



Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

Activities Report 2024-2025



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Foreword

When we launched the Knowledge Network in 2021, it was difficult to imagine how important its role in supporting knowledge sharing and collaboration would become for the civil protection community in Europe. In today's context, with an increasing number of disasters related to climate change, combined with hybrid threats and conflict on Europe's borders, the need to share good practices and build networks has become more relevant than ever to those in the civil protection community in EU Member States and UCPM participating states.

The first two years of the Knowledge Network (2022-2023) saw the broadening of the pre-existing 'training network' into many more activities spanning the entire spectrum of the UCPM's work. Over the past two years (2024-2025) the Knowledge Network has further evolved into a knowledge hub that connects the civil protection community and enables them to share the expertise and research that they need. For us, as directors of the departments that lead on training and exercises, and prevention, preparedness capacity building, the growth and consolidation of the Knowledge Network have been rewarding to witness, and we are proud of the work that has taken place across the community over the past two years.

The introduction of the **Preparedness Union Strategy**, in March 2025, marked a new era for the Knowledge Network. With its wide-reaching cross-society approach, the strategy placed an emphasis on sharing information and good practice across Member States, and the Knowledge Network is already demonstrating its value in that role, for example, through its work in training on risk communication, as part of preparEU.

The Knowledge Network's increasing relevance in **supporting partnerships** is evident through the unprecedented applications for funding received, as well as the increased range of opportunities for strengthening prevention and preparedness, with the launch of new instruments for technical assistance, including with partners such as the World Bank and the Red Cross.

Networking and collaboration have been very much on display through events including the Civil Protection Forum – which brought 1 500 members of



the community to Brussels in 2024 and which will take place again in November 2026. The wide variety of workshops and events which were run across Member States, and the sharp growth of the Knowledge Network Platform following the addition of the library and notification system for community groups, have also played a key role.

Our high-quality training offer continued to expand, and we saw increasing numbers of community members enrolling in the UCPM courses offered across the EU. Exercises also further developed, helping to strengthen the preparedness of the civil protection community. Having had the chance to take part in EU MODEX exercises, we were able to see for ourselves their relevance in recreating a realistic training environment.

The **scientific pillar** of the Knowledge Network also significantly developed, consolidating its innovative role on sharing research and in artificial intelligence, as well as its objective to bridge the gap between science and policy, such as through its annual summer schools.

Of course, the Knowledge Network was always designed to be a tool that was 'by the community, for the community.' Without the collaboration of our Member States (fully recognising that the EU has a support competence in this area) as well as projects, researchers, first responders, the academic community, members of staff and many more, it simply would not exist. A big thank you to all those in the civil protection community for their support, collaboration, and engagement over the past two years..

Hanna Jahns

Director of Strategy and Policy

Michela Matuella

Director Emergency Response Coordination Centre

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations



Introduction

Building on the strong foundations laid during its first two years (2022-2023), when the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network consolidated existing initiatives and helped strengthen them, the Knowledge Network matured in 2024-2025 into a dynamic hub for European civil protection cooperation, delivering concrete results under increasingly complex operational conditions.

The Knowledge Network continues to be shaped around the serious challenges facing European civil protection today, while taking into account the EU competence to support Member States under the Treaties. From intensifying hybrid threats to unprecedented climate-related disasters affecting communities across Europe, the interdependencies of our societies make it vital to have systems that operate well together at all levels. This can only be achieved by ensuring that shared expertise and knowledge exchange are well supported. This premise has continued to inform our collective work, grounded in the [Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#).

During 2024 and 2025, the Knowledge Network demonstrated its value in action. The eighth European Civil Protection Forum, held in Brussels in June 2024, brought together nearly 1 500 participants – the largest and most inclusive gathering in the event’s history – to chart the path towards a disaster-resilient Union. The Disaster Resilience Goals, collectively devised in 2023, moved from policy to practice, providing strategic direction for prevention and preparedness efforts across all EU Member States and participating states. And with the launch of the Preparedness Union Strategy in March 2025, the Knowledge Network positioned itself as a critical enabler of Europe’s ambition to build resilience by design across all policy areas.

This report sets out key achievements, results and lessons learnt in 2024-2025 under each of the Knowledge Network’s three goals – Stronger Community, Shared Knowledge for Action, and Research that Matters. The activities described on the following pages were implemented by different teams across Commission services, in close collaboration with EU Member States and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) participating states and other civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) stakeholders.



	Goal 1: Stronger Community	Goal 2: Shared Knowledge for Action	Goal 3: Research that Matters
Strategic level	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate communication and partnership building between civil protection and DRM actors [...]. To enable an inclusive civil protection and DRM community, offering peer support and cooperation beyond formal structures. To create a dedicated space for civil protection and DRM actors to communicate, interact, and collaborate. <p>Adapted from the Strategic Plan 2022-2026.</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To enable civil protection and DRM actors to develop and share their knowledge, expertise, lessons learnt and good practices in an effective and efficient way. To provide a high-quality training offer [...]. To enhance coordination, cooperation, compatibility, and complementarity of UCPM actors and capacities [...]. To promote disaster risk management policies and practices [...] and support disaster risk communication and awareness (...). To support higher visibility of and facilitate access to relevant activities and results of the EU funded projects. <p>Adopted from the Strategic Plan 2022-2026</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To link the scientific community with operational actors within the UCPM [...]. To identify and feed the scientific and research needs of the civil protection and DRM community into the national and international research agendas. To strengthen the development, sharing and use of scientific knowledge in all phases of DRM. To make the scientific knowledge easily accessible and operational [...]. <p>Adapted from the Strategic Plan 2022-2026</p>
Implementation level	<p>Capacity Development Pillar (examples of activities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls for proposals (KAPP, Track 1) TAFF <p>Cross-cutting Activities (examples):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform and Newsletters European Civil Protection Forum 	<p>Capacity Development Pillar (examples of activities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCPM Training, Exercises and Exchange of Experts Programmes Peer Review programme Population preparedness actions (including PrepaEU) 	<p>Science Pillar (examples of activities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on AI Horizon planning Evidence for Policy in DRM Summer School



Goal 1: Stronger Community

Supporting collaboration between civil protection and disaster risk management stakeholders

Over the past two years, the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network's role in knowledge sharing among civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) policymakers, scientists and practitioners has grown considerably. The underlying assumption of this goal's activities is that by working together, we become stronger together.

Partnerships as a key to disaster resilience

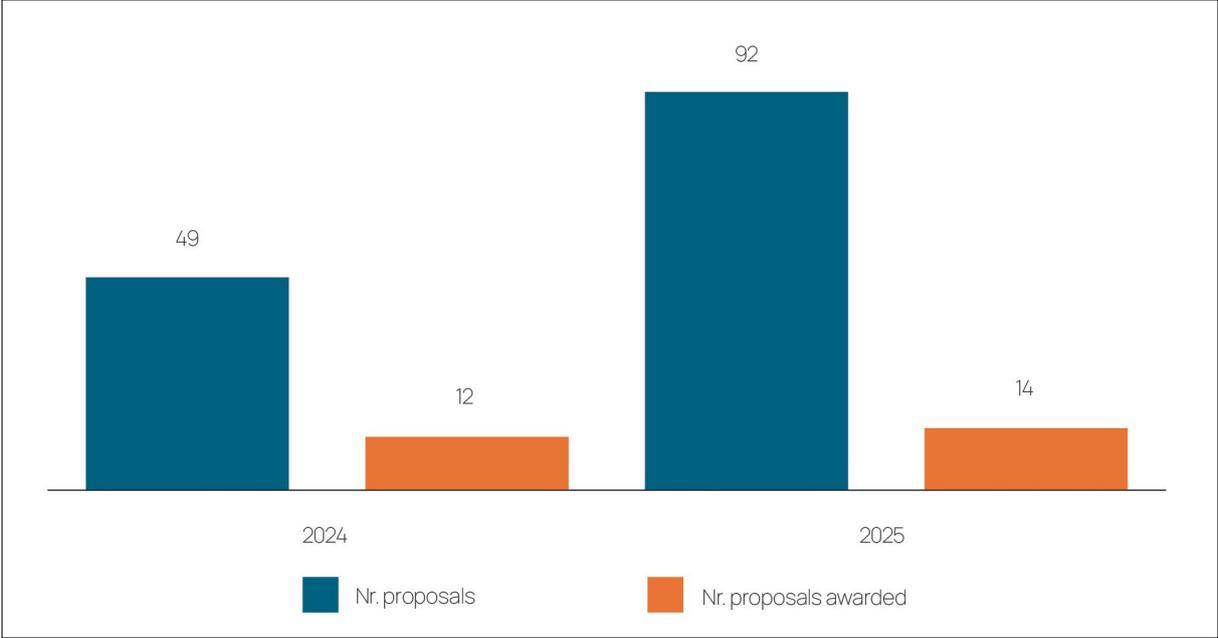
The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) has continued to support prevention and preparedness activities through project funding across borders and hazard types, following a partnership and knowledge-sharing approach. Interest in the existing multi- and single-country disaster resilience grants – Knowledge for Action in Prevention & Preparedness (KAPP) and Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management (Track 1) – has increased substantially over the past two years.

