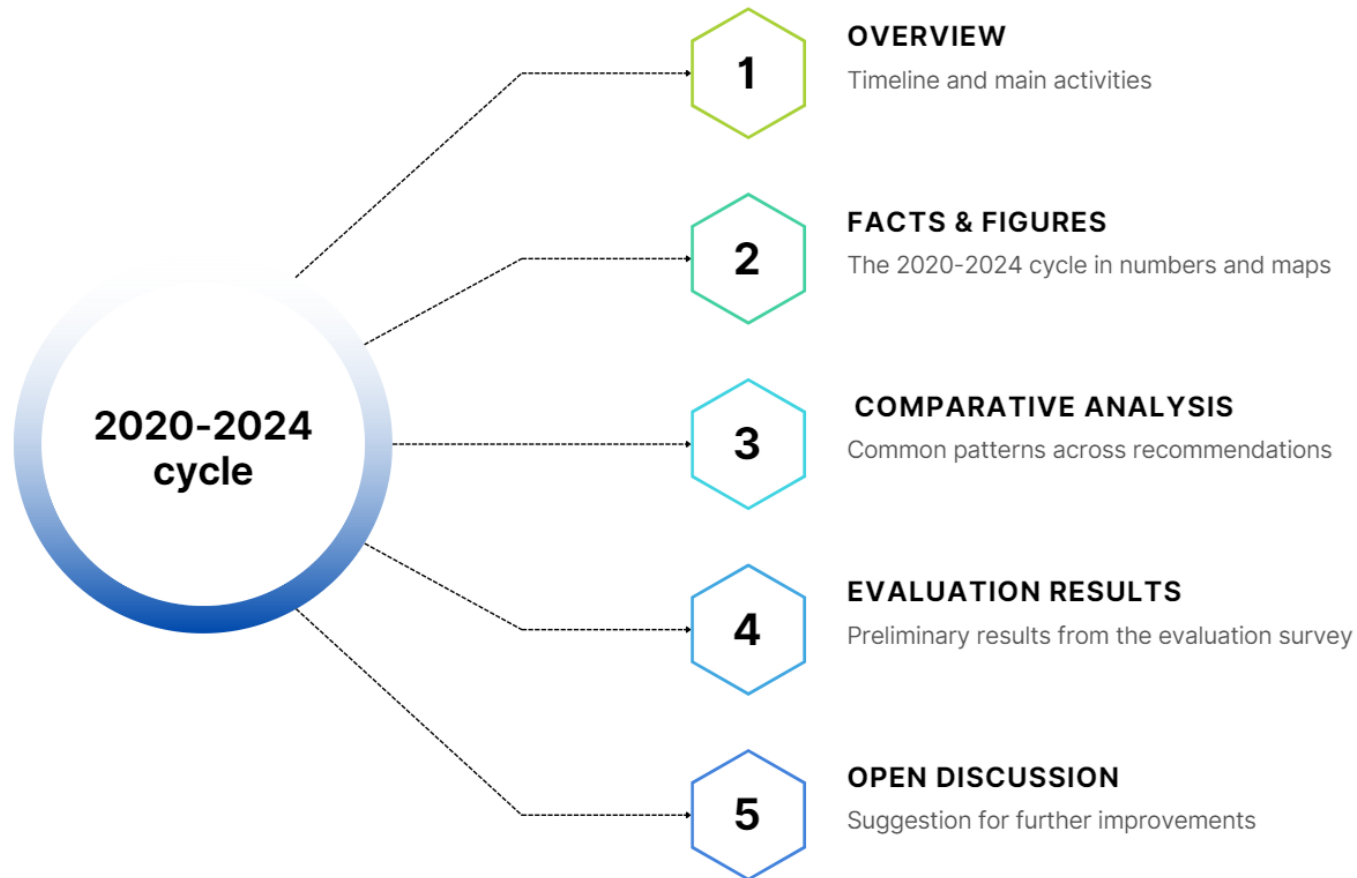
Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change - CMCC
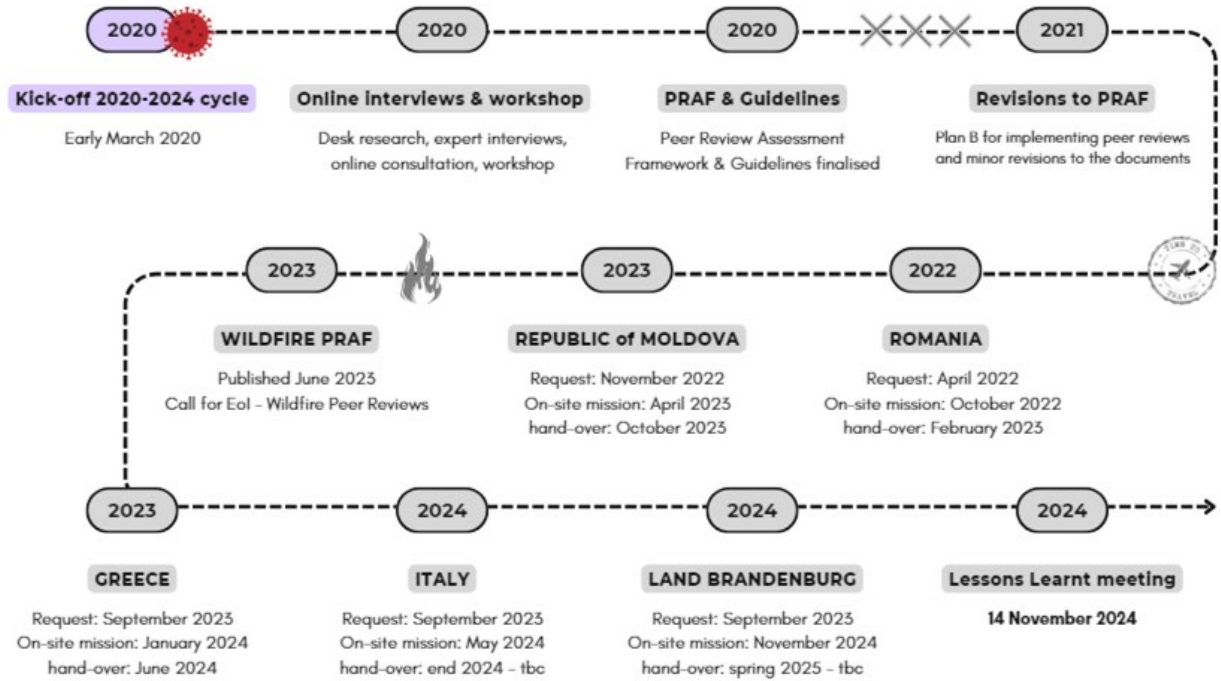
Brussels, 14th November 2024

Union Civil Protection Mechanism - Peer Review Programme for disaster risk management

European Union Civil Protection

Outline

2020-2024 cycle

1 **OVERVIEW**
Timeline and main activities

2 **FACTS & FIGURES**
The 2020-2024 cycle in numbers and maps

3 **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**
Common patterns across recommendations

