



European
Union

UCPM Knowledge Series

Inclusive Preparedness
under the Union Civil
Protection Mechanism

Union **Civil Protection** Knowledge Network



Intro: The new mandate

Inclusiveness under the UCPM



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European
Union

Inclusive Preparedness under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

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Union **Civil Protection** Knowledge Network

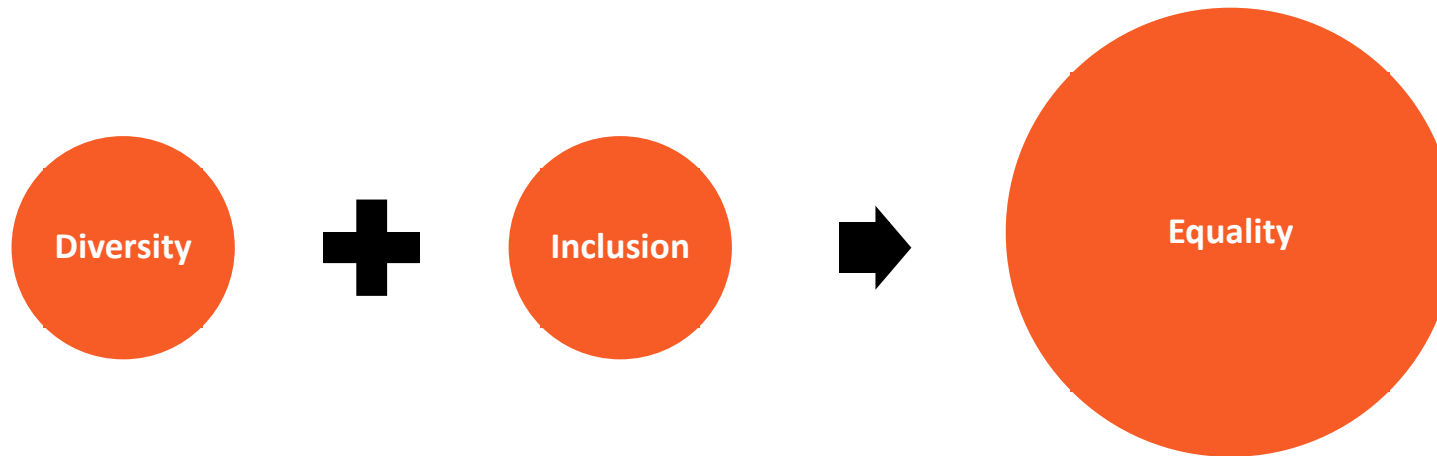


Definitions

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

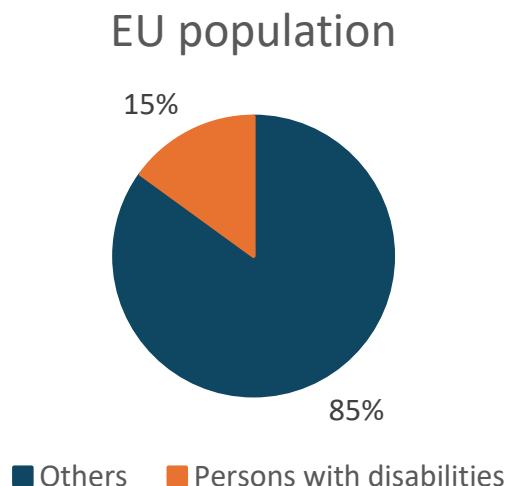
Equality: Providing the same resources and treatment to everyone, treating everyone in the same way regardless of their individual or particular needs.