In 2024, a further funding instrument was added to the UCPM capacity building toolbox. The [Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness \(TAFF\)](#) was set up to enable national civil protection and disaster risk management authorities to access technical assistance and global knowledge on prevention and preparedness, supporting country and EU efforts on disaster risk management. Countries eligible for TAFF support include EU Member States, UCPM participating states, and Kosovo (!) given its ongoing efforts to join the UCPM. This instrument is implemented by the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

(!) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with the United Nations Security Council (UNSCR) 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

The [Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness \(KAPP\)](#) call supports projects that strengthen cooperation and innovation among EU Member States and UCPM participating states on disaster prevention and preparedness. It provides a testing environment and learning opportunity for stakeholders involved in civil protection assistance interventions, through full-scale field exercises. It also supports the implementation of the Union Disaster Resilience Goals.

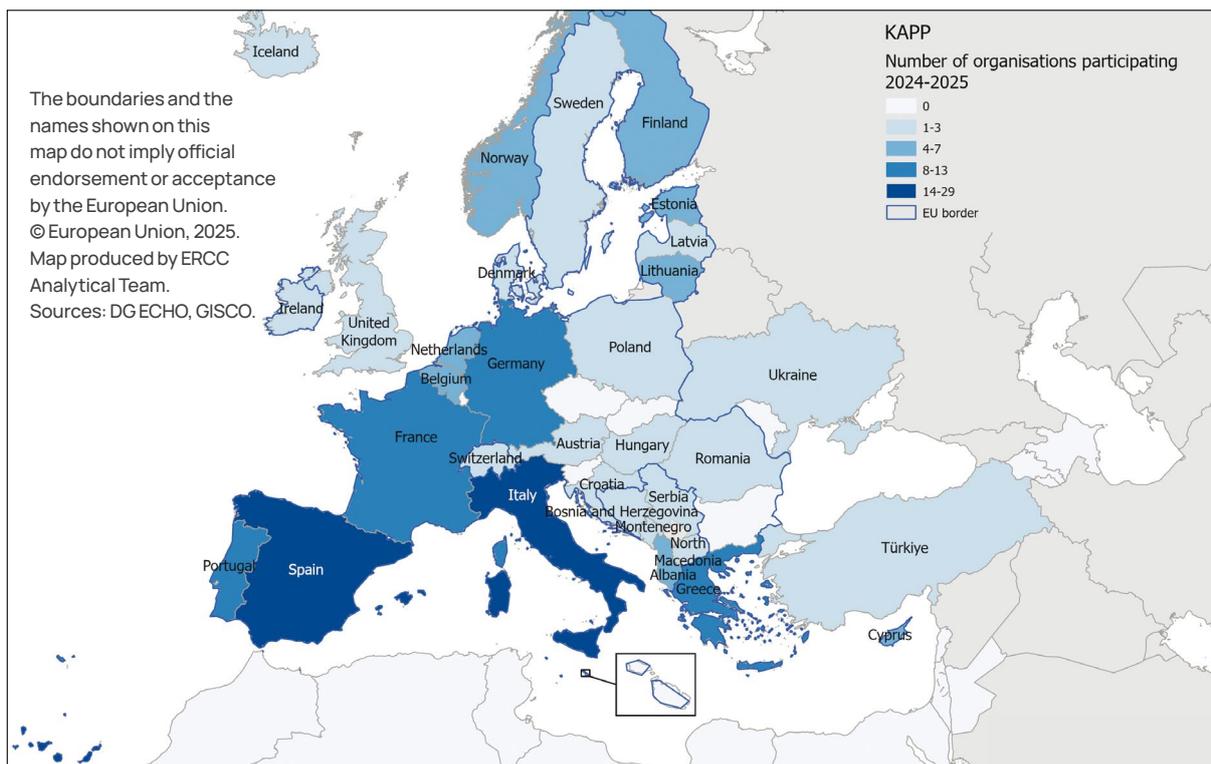
Under KAPP's prevention and preparedness topics, the number of proposals received has grown from 27 in 2023 to 49 in 2024 and 92 in 2025. Of these, 12 were selected for funding in 2024 and 14 in 2025. In 2024, requested EU co-financing across all proposals totalled EUR 40 million, while the available budget was EUR 9.9 million. In 2025, requested EU co-financing rose to EUR 76.2 million, against an available budget of EUR 11.8 million.



Graph 1: Number of proposals submitted and projects awarded under KAPP PREV-PREP 2023-2025. © European Union 2025

Under the multi-country grants (KAPP PREV-PREP and its predecessor call for proposals), a total of **47 multi-country projects** were implemented throughout 2024 and 2025, including projects awarded in previous years. They brought together **294 organisations from 40 eligible countries** – EU Member States and UCPM participating states, as well as enlargement and neighbourhood countries. The consortia reflected the diverse civil protection and disaster risk management community, collaborating with national civil protection authorities, local and regional authorities, first responder organisations, universities and research institutes, civil society organisations and private sector entities.

These multi-country partnerships addressed a broad range of topics. These included improving forecasting and early warning systems, developing disaster and damage loss databases, refining and updating risk management frameworks, and strengthening community engagement and education (for example, on wildfire risk awareness). Most projects results are available on a [dedicated online platform](#) developed by the Knowledge Network.



Map 1: Participating organisations in awarded KAPP projects (2024-2025). © European Union 2025.

NEAM-COMMITMENT project (NEAM Collaboration for Improved tsunami Risk Mitigation and management)

EU contribution:
EUR 887108

Implementation:
02/2025 – 01/2027

Partner countries:
Greece, Italy, Spain, Cyprus

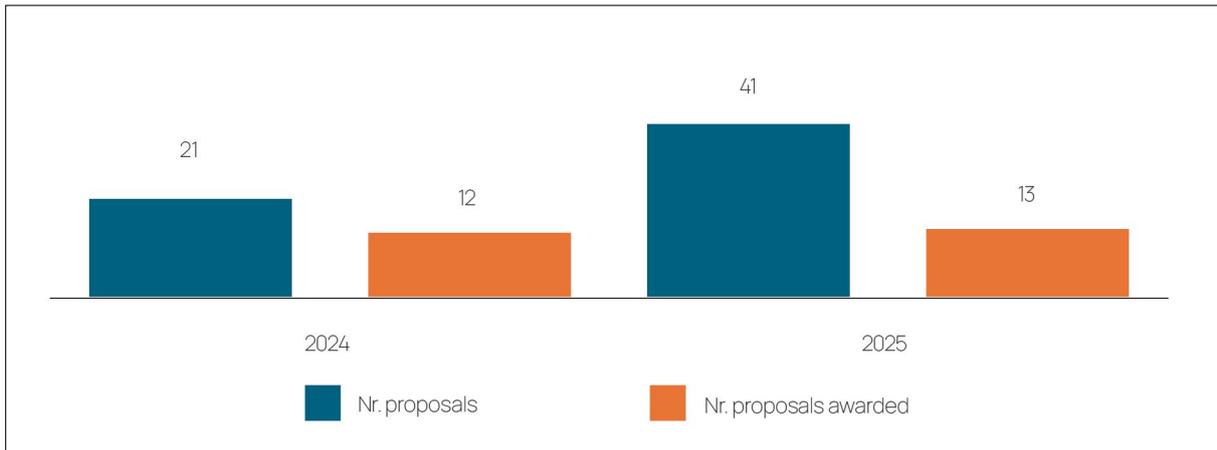
The KAPP project aims to improve tsunami risk management and planning in the NEAM (North East Atlantic, Mediterranean and Adjacent Seas) region, with capacity building through tsunami hazard assessment and mapping at the national scale, and improved tsunami evacuation planning at the local level.