4 **EVALUATION RESULTS**
Preliminary results from the evaluation survey

5 **OPEN DISCUSSION**
Suggestion for further improvements

01 CLEAR OBJECTIVES

02 IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

6 STEPS

2020 — **Kick-off 2020-2024 cycle**
Early March 2020

2020 — **Online interviews & workshop**
Desk research, expert interviews,
online consultation, workshop

2020 — **PRAF & Guidelines**
Peer Review Assessment
Framework & Guidelines finalised

2021 — **Revisions to PRAF**
Plan B for implementing peer reviews
and minor revisions to the documents

2023 — **WILDFIRE PRAF**
Published June 2023
Call for EoI – Wildfire Peer Reviews

2023 — **REPUBLIC of MOLDOVA**
Request: November 2022
On-site mission: April 2023
hand-over: October 2023

2022 — **ROMANIA**
Request: April 2022
On-site mission: October 2022
hand-over: February 2023

2023 — **GREECE**
Request: September 2023
On-site mission: January 2024
hand-over: June 2024

2024 — **ITALY**
Request: September 2023
On-site mission: May 2024
hand-over: end 2024 – tbc

2024 — **LAND BRANDENBURG**
Request: September 2023
On-site mission: November 2024
hand-over: spring 2025 – tbc

2024 — **Lessons Learnt meeting**
14 November 2024

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Lessons Learnt meeting
14 November 2024

01 CLEAR OBJECTIVES
02 IN-DEPTH RESEARCH
03 FRAMEWORKS & PROCESSES

6 STEPS

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01 CLEAR OBJECTIVES
02 IN-DEPTH RESEARCH
03 FRAMEWORKS & PROCESSES
04 IMPLEMENTATION

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2024 – Lessons Learnt meeting
14 November 2024

2025-2027 UCPM Peer Review Programme cycle

Facts & figures - *Peer Review programme Cycles*

Source: CMCC, 2024

Cycle 1 (UK, Finland)
Cycle 2 (Bulgaria, Türkiye, Georgia, Poland, Estonia, Malta)
Cycle 3 (North Macedonia, Tunisia, Cyprus, Algeria, Portugal, Republic of Serbia)
Cycle 4 (Romania, Republic of Moldova, Greece, Italy, Land Brandenburg)
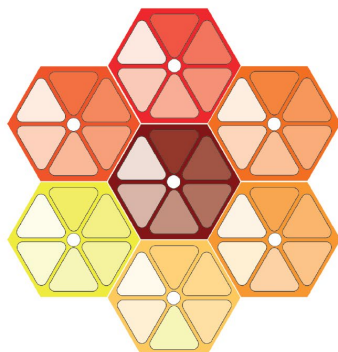
Facts & figures - *Characteristics*

LAND BRANDENBURG
- Sub-national level
- Thematic review
- Wildfire focused

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
- Country level
- Comprehensive review
- General

ITALY
- Country level
- Thematic review
- Wildfire focused

ROMANIA
- Country level
- Thematic review
- General

GREECE
- Country level
- Thematic review
- Wildfire focused

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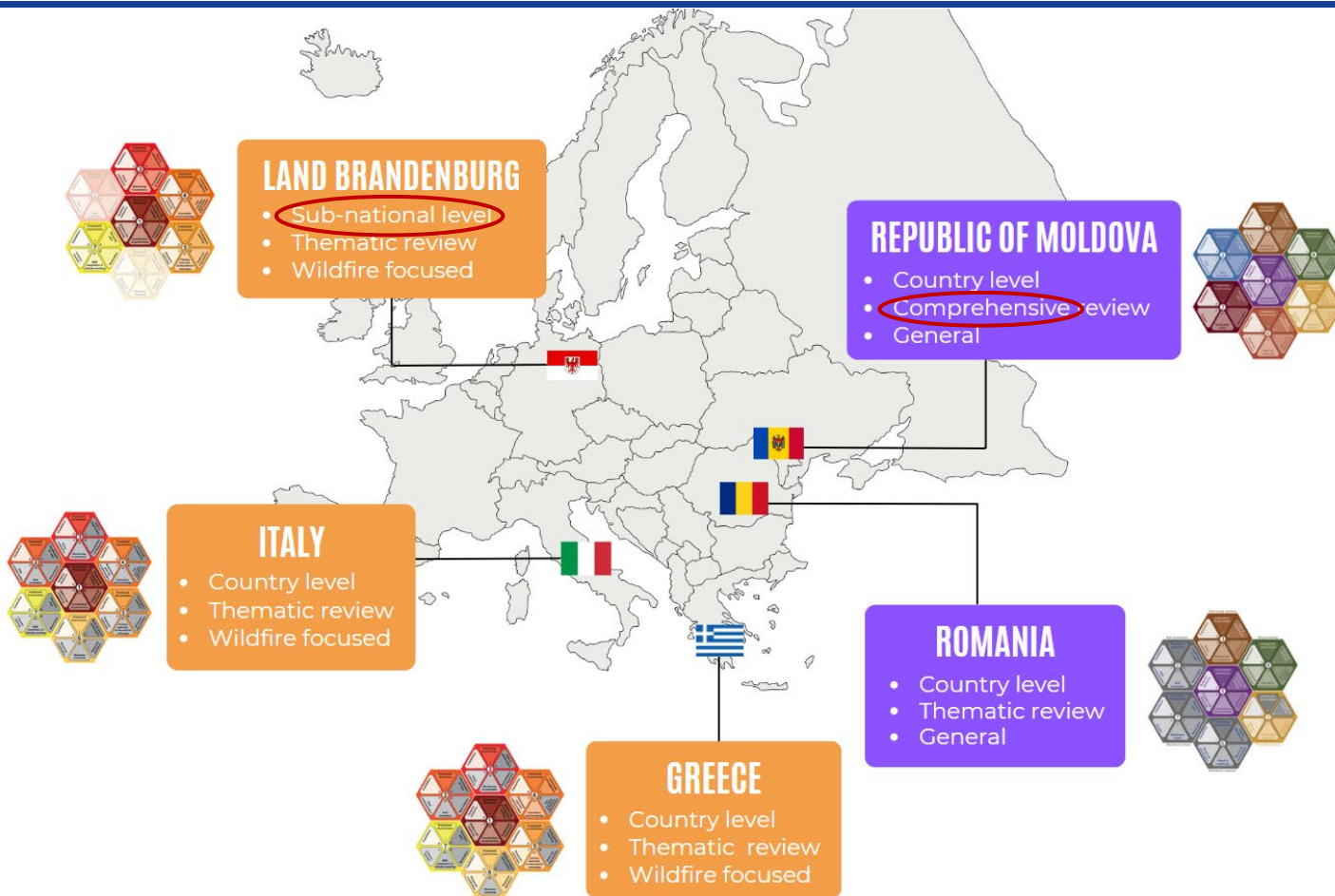
Facts & figures - *Participants*