Vulnerable groups: Life circumstances (*e.g. poverty, education*) and/or discrimination based on physical or social characteristic (*sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc.*) reducing the ability of primary stakeholders (*for example, individuals/ households/community*) to withstand adverse impact from external stressors. **Vulnerability is not a fixed criterion attached to specific categories of people, and no one is born vulnerable per se.**



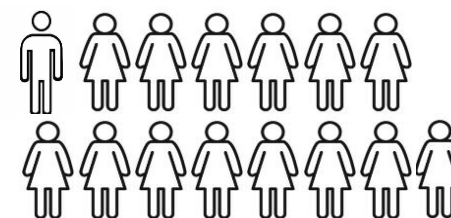
Intro: Reality at a glance

Inclusiveness under the UCPM



Yet, **only one country** in the EU commits to allocation of state **budget for disability-inclusive civil protection measures**, which indicates a major gap in national investments and efforts for inclusive DRR.

Women are disproportionately more affected by disasters than men, especially those who live in vulnerable situations. According to the [OECD](#) estimates that women and children are 14 times more likely to die from a disaster than men.



UCPM funding programmes

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

Over the period **2014-2024, UCPM has co-funded 23 cross-border projects** which had some 'vulnerable groups component', for a total EU support of cca **EUR 11.5 million**.

An example are the 2021 and 2023 projects **Safe and Equal in EMERgencies (SEE ME)**, and its sequel, **SEE ME 2**, and which aims to contribute to equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in emergency situations.



Awareness raising

Inclusiveness under the UCPM



To **raise awareness** of the **principles of non-discrimination and inclusiveness** in prevention, preparedness and response operations in the context of civil protection, via:

- **UCPM Evaluation** Communication
- Outcomes of **Scenario building** initiative
- **Knowledge Network** online platform
- Civil Protection **Forums**
- **Preparedness Strategy** (*upcoming*)

Inclusion in Civil Protection capacities

Inclusiveness under the UCPM



Example: 15% of rescEU shelter capacity should be accessible to people with some form of disability

- Accessible shelter units and tents, WASH units, eating spaces, infirmary

Example: taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups

- Availability of child-friendly spaces
- Tailored hygiene kits
- Safe and lockable WASH units

Best practice: In the case of the Swedish rescEU shelter capacity, gender field expert will be deployed with the capacities and attention is paid to recruiting staff composed of men and women.

ERCC operations and exercises

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

The **ERCC** has successfully coordinated several **evacuations** of people with physical and mental disabilities ensuring a **safe transfer of patients** to other countries.

Example: in the current context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the ERCC evacuated a group of **110 Ukrainian psychiatric patients** through the UCPM

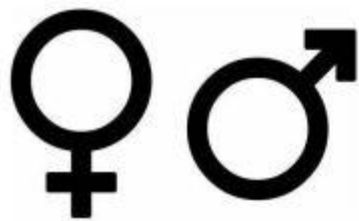


The **needs of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups have always been considered in exercise scenarios** among the main goals and were evaluated during training and exercise activities.