This project complements the activities of the UNESCO-lead (EU funded) project CoastWAVE. NEAM-COMMITMENT partly builds on the results of CoastWAVE. And it is complementary to the CoastWAVE 2.0 developments on hazard assessment and intends to scale upscale tsunami inundation maps to national level.

<https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/neam-commitment>

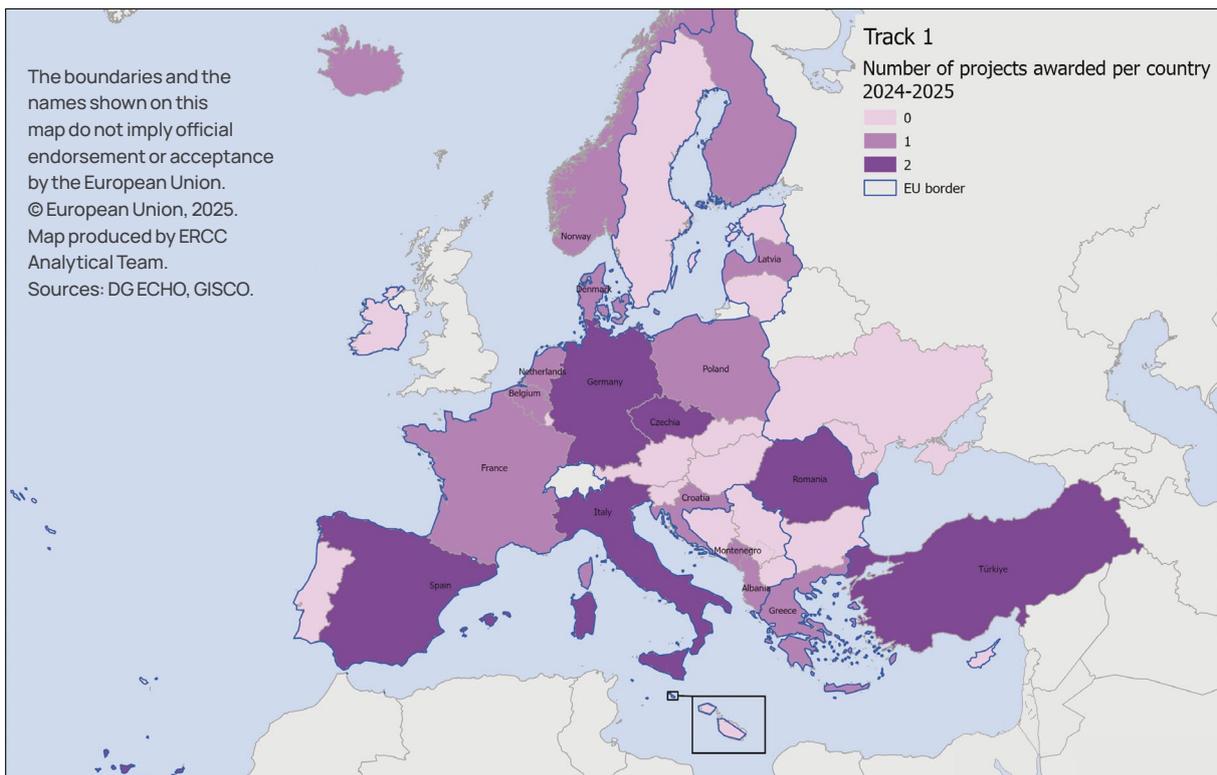
Technical assistance as a key to strengthening national capacity

Under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), grants are also awarded to single-country projects through [Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management \(Track 1\)](#) to directly support national disaster risk management authorities in prevention and preparedness. This funding can be used for strategic activities – such as feasibility studies, proposals, policies and plans – that can leverage investment to achieve a greater disaster risk management impact.



Graph 2: Proposals submitted, and projects awarded under Track 1 (2024-2025).

As with the Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP), the Track 1 call saw a significant increase in proposals, nearly doubling from 2024 to 2025. The requested budget increased from EUR 8 million in 2024 to EUR 21 million in 2025, while the available EU co-funding was EUR 5.4 million in 2024 and EUR 6.2 million in 2025.



Map 2: Awarded Track 1 projects (2024–2025). © European Union 2025.

A total of 44 single-country technical assistance projects, funded by the UCPM through the Track 1 programme, were implemented in 22 countries in 2024 and 2025, including projects awarded in previous years. National civil protection and other disaster risk management authorities used the funding to develop or improve technological tools, strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation, strategic frameworks and national guidelines, and enhance their overall civil protection systems.

PWinPlan, Estonia

EU contribution:
EUR 508 250

Implementation:
12/2023 – 05/2025

Supported through the 'Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management' tool, this project developed a solution for sending location-based warning messages to mobile phones either in Estonian, Russian or English depending on the preferences set by the owner of the phone number. This unique solution enables faster sending of warning messages, clearer messages and better reach to all population. The multilingual approach enhances response effectiveness, particularly for vulnerable groups like the elderly and children.

<https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/pwinplan>

The results of Track 1 projects are widely disseminated across the Knowledge Network, allowing stakeholders to draw inspiration for their own activities and potentially submit new project proposals.

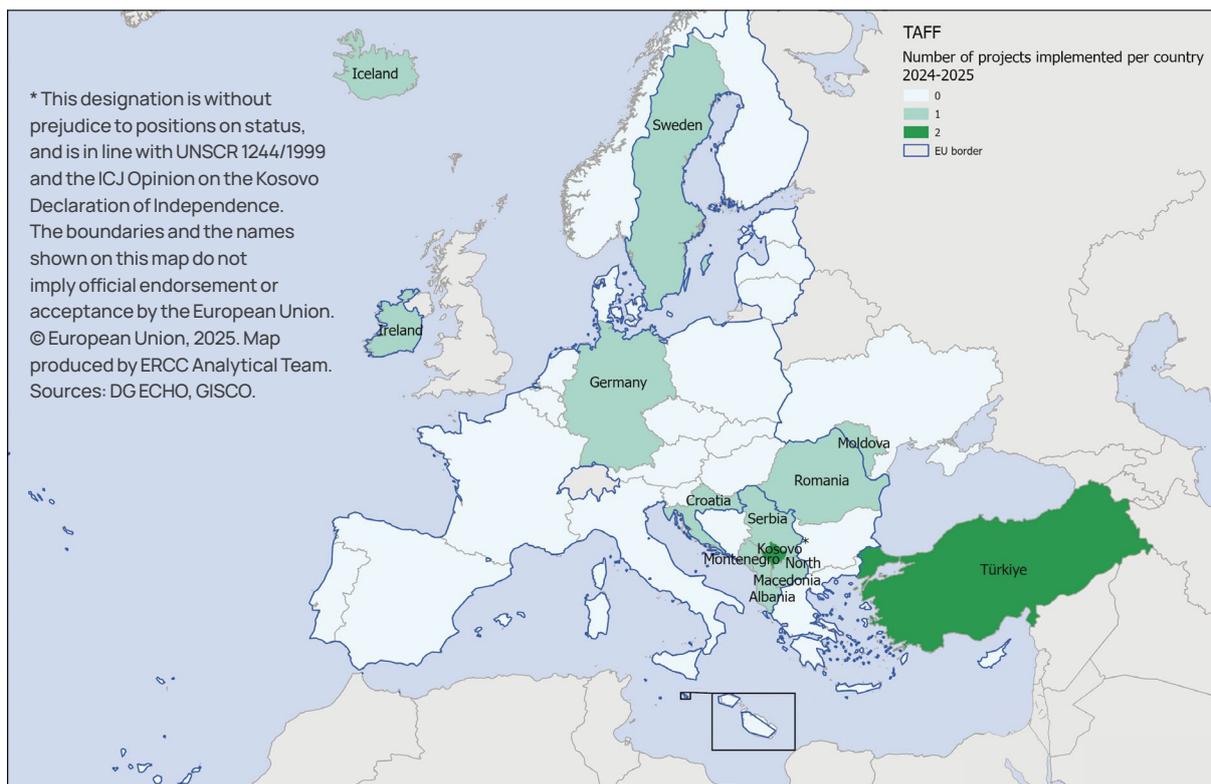
Complementing the Track 1 programme with a different implementation modality, the [Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness \(TAFF\)](#) is a partnership between the European Commission, through its Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). TAFF differs from Track 1 as an administratively lighter modality, and draws on the specific technical expertise of the World Bank and GFDRR and their capacity to act as a global disaster risk management (DRM) knowledge broker.