Legend:
- NCP/RCP (10)
- PEERS (22)
- DG ECHO (7)
- CMCC/UniNA (8)

Source: CMCC, 2024
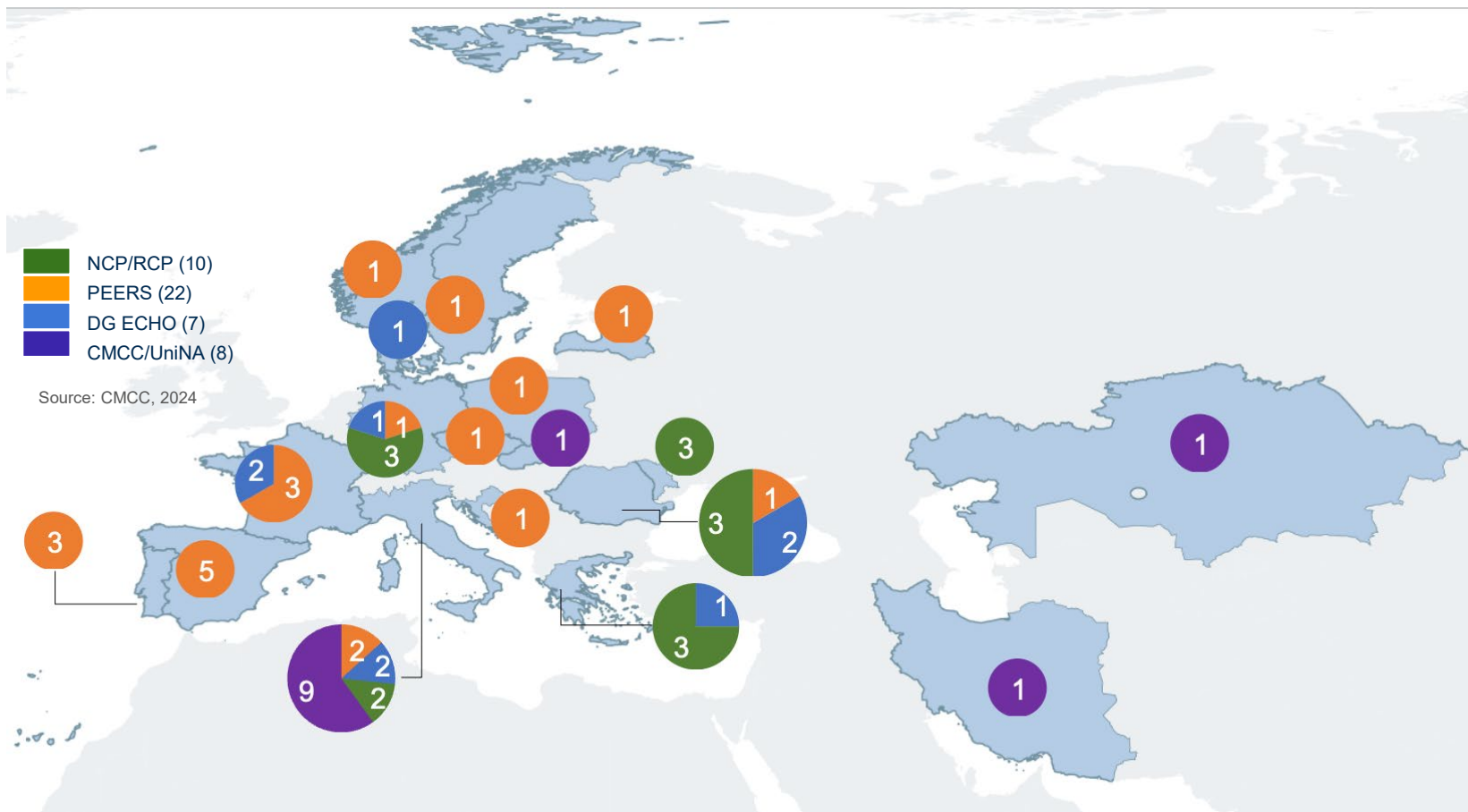
ROMANIA 2023 ✓

REPUBLIC of MOLDOVA 2023 ✓

GREECE 2024 ✓

ITALY 2024 - *waiting for the official publication!*

LAND BRANDENBURG 2025

Comparative analysis – *Key focus areas covered*

GOVERNANCE OF DRR	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DRR STRATEGY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DISASTER RISK FINANCING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SYSTEMIC RESILIENCE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

RISK ASSESSMENT	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK		✓	✓	✓	
RISK IDENTIFICATION		✓			
RISK ANALYSIS		✓			
RISK EVALUATION		✓			
RISK COMMUNIC & ROLE OF SH		✓			
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP		✓	✓	✓	

RISK MNG PLANNING	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS	✓	✓			✓
PRIORITISATION OF MEASURES	✓	✓			✓
MONITORING, EVALUATION & REPORTING	✓	✓			✓
POLICY COHERENCE	✓	✓			✓
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Comparative analysis – *Key focus areas covered*
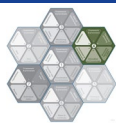
PREVENTION	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TERRITORIAL PLANNING/ LANDSCAPE MNG	✓	✓	✓		✓
STRUCTURAL MEASURES & NBS FIRE USE LAW, GUIDELINES, ENFOR	✓	✓			✓
INNOVATION & KNOWLEDGE SERVICES	✓	✓	✓		✓
AWARENESS & RISK COMMUNICATION	✓	✓	✓		
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

PREPAREDNESS	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK		✓	✓	✓	✓
CONTINGENCY PLANNING		✓			
EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS	✓	✓			
TRAINING & EXERCISES, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES	✓	✓	✓		✓
RESPONSE CAPACITIES	✓	✓	✓		
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
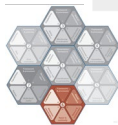
RESPONSE	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK		✓	✓	✓	
NEEDS & IMPACT ASSESSMENT		✓			
RESPONSE OPERATIONS		✓	✓		
BUSINESS CONTINUITY		✓			
RESPONSE COORDINATION		✓	✓		
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP		✓	✓	✓	
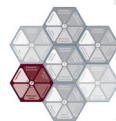
RECOVERY & LL	ROMANIA	MOLDOVA	GREECE	ITALY	L. BRAND.
LEGISLATIVE & INSTIT FRAMEWORK		✓	✓	✓	
RECOVERY PLAN		✓			
RESTORATION		✓			
BBB & RECONSTRUCTION ADAPTATION & CLIMATE PROOFING		✓			
LESSONS LEARNED		✓			✓
ADMIN, TECH, FINANCIAL CAP		✓	✓	✓	✓

Governance of DRR

Support for Local Authorities & Bottom-up Approach
empower local authorities by providing resources, training, and support for DRM/DRR, as well as reinforce a bottom-up approach to governance

Whole-of-Society Approach and Vertical and Horizontal Coordination
engage a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector, research institutions, and civil society. Enhance coordination within and across levels.

