



# Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management Summer School 2025

*29 Sep – 01 Oct 2025, Barcelona, Spain*

## Overview of the Classes

### Introduction

The [2025 Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management \(DRM\) Summer School](#) welcomes approximately 80 policy, operational and scientific staff from UCPM Member States/Participants States, the European Commission, partner organisations as well as select participants from an open call. A balanced mix of work profiles, gender, and geographical background will be sought.

The Summer School 2025 comprises eight different classes that are repeated three to four times during the workshop. Each participant has, therefore, the unique opportunity to attend four classes chosen among those of his/her interest. Each class consists of a general intro followed by interactive exercises.

Before the workshop starts, it is **mandatory** for each participant to complete the [Introduction to the UCPM e-course](#) on the EU Academy.

The main learning objective of the workshop is that participants gain:

- **New knowledge on how to better integrate scientific evidence into policymaking** based on the European Commission's Joint Research Centre [competence framework for policymakers and researchers](#).
  - **Scientists will** learn how to better communicate and visualise their results, tackle uncertainty and align their projects with policy and gain operational needs (competences on [Science for Policy](#)).
  - **Policymakers and operational** staff will learn how research can support policy, which science can be relevant to their field, where to find it and how to interpret it, and what can be expected from researchers (competences on [Innovative Policymaking](#)).

### Preliminary descriptions of the classes

### **1. Harnessing the economics of disaster risk management and smart**

**investing tools:** Analyses the financial aspects of disaster management, using socio-economic data and case studies. It offers perspectives on evaluating economic impacts and strategies for building economies with preparedness-by-design as well as practical tools in smart investing, such as the Commission's instruments. This Masterclass is based on the joint studies by DG ECHO and the World Bank on Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness.

### **2. Developing a risk communication approach to support population**

**preparedness:** Provides practical examples and theoretical insights into effective communication that engages the public during crisis prevention, preparedness and response, addressing the challenges of science and policy integration as well as dis/misinformation. It complements the preparEU initiative on risk communication (such as 72hr objective on household preparedness) and is supported by DG JRC's findings on disaster preparedness and prevention by its Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights.

### **3. Cyber security incidents, blackouts, and energy disruptions as emerging disasters requiring private-public cooperation:**

Focuses on new forms of technological disasters<sup>1</sup> and private-public cooperation around it as evidenced by DG ECHO's policy needs. This Masterclass ranges from comprehending the threats and vulnerabilities to formulating effective mitigation strategies and response plans in a tabletop exercise format – with the objective to explore what sort of preparedness targets should be designed for each area.

**4. Leveraging open-source data in crisis management:** Investigates the use of open-source data in crisis management, including its application in creating daily analytical products on natural hazards, conflict or security by DG JRC's European Crisis Management Laboratory. It provides a practical understanding of different techniques on using open-source data reliably while mitigating the risks of dis/misinformation.

### **5. The climate-security nexus: preparedness in the Face of Climate-Related Disasters - A Humanitarian Security Approach:**

Climate change is a risk multiplier, with profound impact on Europe and the world. This class explores the intricate relationship between climate change and global security, highlighting how environmental shifts contribute to geopolitical instability and require efforts from both civil protection and humanitarian aid. Key themes include resource scarcity, anticipatory action, and the role of extreme weather events. It discusses how to implement preparedness-by-design in adaptation planning, greening of response

<sup>1</sup> For example, see [European action plan on the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers](#).

delivery, and the possibilities of the Commission's instruments (e.g., Disaster Preparedness and European Climate Risk Assessment) to support it.

## **6. The multiple uses of artificial intelligence and machine learning for**

**preparedness:** Explores how AI and ML can revolutionise DRM, highlighting both its potential and the ethical considerations involved. Based on DG JRC's latest innovations in artificial intelligence and machine learning tools, it provides practical examples and encourages participants to work on an analysis of AI and ML usage in several disaster scenarios with the intent to mainstream them into preparedness.

## **7. Preparedness and resilience for managing the systemic risk of compounding**

**disasters:** Provides insights on strategies for increasing preparedness against complex disasters, using real-world examples like recent earthquakes and floods. This Masterclass links the use of early warning systems with to reduce systemic vulnerabilities while incorporating dynamic risk scenarios into contingency planning and response.

**8. Applying foresight in disaster risk management:** Engages participants in a comprehensive foresight exercise to anticipate future EU risks. The team from DG JRC's Competence Centre on Foresight provide the participants a guided discussion platform to enhance predictive capabilities in disaster risk management for both operational and scientific actors. It explores how could foresight be implemented as an inherent design into preparedness.