TAFF provides **country-specific technical assistance** to strengthen the capacity of civil protection and other relevant authorities under the UCPM to scale investments that contribute to disaster and climate resilience. This technical assistance includes various types of analytics, technical studies and recommendations for plans and strategies, piloting activities, and capacity-building and training activities.

Key areas of support include:

- anticipate – improving anticipation and disaster risk management planning to address potential hazards proactively;
- prepare – raising risk awareness and preparedness levels among the population to respond effectively to emergencies;
- alert – enhancing early warning and hydro-meteorological systems for the timely and accurate dissemination of information;
- secure – strengthening national civil protection systems to prevent and prepare for disasters.

In the first round of expressions of interest for TAFF, the requested budget was EUR 10.5 million compared with the available budget of EUR 3.1 million. In the second year of TAFF, the requested budget was EUR 6.9 million, while the available budget was EUR 3 million.



Map 3: TAFF projects implemented per country (2024-2025). © European Union 2025.

Under a second window of activities, TAFF also supports knowledge and capacity-building to facilitate **knowledge transfer among countries** on disaster risk management and the exchange of good practices across UCPM countries.

Knowledge products and activities include, for example, studies, collections of best practices and lessons learnt, practical guidance and knowledge notes, interactive workshops and technical deep dives and clinics, and training programmes.

Towards an Integrated Wildfire Risk Management (Iceland)

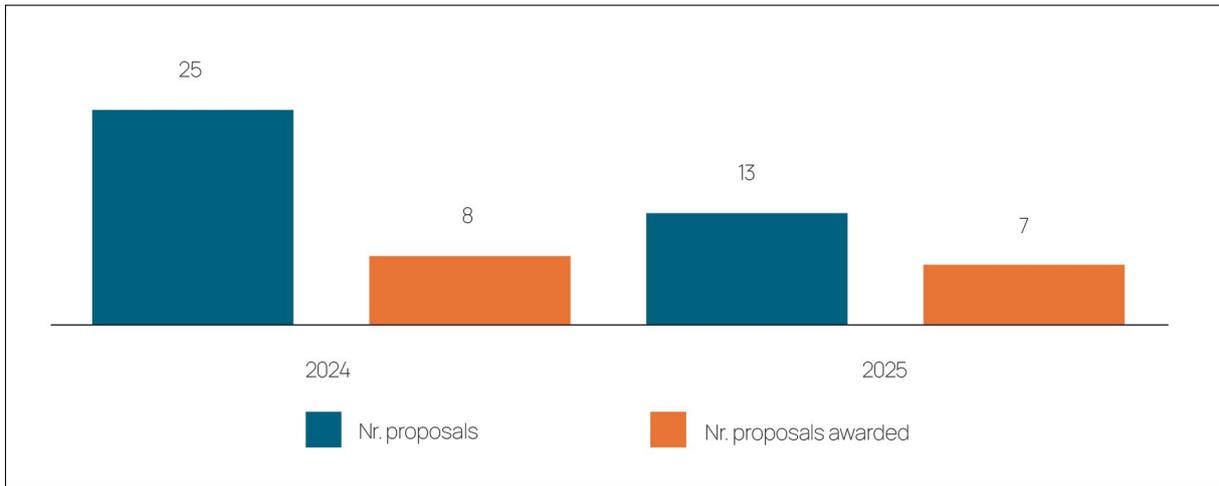
Beneficiary:

Iceland Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management

Implementation:

09/2024 – 11/2025

Supported through the Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF), this project's objective is to provide analytics and recommendations for adopting an integrated wildfire risk management approach in Iceland. The analysis will include understanding of wildfire risk, risk reduction, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (including financial arrangements), as well as governance, coordination, and current initiatives and investments related to wildfire risk management. The results can inform policy dialogue and planning in Iceland and showcase to other countries practical way to diagnose and identify key areas for future action.



Graph 3: Expressions of interest and projects selected under TAFF (2024-2025). © European Union 2025.

A new series of reports prepared under TAFF sets out practical measures to strengthen Europe's preparedness for wildfires and earthquakes. Drawing on case studies from Croatia, Cyprus and Romania, the findings offer insights for governments worldwide on how to allocate resources more effectively and build disaster resilience in the decades ahead.



Country Reports published by the EU, GFDRR and the World Bank. © European Union 2025.

An inclusive community: networking and collaboration to share ideas and good practice

The Knowledge Network was established in 2021 to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of civil protection training and exercises, promote innovation and dialogue, and enhance cooperation between Member States' national civil protection authorities. Four years on, it has gone from strength to strength, with a significant increase in events and engagement, particularly on the Knowledge Network Platform.

Civil Protection Forum – Europe's flagship civil protection event

The eighth edition of the Civil Protection Forum (CPF) took place in Brussels on 4 to 5 June 2024. Over two days, close to 1 500 participants from over 70 countries came together to exchange knowledge, share good practices, engage in discussions, network and strengthen the civil protection community.

The event was organised under the forward-looking theme 'Shaping a disaster-resilient Union: charting a path for the future of European civil protection'.

Two high-level plenary sessions set the scene by celebrating collective achievements and exploring future challenges and opportunities for the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The plenaries emphasised a whole-of-society approach, the need to mainstream climate resilience and the importance of population preparedness. Shared information, continuous risk assessments and cross-sector cooperation were highlighted as key to strengthening Europe's overall resilience.



Opening remarks of the 8th edition by Janez Lenarčič (left) and interactive demonstrations during the CPF (right)
© European Union 2024.

Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management, opened the 8th edition of the European CPF, recalling how far European civil protection has come in recent years and noting that much work still needs to be done for a better prepared, more resilient Europe. The plenaries featured keynote addresses by Sauli Niinistö, special adviser to the president of the European Commission and former president of Finland, and Gaia Vince, award-winning science writer and author. These keynotes were complemented by over 30 breakout sessions, panel debates, participatory workshops, outdoor demonstrations, and networking activities, offering participants a rich and diverse programme.

At the heart of the Forum was the Civil Protection Village, a dynamic exhibition space showcasing the work, expertise and innovation of UCPM stakeholders. A highlight of the event was the UCPM medals ceremony, honouring exceptional contributions.



The Manneken Pis during the Civil Protection Forum Ceremony. © European Union 2024.

In addition, a special event for young civil protection professionals was organised as part of the CPF and was attended by 20 participants. This included a tailored side event and access to all CPF sessions.

A full overview of the discussions, outcomes and key messages is available in the CPF report. The Forum was launched with a special ceremony at Brussels Town Hall to present an EU civil protection response uniform to Belgium's national treasure, the Manneken Pis, which he then wore for a week to draw attention to the EU's role in civil protection.

Shaping the future of civil protection

On 26 February 2025, 23 young leaders from across Europe gathered in Brussels for a Youth Policy Dialogue on preparedness. This event, organised by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) and the EU Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), gave young people the chance to share their views on citizen risk awareness and preparedness with the new Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib.

The EU Youth Policy Dialogue on preparedness marked an important step in ensuring that young people are active contributors to disaster risk reduction. Participants came from different backgrounds, bringing their knowledge and experiences in areas such as healthcare, gender equality and community resilience.



Organisers, speakers and participants at the 'Civil Protection Capacity Building tools and EU Funding Opportunities' workshop in Warsaw, March 2025.

Sharing knowledge and building networks

In autumn 2024, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) launched a new **Knowledge Series, with five events** designed to connect practitioners from across the EU and beyond to drive innovation within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Topics covered so far include [Nature-Based Solutions](#), [Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Risk Management](#), young people in civil protection, and [Global Rapid post-Disaster Damage Estimation \(GRADE\)](#).

In addition, dedicated events on disaster risk management funding were organised in 2024 and 2025 to promote, disseminate and exchange knowledge and good practice in this area.

On 12 and 13 November 2024, the workshop [Boosting Disaster Risk Management Financing](#) brought together over 80 representatives of national civil protection authorities and EU stakeholders in Brussels. The discussions addressed challenges in disaster risk management financing, exchanged good practices and explored opportunities to scale up investments.

As a follow-up to this event, on 25 and 26 March 2025, a workshop entitled [Civil Protection Capacity Building tools and EU Funding Opportunities](#) was held in Warsaw, under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event was attended by 70 representatives from national civil protection authorities in 30 European countries, and representatives of the EU institutions, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the Committee of the Regions, among others.