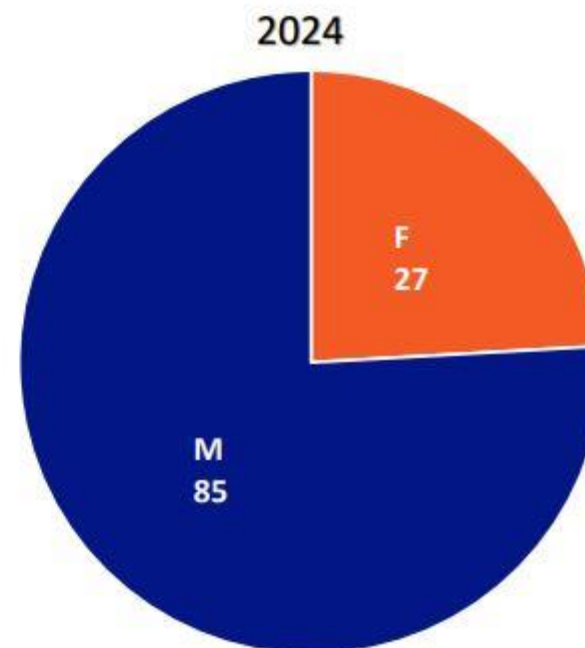
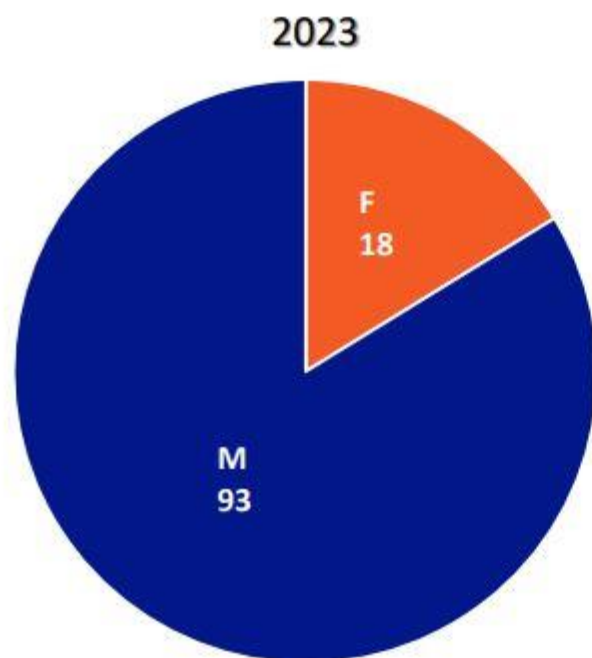
- EU MODEX for water related modules, organized in Austria (*November 2024*), where people with mental or physical disabilities as well as elderly were trapped on the island of the Mura river and had to be evacuated.
- EU MODEX in Portugal (*January 2025*), the scenario included evacuation of numerous patients from a collapsed hospital (earthquake scenario). The victims included pregnant women, children and the elderly.

ERCC deployments

Inclusiveness under the UCPM



UCPM Experts Deployed by Gender



ERCC deployments

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

Year	F	M	Ratio (F)	Total
2013	1	33	3%	34
2014	6	40	13%	46
2015	6	30	17%	36
2016	16	69	19%	85
2017	9	42	18%	51
2018	4	26	13%	30
2019	11	68	14%	79
2020	4	11	27%	15
2021	12	28	30%	40
2022	29	84	26%	113
2023	18	93	16%	111
2024	27	86	24%	113
Total	98	431	19%	529

UCPM experts deployed by gender

Year	F	M	Total	% of F
2014	1	6	7	14%
2015	0	7	7	0%
2016	3	10	13	23%
2017	2	6	8	25%
2018	3	6	9	33%
2019	5	13	18	28%
2020	4	2	6	67%
2021	1	7	8	13%
2022	8	16	24	33%
2023	15	28	43	35%
2024	15	33	46	33%
Total	23	77	100	23%