Resource Allocation and Financial Support
optimisation of financial resources allocated for DRR, ensuring adequate funding and establishing transparent processes for tracking expenditures

Integration and Policy Coherence
need for an integrated, holistic, or cross-sectoral approach to DRM, aligning it with national strategies and policies

Prevention and Long-Term Focus
need for a shift from reactive (response-focused) governance to prevention and preparedness, and for long-term strategies and planning

RISK ASSESSMENT

- DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF **PROCESSES**
- INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, **MULTI-RISK, HISTORICAL** DATA
- **COLLABORATION** AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING
- USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND **CENTRALISED DATA REPOSITORY**
- **RESOURCE** ALLOCATION AND FUNDING

RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- **COORDINATION**, COLLABORATION & STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT
- **ALIGNMENT** AND **CONSISTENCY** WITH OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS
- DATA SHARING AND TRANSPARENCY
- **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ADPTATION**
- **BUDGETING, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

PREVENTION

- ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSISTENT LEGAL AND STRATEGIC **FRAMEWORKS**
- ENHANCING **AWARENESS**, **EDUCATION**, AND **LOCAL** CAPACITY
- INTEGRATING CLIMATE ADAPTATION, **NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**, AND **SUSTAINABLE** PRACTICES
- LEVERAGING **TECHNOLOGY**, DATA, AND LOCALISED STRATEGIES
- SECURING **LONG-TERM FUNDING** AND COORDINATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION

RECOVERY & LESSONS LEARNED

- **EVIDENCE-INFORMED RISK AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**
- **MULTIDISCIPLINARITY** AND SPECIALISED TEAMS
- **INTEGRATED** DATA **COLLECTION** AND ANALYSIS
- FORMALISED **LESSONS LEARNED PROCESSES**
- FORMAL **PROCEDURES** AND STANDARDISATIONS

RESPONSE

- **REAL-TIME** DATA AND SEAMLESS **COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**, INFORMATION FLOW
- **RESOURCE** ALLOCATION (INVESTMENT IN RESPONSE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL SAFETY)
- **ENHANCED COORDINATION, COLLABORATION, AND ROLE CLARITY**
- STRENGTHENED LEGAL AND REGULATORY **FRAMEWORKS** FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
- **RESOURCE** OPTIMISATION TO ENSURE READINESS WHILE MINIMISING RESOURCE WASTE

PREPAREDNESS

- **ROLE** CLARIFICATION AND **CROSS-SECTORAL** COLLABORATION
- **TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND VOLUNTEER** ENGAGEMENT
- MODERNIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY, INFRASTRUCTURES, AND **EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS**
- STRENGTHENING **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES** (SOPS) AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS
- FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PREPAREDNESS
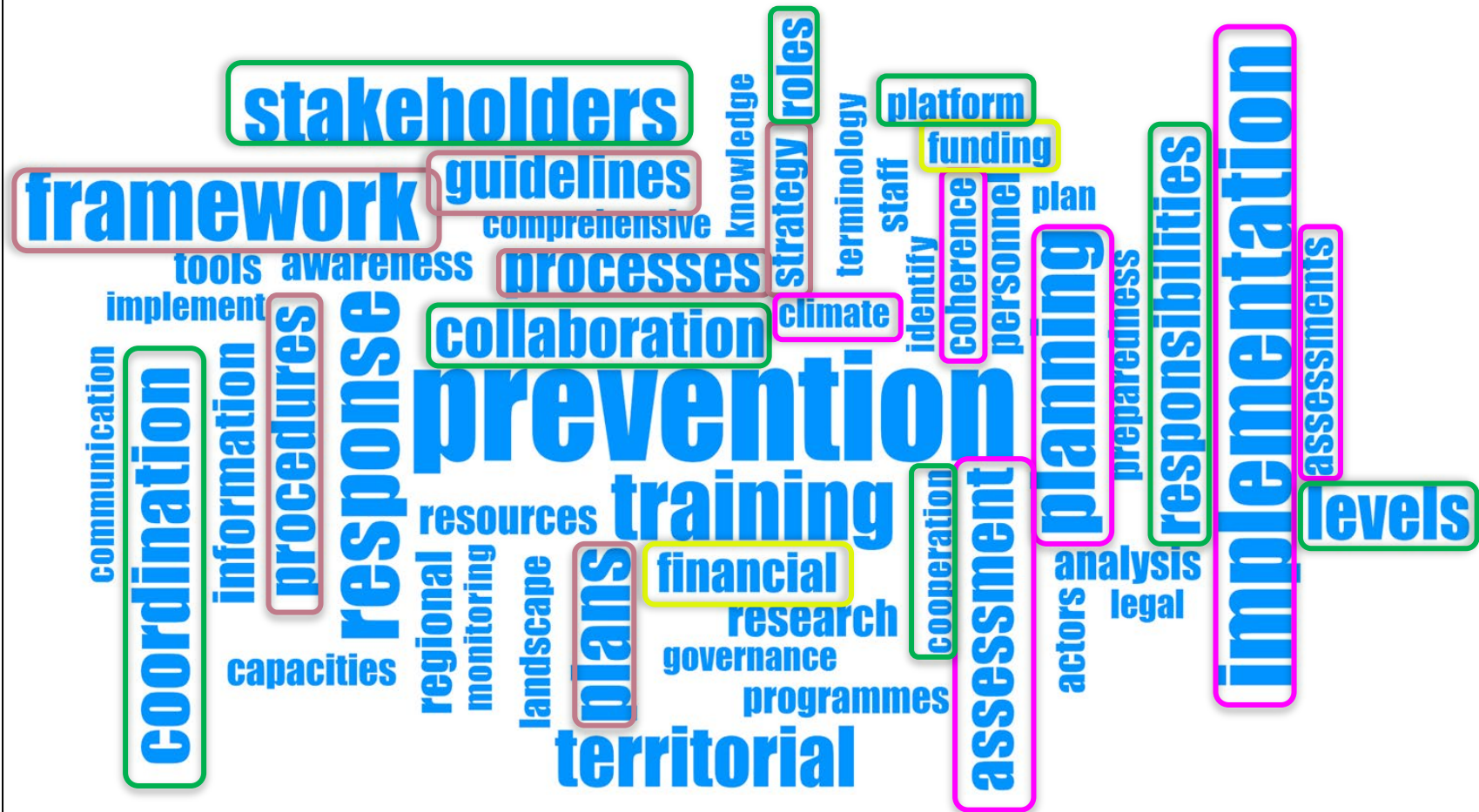
RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING / RISK ASSESSMENT / RISK PREVENTION MEASURES / DRR GOVERNANCE / RECOVERY & LESSONS LEARNED / RISK PREPAREDNESS MEASURES / EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Evaluation results

Lessons learnt from the UCPM Peer review programme 2020-2024: survey.