Finally, on 2 and 3 October 2025, the [Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness \(TAFF\)](#) workshop took place in Brussels, bringing together more than 120 participants from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), TAFF-supported projects, EU institutions and partner organisations. The event served as a forum for knowledge exchange and practical collaboration, highlighting how TAFF is helping countries address disaster risks through concrete projects, technical studies and peer learning.



Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (TAFF) workshop in Brussels, October 2025.

Communication as a key to better understanding and promoting good practice

One of the Knowledge Network's objectives is to facilitate communication between civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) stakeholders at different levels and across disciplines. This extends to providing additional visibility for EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) activities and nurturing a sense of community among key audiences.

The Knowledge Network's main communication channel is its **online platform**, which aims to become the information and collaboration hub for the civil protection and DRM community in Europe. Over the past two years, the platform has gone from strength to strength, with the addition of a Knowledge Library (in June 2024) and a notification system (late 2024), leading to a significant increase in the number of collaborative groups.

Story collection: integrating cultural heritage into disaster risk management

To mark International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2025, the Knowledge Network looked at how cultural heritage is gradually being integrated into civil protection, backed by policy advances, technical guidance, and cross-sectoral cooperation. The editorial team interviewed projects on how cultural heritage protection can be strengthened in emergencies through training, cooperation, and community engagement.



Experts examine a cultural heritage site @PROCULTHER

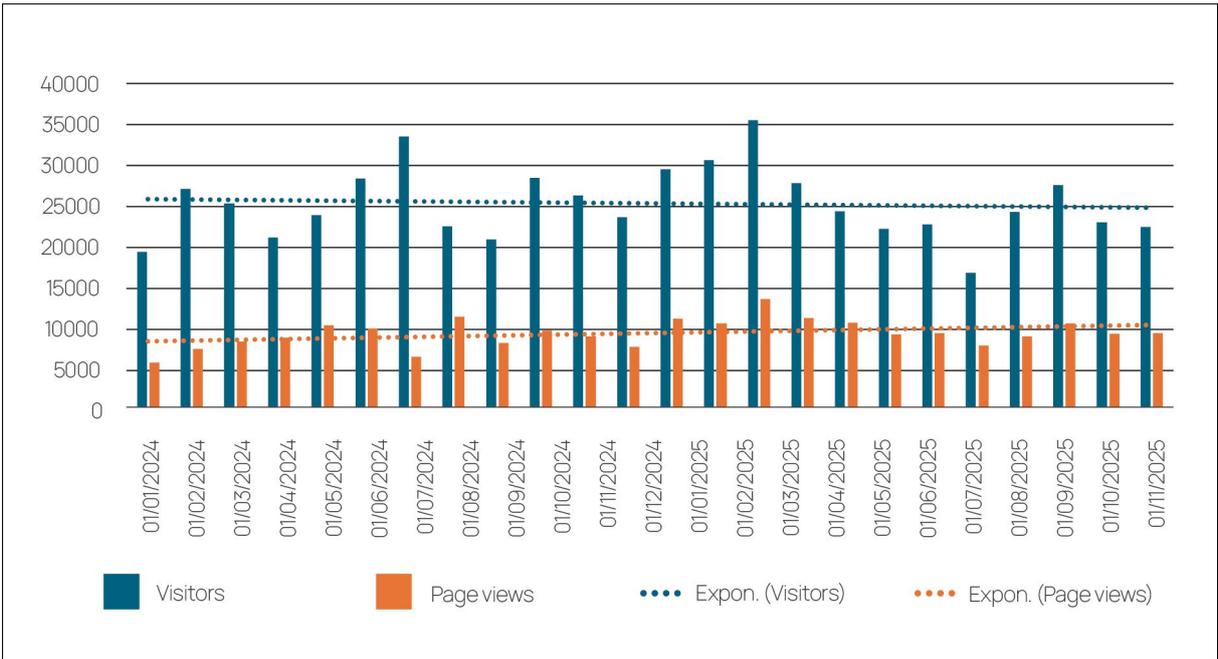
Content was published according to an editorial calendar which incorporated the main civil protection events across EU Member States and UCPM participating states, as well as proactive ideas for stories or interviews, often based on suggestions from the projects themselves. The number of new stories increased significantly in 2024-2025 and were regularly shared on the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) home page and LinkedIn accounts. International 'days', for example, the UN Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (see box above) also provided an opportunity to spotlight the work of individuals in the Knowledge Network community, such as [volunteers](#) and [young people](#) as well as themes including [artificial intelligence](#) and [wildfires](#).

As a decentralised platform, UCPM projects create content on their own **project pages**. In total, 79 pages were set up by projects in 2024 and 2025 to promote their work, events and results. At the end of 2023, project workspaces were opened to other relevant projects to facilitate better knowledge exchange between their

research activities and the more operational or capacity-development focus of UCPM projects. The platform now also hosts Horizon, regional and training projects, for example.

Platform development continued with the addition of a **new notification system**, which means that users are notified of activity in their groups. This has led to a substantial increase in **discussion groups**, from 6 in 2023 to 15 at the end of 2025. A total of **94 discussions** took place over the two years.

New features for information sharing and collaboration, along with additional content, have resulted in a steady increase in traffic and community engagement (see graph below), with **significant growth in visitors** (from an average of 3 416 monthly visitors in 2023 to an average of 9 173 visitors in the last quarter of 2025) and unique page views (from an average of 18 250 in 2024 to an average of 25 808 at the end of 2025).



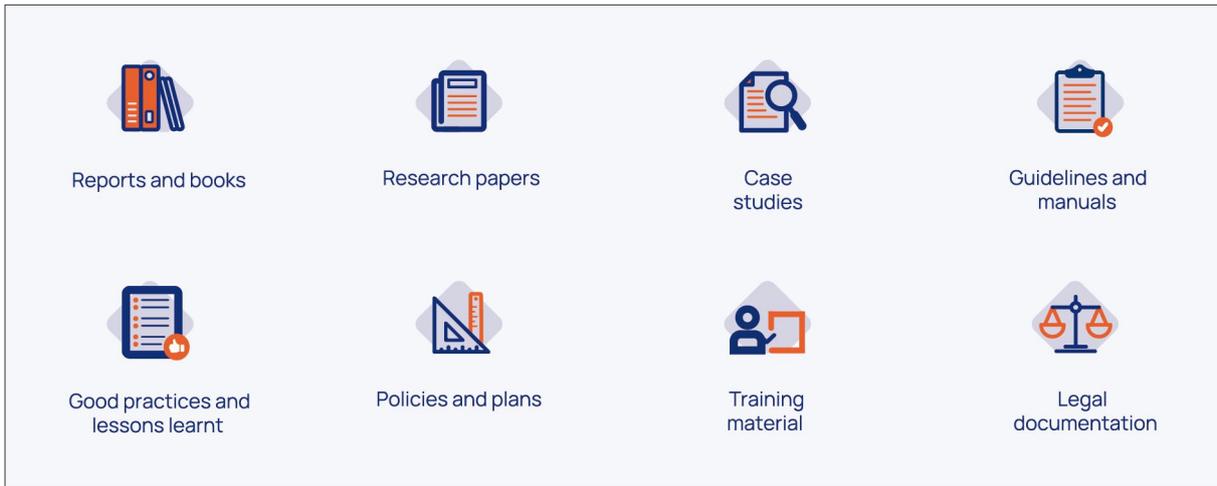
Graph 4: Monthly visitors / page views of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN) (2024-2025). © European Union 2025.

In addition, 1 122 individuals joined the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN) online community in 2024-2025. Over the past two years, a total of **167 events**, **506 news items** and **153 stories** have been published on the platform.

A survey of the community was carried out in early 2025 to assess how the platform was being used. 85% of respondents said they found the platform useful, or quite useful, for their needs. The Knowledge Library was seen as the most useful section of the platform, followed by the news pages and funding pages. Two focus groups held in early 2025 provided additional helpful feedback on areas for improvement and insights into what users appreciated.