UCPM LO deployed by gender

UCPM Training Programme

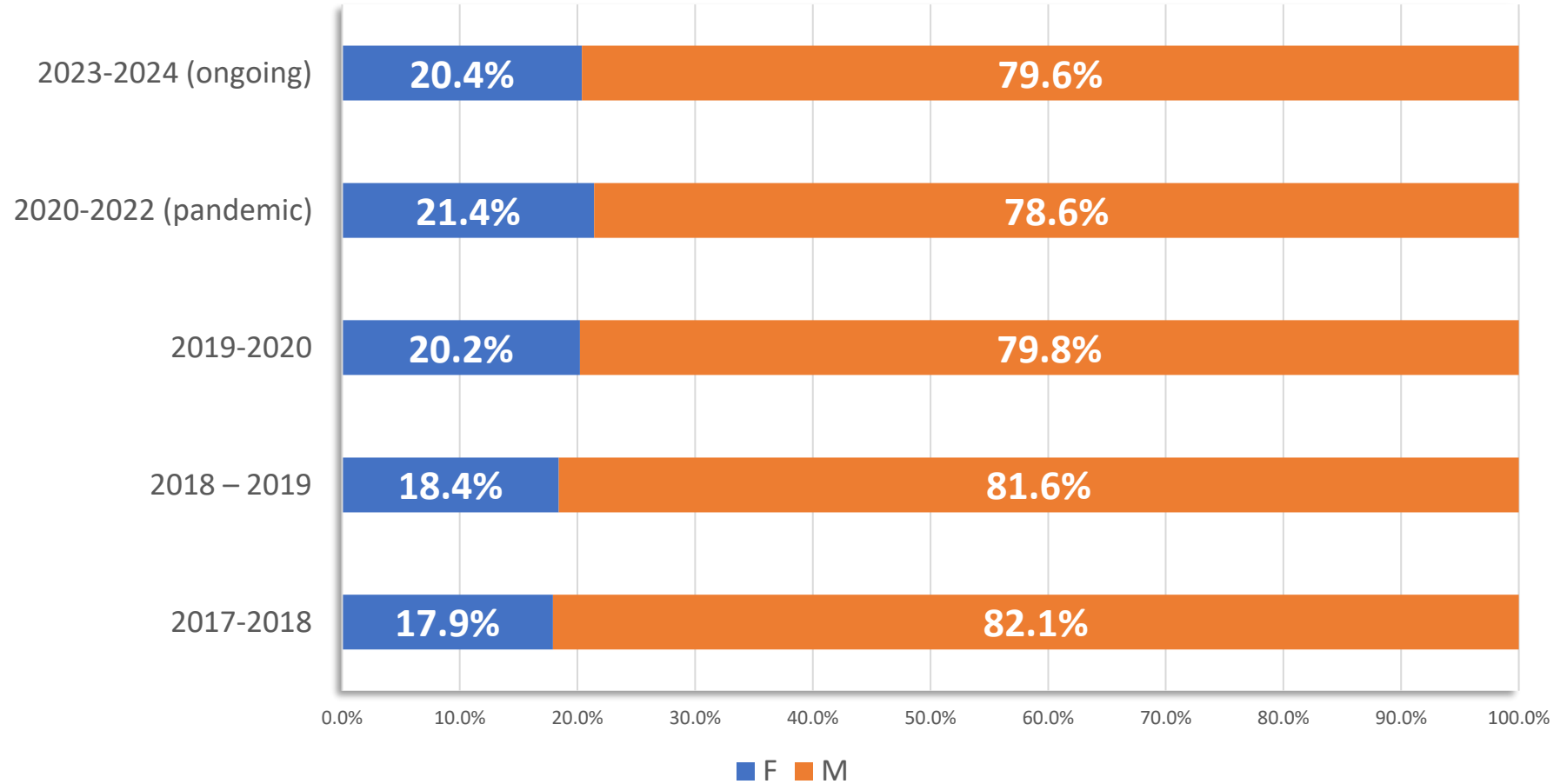
Inclusiveness under the UCPM

- From this year, the **UCPM Training Programme** has integrated a comprehensive **Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) curriculum**. This will be implemented particularly in all deployable training pathway courses using a building block approach, i.e. moving progressively from introductory to specialised courses.
- An online module on **Cultural sensitivity and gender is available on EU Academy**: <https://academy.europa.eu/courses/csg-cultural-sensitivity-and-gender-updated>
- Additionally, an elaborated module is part of the Mechanism Introduction Course for National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Staff (NAT): <https://academy.europa.eu/courses/mechanism-introduction-course-for-national-civil-protection-and-disaster-management-staff-nat-1723017507>

Participation in UCPM Training courses

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

Participation in UCPM Training courses



Disaster Resilience Goals

Inclusiveness under the UCPM

Enhancing inclusiveness as a key horizontal principle for disaster risk management, set out in the first Commission Recommendation on **Union Disaster Resilience Goals** adopted in February 2023.

It considers **risk assessment and planning, public risk awareness and early warning** call for specific attention for the needs of people with disabilities.



Anticipate

Improve risk assessment, anticipation and risk management planning



Prepare

Increase risk awareness and preparedness of the population



Alert

Enhance early warning



Respond

Enhance the Union Civil Protection Mechanism response capacity



Secure

Ensure a robust civil protection system