Process   Frameworks   Peers' preparation   Support to NCPs

On-site mission   Final report drafting phase   Final report   Follow-up phase

Collaborations   Evaluation of CMCC   Overall comments
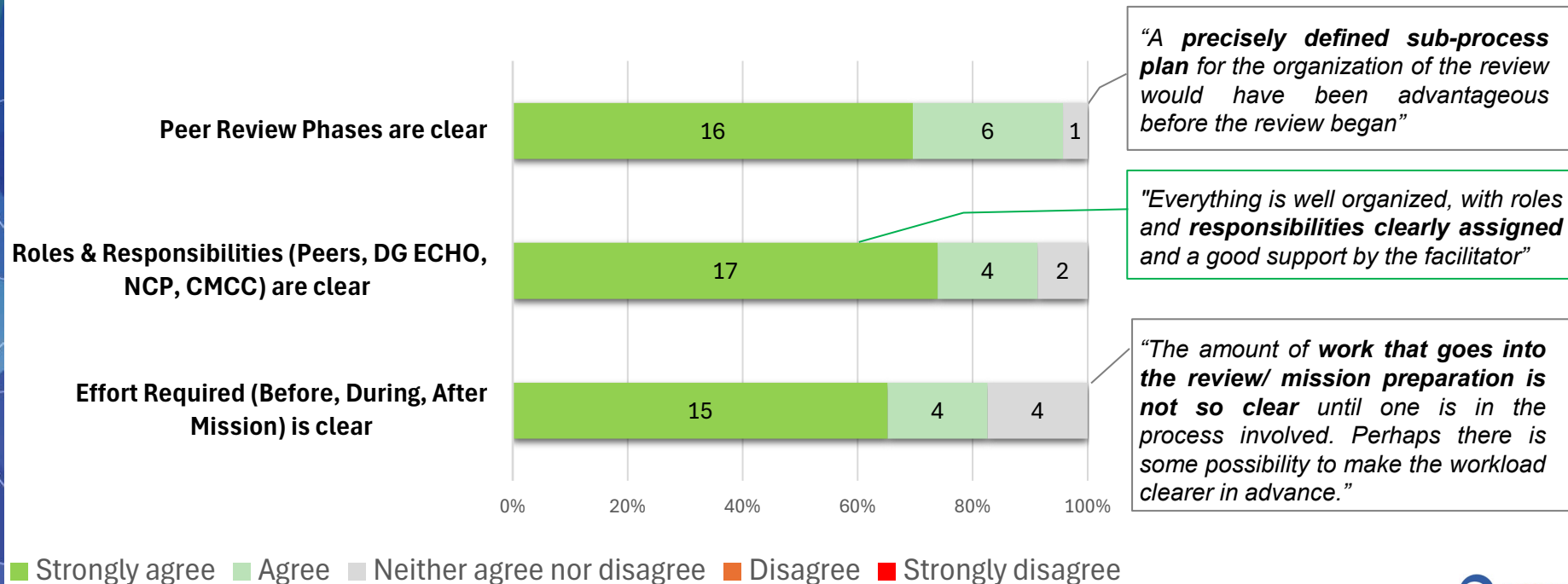
This survey was completed by **23 participants.**

Some responses were outside the scope of certain participants' roles; therefore, answers were <u>pre-processed</u> and numbers adjusted before being presented in the charts.

Evaluation results

Lessons learnt from the UCPM Peer review programme 2020-2024: survey.

Process   Frameworks   Peers' preparation   Support to NCPs

On-site mission   Final report drafting phase   Final report   Follow-up phase

Collaborations   Evaluation of CMCC   Overall comments

■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly disagree

3

Evaluation results - Peer review process

The overall process is considered as a major strength, making the "peer review process the strongest tool to improve DRM systems". However, some respondents complain that the effort required during the overall review process is not clear from the beginning.


Peer Review Phases are clear
- 16 (Strongly agree)
- 6 (Agree)
- 1 (Neither agree nor disagree)

"*A **precisely defined sub-process plan** for the organization of the review would have been advantageous before the review began*"

Roles & Responsibilities (Peers, DG ECHO, NCP, CMCC) are clear
- 17 (Strongly agree)
- 4 (Agree)
- 2 (Neither agree nor disagree)

"*Everything is well organized, with roles and **responsibilities clearly assigned** and a good support by the facilitator*"

Effort Required (Before, During, After Mission) is clear
- 15 (Strongly agree)
- 4 (Agree)
- 4 (Neither agree nor disagree)

"*The amount of **work that goes into the review/ mission preparation is not so clear** until one is in the process involved. Perhaps there is some possibility to make the workload clearer in advance.*"

Legend: ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

X-axis: 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

All respondents greatly appreciate the PRAF/Wildfire PRAF, highlighting as key strengths their structure, flexibility, comprehensiveness, and clarity → a powerful tool, not only for peer reviews!

*"In some cases, **more situational examples** would simplify the very formal language of the PRAF"*

*"I would suggest **a periodic update** (min 3 - max 5 years) of the documents"*

PRAF and Wildfire PRAF Structure (Hexagons & Wedges) are clear Flexible, and Comprehensive

14 | 8 | 1

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
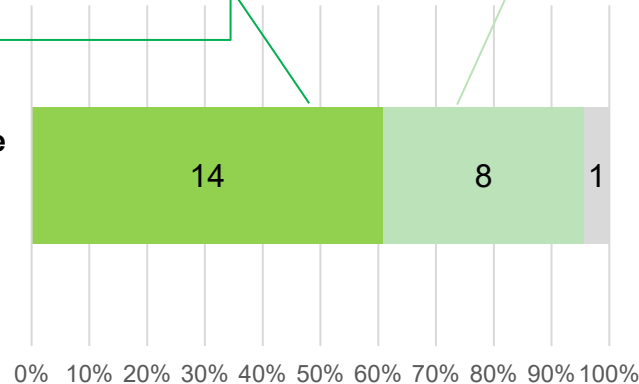
■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

which structure do you prefer?

3

14
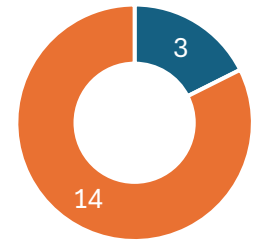
■ PRAF ■ Wildfire PRAF

*"The WPRAF yes, it's very useful. The general PRAF is a **bit more difficult to use** as such, because it's not as focused as the other one."*

cmcc

All respondents express high appreciation for the support provided during the preparatory phase, the overall organization, and the tools made available.