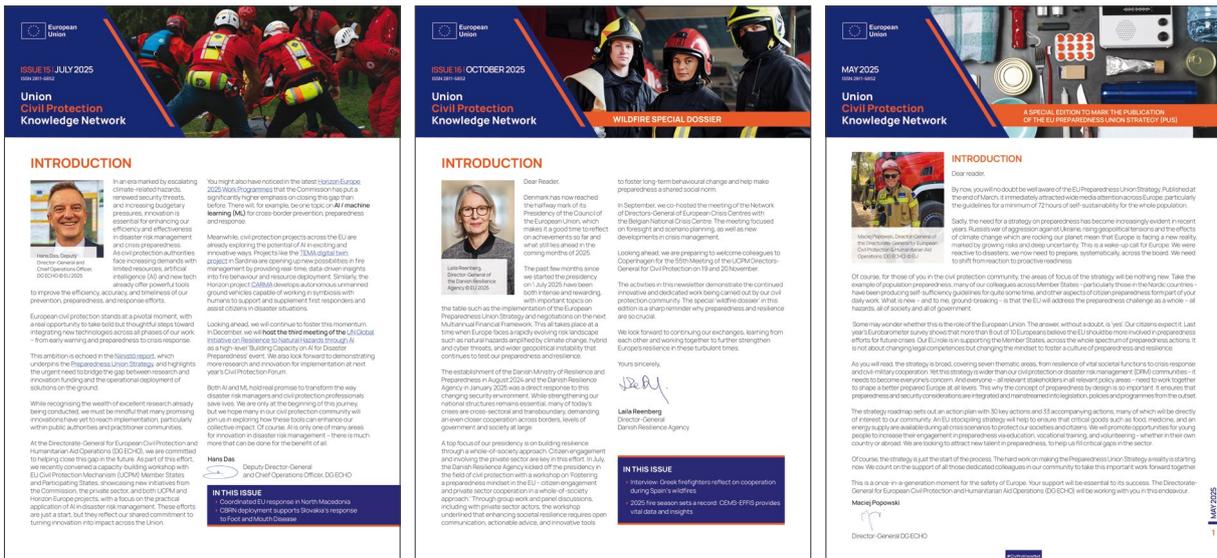
The new [Knowledge Library](#) was launched on the platform in June 2024. Initial user needs assessments conducted in late 2020, before the platform launched, showed that the library was by far the most requested feature of the Knowledge Network Platform, with 83% of users saying it was the feature they would value most.

The Knowledge Library is designed as a central repository where documents relevant to civil protection can be uploaded and shared for stakeholders to access and download. Users can upload documents and enjoy shared resources at [Knowledge Library | UCP Knowledge Network](#).



Overview of different Knowledge Library resource types. © European Union, 2024

An initial beta launch took place in June 2024, with user feedback incorporated ahead of the official launch of the User Dashboard in the autumn of 2024, which allowed users to directly upload their own content. By the end of 2025, more than 400 publications had been uploaded for the community's use.



A selection of recent UCPM newsletters © European Union, 2024 and 2025

Another way the Knowledge Network showcases the diverse activities of the UCPM is through its **newsletter**. Published quarterly, and now in its 17th edition, it reaches over 3 500 subscribers and features news, stories and resources contributed by community members. Recent publications have included special 'dossiers', for example, on wildfires. These have been well received by the community. A special edition of the newsletter was also published to mark the publication of the Preparedness Union Strategy. Readership of the newsletter has increased by an impressive 330 % over the past year.

The Knowledge Network further supports awareness-raising about civil protection and disaster risk management (DRM) activities through dedicated communication products – for example, supporting the publication of a new brochure on the European Civil Protection Capacity Pool and successful projects. It was also heavily involved in communication around the launch of the Preparedness Union Strategy.



Goal 2: Shared Knowledge for Action

Strengthening collective capacity

The Capacity Development pillar of the Knowledge Network focuses on strengthening the skills and preparedness of actors involved in civil protection and disaster risk management. It does so by fostering an environment where stakeholders can exchange knowledge, build new competences and improve their readiness to face major risks. The programmes and projects under this pillar are designed to be practical and forward-looking, drawing on recent lessons learnt, examples of effective practice and innovative methods. They help ensure that EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) stakeholders are equipped for swift and coordinated action in complex, multi-hazard, cross-sector and cross-border situations.

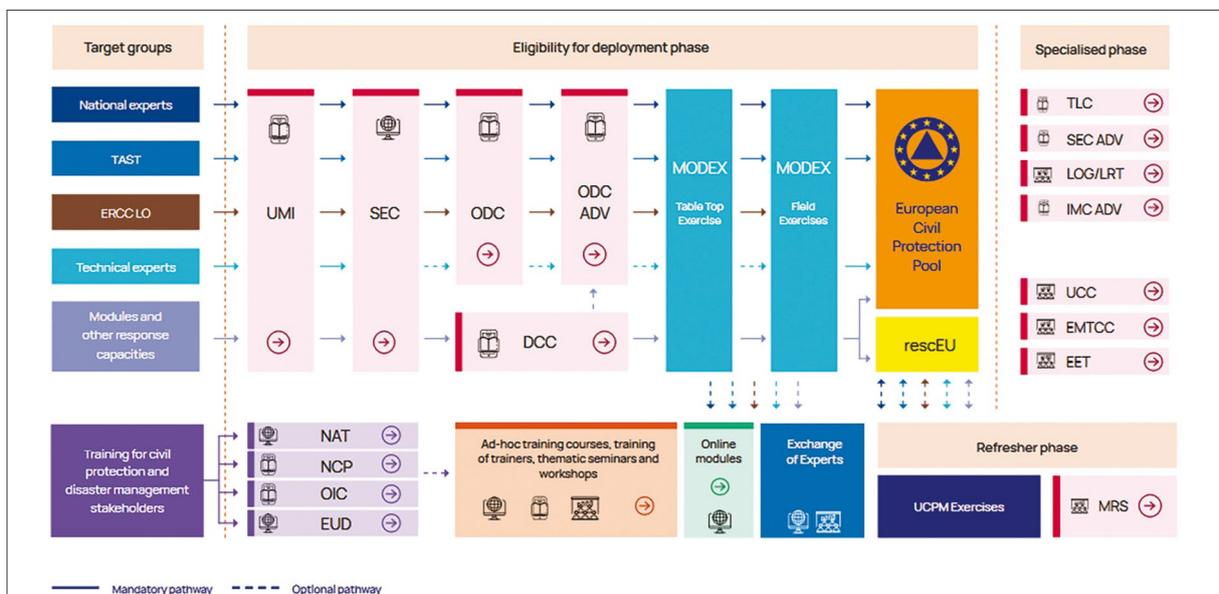
In addition, the pillar supports EU Member States and UCPM participating states in their efforts to boost public awareness and population preparedness for disasters. By promoting collaboration and facilitating the flow of knowledge among experts, the Knowledge Network acts as a broker, providing a shared space for learning, joint work and professional growth.

A high-quality training offer available to the community

The revamped EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Training Programme, launched in 2023, is now fully up and running with new content, formats and delivery modalities.

The **UCPM Training and Exercises Programme** is made up of various training courses and exercises tailored to specific target groups.

- The core of the training programme prepares different categories of experts – European Union Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) experts, Technical Assistance and Support Team (TAST) members, technical experts, modules and other response capacities’ key personnel – for deployment on UCPM missions. This so-called **deployable training pathway** includes the **European Commission–United Nations (EC-UN) joint courses**, which are specialised courses designed to prepare experts for specific deployments, including environmental or medical emergency missions.
- As part of the deployable training pathway, EU MODEX exercises aim to better prepare UCPM experts and response capacities for international deployments under the UCPM (see below). Participants first take part in a tabletop exercise and then in a field exercise. Other UCPM exercises, such as full-scale exercises, are refresher opportunities for already trained experts.
- The additional core component of the programme – **training for civil protection and disaster management stakeholders** – trains individuals who perform a coordination role in emergency management at national level and are involved, in some form, in UCPM assistance.
- **Flexible training**, in the form of ad hoc training courses, training of trainers, and thematic workshops and seminars, addresses emerging needs and risks. It responds to knowledge and skills gaps as they are identified.
- **Online modules** are available on different disaster risk management topics and in different languages, ranging from stand-alone modules – such as ‘Cultural Sensitivity and Gender’ or ‘Information Management’ – to refreshers.
- **Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness**, an e-course on the EU Academy, explains why investing in prevention and preparedness makes economic sense. It draws on the study titled [Economics for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness](#) conducted by the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and the World Bank, which modelled the potential impact of floods and earthquakes on Europe’s society and economy and quantified the costs and benefits of investments in disaster resilience. This course demonstrates why investing in disaster prevention and preparedness makes economic sense.



A snapshot of UCPM training, exercises and exchange programmes. © European Union 2023.

The UCPM Learning Management System hosted by the **EU Academy** offers a central place for all learning activities and events under the UCPM. The online UCPM training registration tool and expert database

on the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) Portal have continued to facilitate the overall management of UCPM training courses and exercises, as well as the automated nomination and selection of participants in different activities.

In 2024, as part of the core UCPM Training Programme (including the European Commission–United Nation (UN) joint courses), the Knowledge Network organised **43 training courses** with **776 participants** from EU Member States, participating states, third countries, Directorate–General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) staff, the UN and international organisations.

In October 2024, the online module **Mechanism Introduction Course for National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Staff** was released. This e-learning, accessible on the EU Academy, aims to increase knowledge of the UCPM and its functioning, particularly the process of requesting and receiving assistance and interacting efficiently with UCPM experts and response capacities.

Under flexible training, several learning activities were developed. The **online module for National Training Coordinators** aims to enhance their knowledge and skills related to all aspects of the UCPM Training, Exercises and Exchange of Experts Programmes. Two **workshops** dedicated to **team leaders of European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) and United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams (UNDAC)** were organised, with the objective of better understanding the mandates, roles and expectations of each team and ultimately building a robust and more effective collaboration in the field. Three **Training of Trainers courses for EU MODEX coach/trainers** were also held.

In 2025, a total of **38 training courses** were organised with close to **645 training places** offered under the core UCPM Training Programme. As part of flexible training, one additional workshop for team leaders of EU Civil Protection (EUCP) and United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams, as well as one Training of Trainers for EU MODEX coach/trainers, was organised, and three **Training of Trainers courses for UCPM training staff** were held with the aim of enhancing the competences of the UCPM training staff to deliver consistent and high-quality training services across all courses of the UCPM training programme.

Turning knowledge into action: civil protection exercises

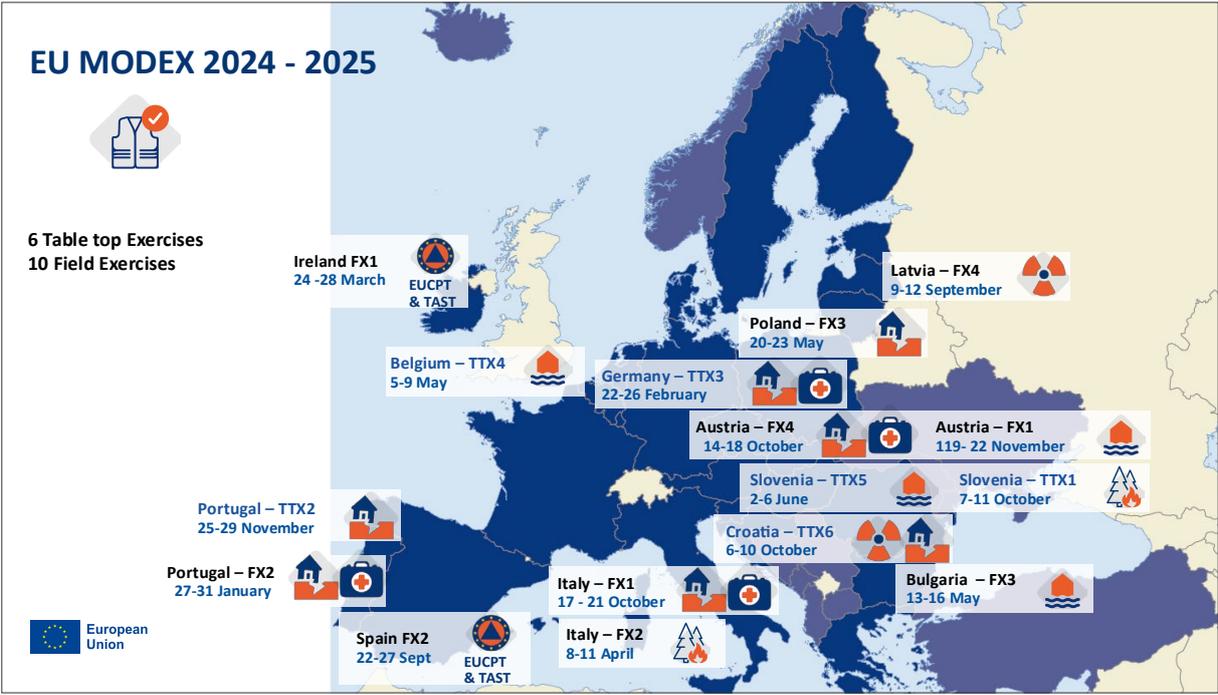
The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) exercises programme is key to enhancing the level of preparedness for UCPM response operations. During 2024–2025, 18 different civil protection exercises took place, including **exercises on civil protection modules, other response capacities, Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST) and European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) – EU MODEX**. Of these, 16 tabletop and field exercises were implemented as part of cycle 12 (see map below). These included a variety of scenarios such as forest fire, flood, CBRN and earthquake response. The exercises were hosted by 12 different EU Member States.

The main objective of EU MODEX is to better prepare response capacities and experts for international deployments to ensure a faster, more coordinated and efficient response to disaster. During EU MODEX exercises, the quality requirements for deployments under the UCPM are tested, in particular cooperation, coordination, interoperability, self-sufficiency, standard operating procedures (SOP), communication and reporting, safety, and security.

Another type of exercise that is organised under the Knowledge Network umbrella are **UCPM full-scale exercises**. These aim to improve civil protection preparedness and response to all kinds of disasters by providing a test environment and a learning opportunity for all actors involved in civil protection assistance interventions. They combine three types of exercises: tabletop, command post and full-scale field exercises.

Two UCPM full-scale exercises took place in the last two years – MAGNITUDE in Germany (October 2024) and FLOODNORTHALB in Albania (April 2025).

The close collaboration continued with the **National Training Coordinators (NTCs)**, a group playing a crucial role in the selection of participants for training and exercise activities, as well as in the successful implementation of the Training, Exercises and Exchange of Experts Programmes. During the annual NTCs meeting in Budapest, Hungary, in November 2024, participants discussed the strengthened role of the NTCs in the revised UCPM Training Programme and took stock of the 'new' UCPM training course implementation. Key discussion areas included: NTCs' experiences in identifying and nominating candidates for training courses and exercises, feedback on participants' performance and recommendations, related challenges and how to address them, and the training placement allocation system and course/exercise selection criteria.



Map 4: Overview of EU MODEX tabletop and field exercises 2024-2025.

The subsequent meeting, hosted by the Danish Presidency in Copenhagen in October 2025, brought together almost all NTCs to dig deeper into the substance of the Training and Exercises Programme implementation, and especially to discuss challenges and best practices related to the management of a national roster of experts and strategies for identifying the right candidates for the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme.

Peer to peer learning and knowledge exchange

The **Exchange of Experts Programme** provides participants with the opportunity to access knowledge and gain experience on all aspects of emergency intervention and the different approaches of national systems, as well as to broaden their operational knowledge and skills through practical experience in the field. It serves to improve the effectiveness of transnational cooperation.

During 2024-2025, a total number of **400 experts** (out of which 380 were from EU Member States and participating states and 20 were from eligible third countries) attended 60 exchanges hosted by civil protection organisations. Topics included volcanic and earthquake risk management aspects, best practices in safety inspections at Seveso sites, responses to large-scale accidents and hostile environment and the establishment and management of resceEU CBRN and medical stockpiles.

Another activity involving peer support is the [UCPM Peer Review Programme](#). It offers eligible countries and regions independent peer reviews, which allow a country or region to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and human-induced disasters by taking a comprehensive look at prevention, preparedness, response and recovery actions.

The peer reviews are guided by the [Disaster Risk Management Peer Review Assessment Framework](#) (DRM PRAF). The analytical framework assists both the country under review in identifying key priorities for their review, and the peer team in carrying out the review analyses and drafting the peer review report. There is a wildfire-specific version of the framework, the Wildfire PRAF, designed to facilitate thematic reviews of wildfire risk management systems. Both the general PRAF and the [Wildfire PRAF](#) can also serve as self-assessment tools for countries and regions to analyse their own wildfire risk management systems. They are also useful references for stakeholders in the civil protection community.