The briefing ahead of stakeholder meetings was useful in organising the team. — 17 | 1

The online refresher meeting before the on-site mission was useful. — 14 | 4

The Google Drive was well structured and a good IT tool. — 13 | 4 | 3

The desk research was comprehensive and helpful — 14 | 4

CMCC provided effective support in preparing peers for the on-site mission — 16 | 2 | 1
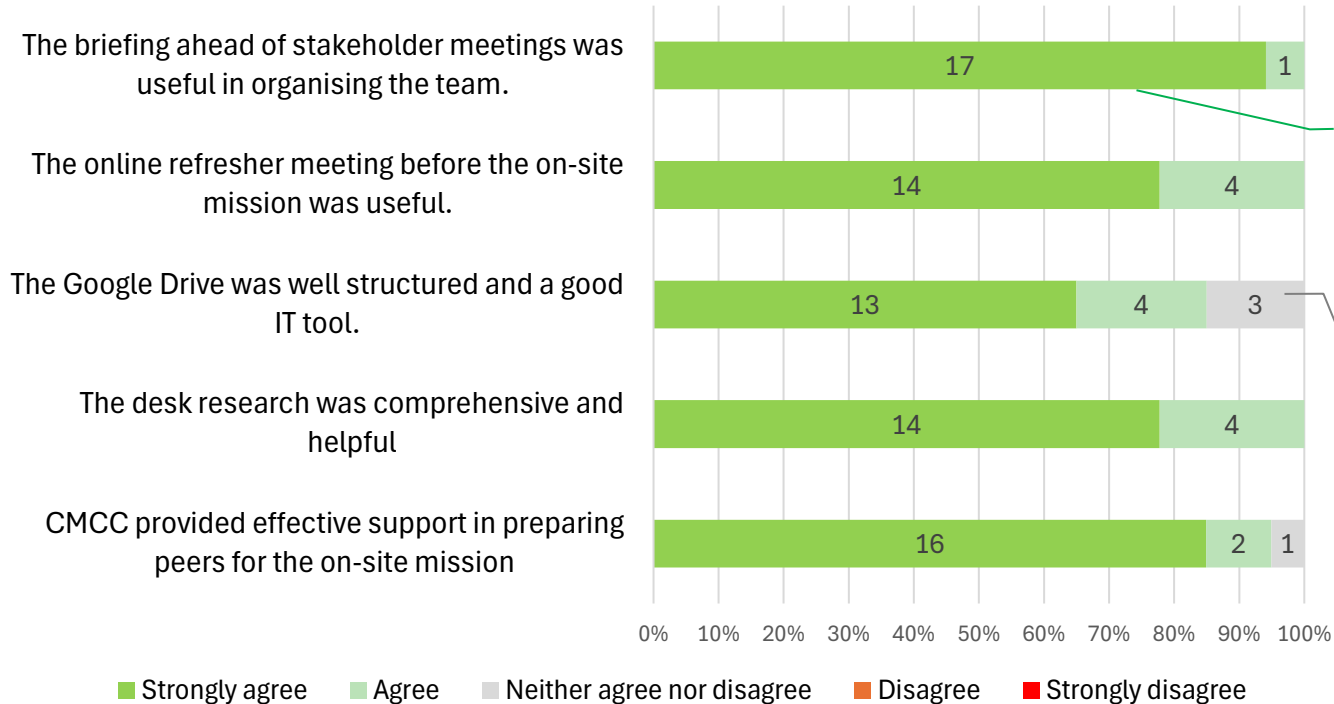
*"During the entire preparatory phase **I always felt backed-up** by the comprehensive work done by the facilitator, which made my work as a peer much easier"*

*"On a national level we had **difficulties with accessing the Google Drive** due to security restrictions."*

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Overall, NCPs appreciate the good support provided during the entire process.
Contradictory opinions on the Google Drive. Some complaints in DG ECHO's peer selection.

The Google Drive was well structured and a good IT tool both as a repository and as a common working environment.

The online preparatory meetings were well-organised and useful to support the preparation of the review step by step.

CMCC's overall support in preparing the NCP team for the review was good and achieved its main objectives.

The selection by DG ECHO was effective in having a good team of experts for the specific review.

Chart values:
- The Google Drive...: 9 (Strongly agree), 3 (Agree), 2 (Neither agree nor disagree)
- The online preparatory meetings...: 12 (Strongly agree), 2 (Agree)
- CMCC's overall support...: 2 (Strongly agree), 2 (Agree)
- The selection by DG ECHO...: 9 (Strongly agree), 1 (Agree), 1 (Neither agree nor disagree), 1 (Disagree)

X-axis: 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Legend: ■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly disagree

*If stakeholders had to use **Google Drive, it was difficult** to explain how to use it.*

***Google Drive was an excellent** repository tool, easy to use.*

*the **online preparatory meetings were valuable,** not only because of the immediacy of communication but also for helping to **create familiarity** between those involved.*

cmcc

Evaluation results - On-site mission

Peers expressed overall appreciation, though some found the frequent debriefings tiring and suggested they be shortened, with the final debriefing potentially cancelled.
There was also feedback that the mission may have been too brief.

The overall on-site mission structure was effective (meeting with stakeholders, debriefing with the peer review team every day, debriefing before leaving).

| 13 | 7 | 1 |

The duration of the on-site mission was adequate.

| 10 | 7 | 3 | 1 |

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither agree nor disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly disagree
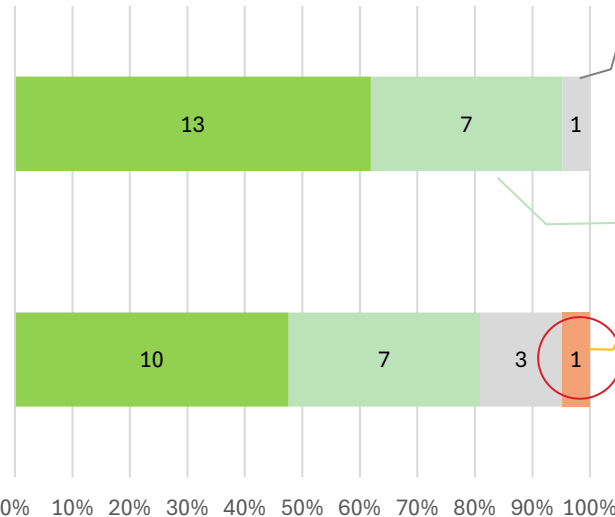
*"The daily **debriefing** could be a little **shorter**."*
*"The **debriefing** before leaving... not so sure about the **usefulness**."*

*"Sometimes I felt a bit **overwhelmed** with the **amount of information** received during the stakeholder's meeting.."*

*"**One week mission is very short** where the entire Wildfire management system needs to be examined and cannot be the standard practice for all peer-review mission"*
*"The mission was **a bit short** (5 days)."*

Peers/NCPs expressed a desire for more time post-mission to work on the final report. It was also suggested that each peer submit a brief summary of their key conclusions and insights.

The timeline set by DG ECHO for the drafting phase was adequate.

The overall support of CMCC in preparing the final report was good.

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree
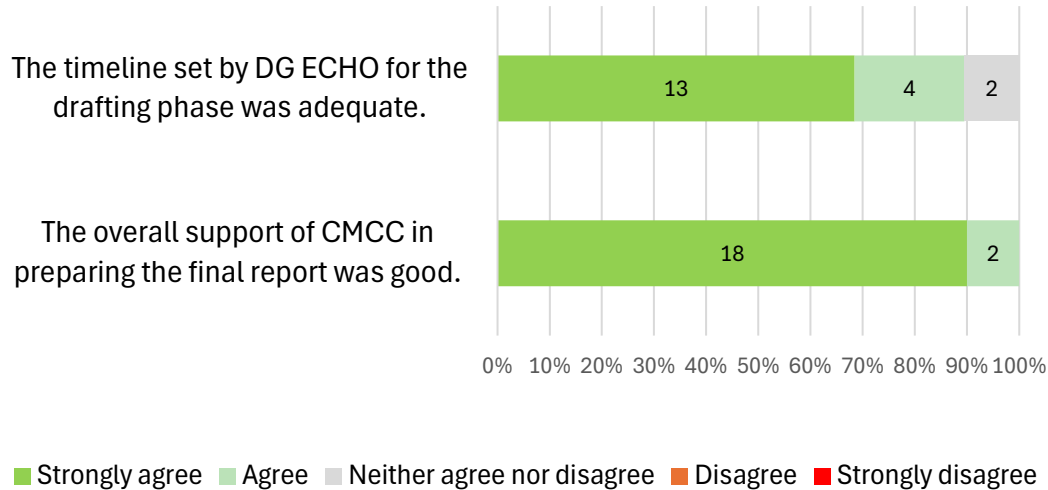
How would you rate your contribution as a peer/NCP in the drafting/finalisation of the final report?

■ I did not participate
■ Insufficient
■ Adequate
■ Good
■ Excellent
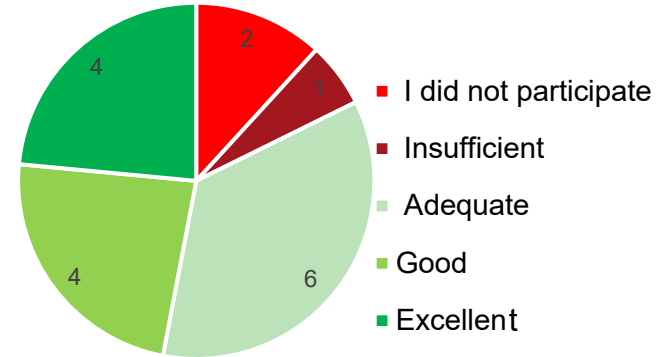
*"Participation in this phase is **voluntary**, so the task mainly conducted by the facilitators, but having each peer submit a **brief report summarizing their main conclusions** and experiences would be valuable."*

*the **problem with time** and returning to everyday chores. Would have loved to participate more extensively but…*

Overall appreciation and satisfaction. However, some noted that the final reports were lengthy and lacked follow-up on implementing recommendations.

The hand-over event was useful to disseminate key results. — 9 / 3 / 1

The lengths of the final report is adequate. — 8 / 4 / 1 / 1

The structure of the final report is effective (executive summary, key messages, conclusions). — 8 / 6

The final report meets its objectives. — 7 / 7

I am satisfied with the final report in terms of completeness. — 10 / 4
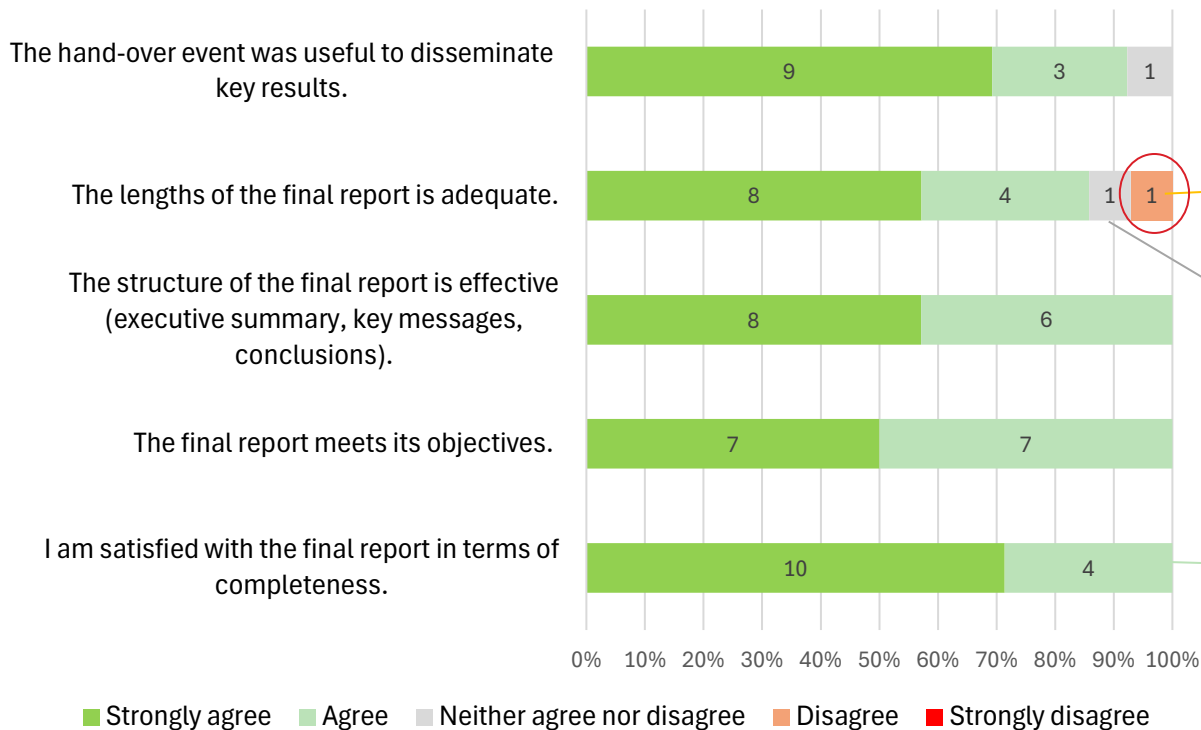
*"In my views, the final report for Moldova was **a bit too long**."*

*"Perhaps a **little shorter**, more concise"*

*"**Lack of knowledge of the follow-up**, and of what will be done with the report by the host country is frustrating and argues for a duty of follow-up by DG ECHO by including peers, in a forum to be created under the organization of the facilitator."*

Legend: ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

European Union Civil Protection

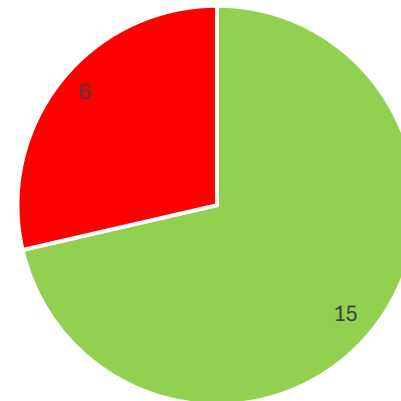## What happened after receiving the final report?

No plan (3)

*"**Nothing** more than informing the political and administrative leadership"*
*"The **mission did not take place** yet."*

Evaluating the report and feasibility of the implementation of recommendations

*"the initial **assessment processes of the results** are set to begin from now on, with the aim of **examining, evaluating, and proposing the necessary and feasible actions**, based on the suggestions"*

Do you think it would be needed to develop a system for monitoring the implementation of recommendations?

6

15

■ Yes ■ No

cmcc

*Results show a very good opinion on collaboration with CMCC ... Thank you* 😊

The collaboration between the DG ECHO team, and CMCC was positive and constructive. (opinions of the

The collaboration between me, as part of the NCP team, and CMCC was positive and constructive.

The collaboration between me, as a peer, and CMCC was positive and constructive.

*"From my side, I consider the support provided by CMCC **highly professional and largely helpful** that benefited the quality of the report"*

*"**Excellent** collaboration"*

*"I found CMCC work and approach to be **excellent**"*

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree
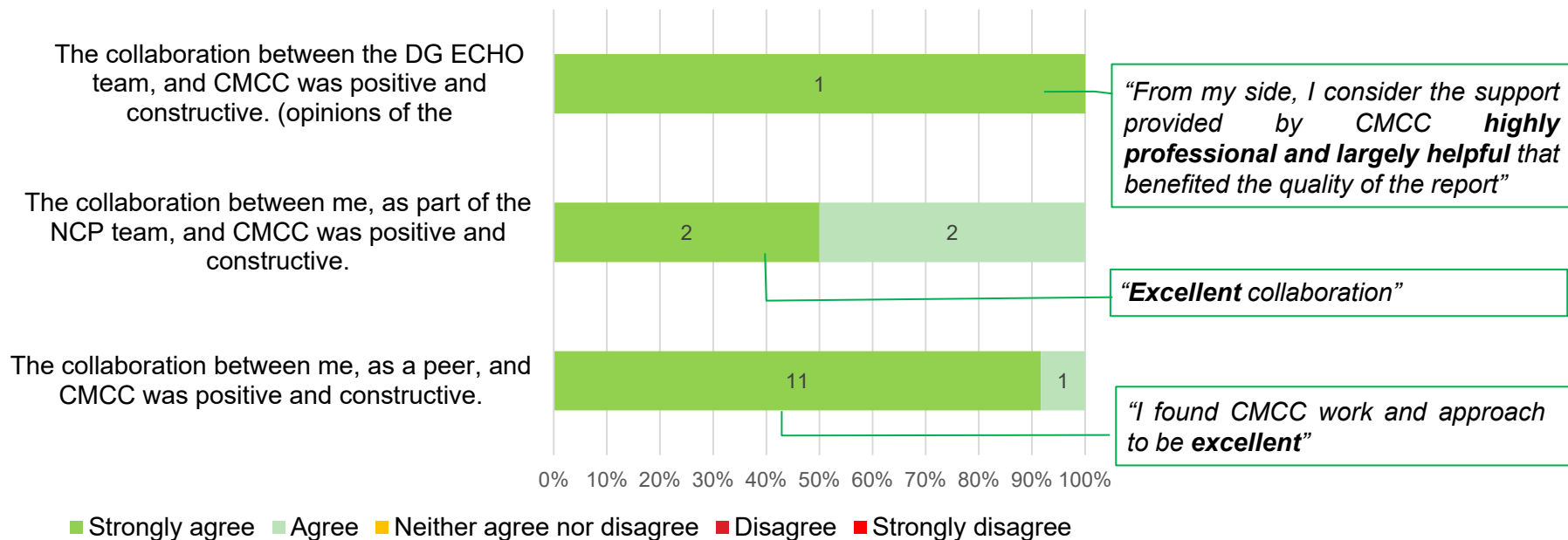
Results show a very good opinion on collaboration with CMCC … Thank you 😊

CMCC acted as a good facilitator at all phases of the process providing continuous support and effective intermediation.

3

19

■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree
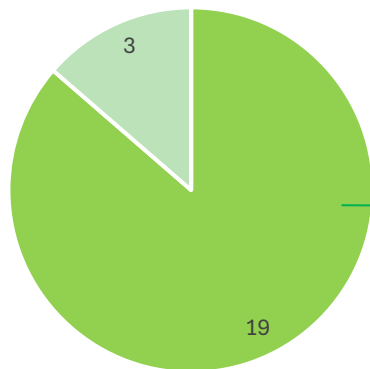
*"The facilitator was **always available**, was always **neutral**, and provided as many details and information as possible"*

*"The work of the CMMC team was **professional** and facilitated every step of the process. It has been a **crucial support**"*

Please add a comment on your experience as a peer/NCP/DG ECHO/CMCC in this peer review?

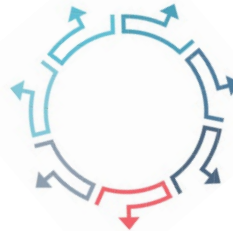Extremely positive experience and <u>willingness to participate again</u>!!!

The search for stakeholders led to the creation of new meaningful networks. Previously unknown documents (as part of the desk research) are also very valuable for further work.

a very good opportunity to learn and establish collaborative relationships.

the experience was in certain cases eye-opening for me.

I had the opportunity to participate in two peer reviews. I would not recommend multiplying experiences because they create a situation of comparison

a valuable chance to contribute to a meaningful process, exchange knowledge, and stay connected with the latest developments in the field.

One of the most rewarding experience in a long time. It's always good to get out of your comfort zone

one of the best experience in my career so far, it was very concrete and allowed me to learn a lot

Would you consider it useful to set up a network of UCPM peers for regular contacts and contribution to the peer review program?

Positive Responses, expressing support (15)	*"I think this should be part of regular UCPM **Knowledge Network** exchanges, absolutely."*
Conditional or reserved support (2)	*"Such a system could help to maintain a network of experts but **at the same time** it is important to give other people the opportunity to participate **in a peer review"***
Neutral/Non-committal or suggesting alternative perspectives (3)	*"**Not clear of the added value** of such a network. Peers also change jobs sometimes."* *"One possible suggestion could be the **publication of a compendium** of identified good practices."*

Evaluation results - 💬 Overall comments

How do you see the links between peer reviews and other UCPM capacity building tools (grants, exchange of experts, advisory missions, etc)? Is there a scope to bring them closer together?

All respondents see a strong potential for linking peer reviews with other UCPM tools.

4 stakeholders believe that grants allocation and the development of EoE and advisory missions could be based on peer reviews' recommendations

*"Yes totally. **Bringing peer reviews closer and other UCPM capacity-building tools** can enhance the overall effectiveness of the mechanism. (…)"*

*"There could be a **closer link between the PR and the exchange of experts programme** as well as national processes on capacity building. (…)"*

*"I see **a great potential for peer reviews and advisory missions to be closer"**

*"Perhaps **grants** for countries that were reviewed could be more thematic and **connected to the recommendations".**

*"**Recommendations** that often come up can be mentioned as **potential priority topics for grants**, for example."*

*"A **package**: Review find challenges, and then sort them out through either advisory missions, grants, or a combination of these."*

*"**Based on** the conclusions of **the peer review final report**, specific advisory missions, exchange of experts, etc. can be developed later."*

Thank you!

Union Civil Protection Mechanism -
Peer Review Programme
for disaster risk management

European Union
Civil Protection