The 2020–2024 programme cycle concluded with three wildfire-specific reviews conducted during the period 2024–2025, using the dedicated wildfire assessment framework throughout the review process. The reviews covered [Greece](#) and [Italy](#) in 2024 and Land Brandenburg (Germany) in 2025. The Brandenburg report is available in [English](#) and [German](#).

For the new peer review programme cycle 2025–2027, a service contract for technical assistance was put in place in autumn 2024. The new cycle, kicked off in January 2025, offers the possibility of conducting up to six peer reviews. Two reviews are already being organised in Kosovo (*) and Czechia.

Since the launch of the programme in 2013, 20 countries and one region have benefited from a peer review. Reports of all reviews are published on the [Peer Review page](#) on the UCP Knowledge Network.

Learning from experience

Another of the Knowledge Network's activities, the **Lessons Learnt Programme (LLP)**, aims to identify what worked well (good practices) and what could be improved (lessons identified), with an objective of continuous learning and development. The programme covers the whole disaster risk management (DRM) cycle and applies an integrated approach (ensuring the process involves all relevant stakeholders and shares knowledge and experience among them). It is a continuous process that feeds lessons and good practices into future deployments, training, exercises and policy work. Inputs for the programme are gathered from deployed UCPM teams, reports and meetings with liaison officers or representatives from affected EU Member States and UCPM participating states, as well as civil protection authorities and other stakeholders and partners.

An LLP annual meeting is organised by the European Commission at least once a year. Other thematic or ad hoc meetings are organised following relevant activation or recent needs.

In the last two years, the following LLP meetings took place:

- September 2024, Brussels (Belgium) – a meeting on UCPM activations related to Russia's war against Ukraine and consular evacuations;
- February 2025, Alcalá de Henares (Spain) – a meeting dedicated to the impact of climate related hazards on the UCPM.

(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with the United Nations Security Council (UNSCR) 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Lessons Learnt Programme meeting - Preliminary lessons from 2025 wildfire season (3-4 November 2025)

Despite efforts on all fronts – prevention, preparedness and response – the 2025 wildfire season has been record-breaking, with over one million hectares burnt. This LLP meeting allowed EU Member States and UCPM participating states to share their experiences and identify preliminary lessons from UCPM activations during the 2025 wildfire season. Experts agreed that integrated governance would help avoid silos in disaster management. They also emphasised the role of fire-behaviour analysis and the growing importance of implementing AI-based solutions for detection and prediction. Furthermore, the deployment of an ERCC liaison officer proved to be very beneficial, especially for the requesting country. More work is needed to improve the international coordination of air-to-air and air-to-ground operations. Finally, pre-positioning was praised as the best way to combine training with real operational support.

Population preparedness

To advance the Disaster Resilience Goal 'Prepare', the Commission launched the **flagship initiative preparEU** in 2023. The initiative began with a mapping of risk communication practices across the EU and consultations with Member States and participating states to identify common needs and the areas where EU-level support could bring the most added value. This initial work revealed a rich yet fragmented landscape, with many valuable risk communication initiatives scattered across countries and difficult to access for peer learning. National authorities also face similar challenges – including limited resources – and expressed a clear interest in support tools and materials that can be adapted to different national and local contexts.

In response, the Commission, through the Knowledge Network, has developed a **capacity-building package comprising**:

- a preparEU pilot training course on risk communication for civil protection authorities;
- a community of practice for risk communication experts to connect practitioners and strengthen peer learning.

The **preparEU pilot training course on risk communication** was co-designed during an interactive workshop held in Brussels in April 2025, with active contributions from risk communication experts from Member States and participating states, international organisations and civil society actors. The pilot course was then delivered in two rounds, in September and November 2025 in the Netherlands. Participants included a total of 31 representatives from Member States and participating states, three participants from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), two experts from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Red Cross.

The pilot received very positive feedback from participants, who highlighted the practical relevance of the content, the quality of exchanges and the usefulness of applying the training to concrete scenarios. The course had a dual purpose: first, to equip participants with the capacities needed to design a public risk communication strategy; and second, to inspire them through a collaborative space where they could share and learn how risk communication strategies or specific interventions have been developed and implemented in other countries and contexts. This exchange of perspectives and experiences fostered reflection, mutual learning and innovation. An evaluation workshop with Member States and participating states will be organised in early 2026 to discuss the next steps for this pilot course.



Participants exchanging perspectives on risk communication strategies in November 2025. © European Union 2025.

The **community of practice for risk communication experts** was launched in April 2025 as an online space within the Knowledge Network platform. In its initial phase, access is provided to participants of the creation workshop and the pilot course, enabling the sharing of training material, experiences and best practices.

To support communication on specific risks, the Commission published a [good practice handbook on wildfire risk awareness raising](#) in 2024. This topic was chosen due to the increasing risk and the crucial role of human behaviour (96% of wildfires are caused by human action). The handbook presents initiatives from across the EU and beyond, highlights key factors of success – including the development of a communication strategy, collaboration across sectors, stakeholder engagement, tailoring messages to local contexts, securing sustained funding, and linking science with practice – and explains how authorities can design and implement such strategies.

Preparedness Union Strategy

The launch of the Preparedness Union Strategy in March 2025 constitutes a landmark framework, setting out 30 key actions and a detailed action plan to enhance Europe's capability to prevent and respond to emerging threats. The strategy's emphasis on an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach aligns perfectly with the Knowledge Network's mission to connect, share and grow expertise across the civil protection community.

Under Chapter 3 on population preparedness, the Knowledge Network has started preparatory work to implement Key Action 27 to 'increase awareness about risks and threats'. It includes both guidelines on how to communicate disaster risks to citizens and an EU Preparedness Day to recognise the efforts of national, regional, and local authorities and communities to enhance preparedness and to raise awareness of preparedness needs in the population. The Knowledge Network also started work on Key Action 28, to develop guidelines for achieving population self-sufficiency for a minimum of 72 hours. Both actions will be carried out in close consultation with Member States during 2026.

Preparedness in education

The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) started work to develop guidelines for embedding preparedness concepts into early childhood and primary education curricula and to equip educators with the skills and tools needed to teach preparedness effectively, in line with Action 29 of the Preparedness Union Strategy.

As part of these efforts, DG EAC distributed a Eurydice questionnaire on preparedness in education in Europe to its national units and an [EU Survey for Teachers](#) while DG ECHO mobilised the [Technical Assistance Financing Facility](#) (TAFF) to conduct a comparative study based on the results of these two questionnaires and surveys. The study will identify the integration of preparedness into early childhood and primary school curricula across the EU and selected countries; assess how supporting institutional structures, teaching materials, and teacher training frameworks tackle preparedness topics; and inform the development of EU-level guidelines for preparedness education. A consultation workshop with European Education Area working groups and members of the preparEU pilot project was held on 4 December 2025. The final study and repository of good practices will be discussed in a workshop with Member States in 2026, before the completion of final guidelines.

These activities for population preparedness are also complemented by a Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) pilot project bringing together Belgium, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Together, they pave the way for future actions in this area.





Goal 3: Research that matters

Following the first two years of the Knowledge Network and a [needs assessment](#), the scientific capacity-building pillar progressed towards more structured activities. This culminated in the first in-person meeting in June 2024 of the disaster risk management (DRM) Science and Planning working group and [a work plan for 2024-2025](#). Previously, the group had completed its work on the scenario-building initiative under Article 10 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, and [met four times](#) during the reporting period. The group was invited (with travel coverage) to attend different related events, such as the EU Science for Preparedness Conference in November 2025.

Focus on operational uptake of research and innovation

Noteworthy results include the first major targeting of Horizon Europe funding towards the civil protection community in the 2025 work programme, with [EUR 100 million available](#) in the area of disaster resilient societies. In addition to following the Preparedness Union Strategy, establishing synergies between operational grants and innovation activity, it is now mandatory in most topics available for project proposals. This trend is set to continue in the final work programmes of the current Horizon Europe period of 2026-2027.

At the request of the Research Executive Agency (REA), 29 officials of the EU Member States and Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) participating states expressed interest in joining the Horizon Europe expert evaluator pool in the summer of 2025. This should better support the alignment of funded projects with real national needs in the future.

Another major result was the work strand on [artificial intelligence \(AI\) for disaster preparedness](#). This is an area with a clear lack of knowledge but strong national needs, as evidenced by a [scoping](#) and [capacity-building](#) workshop, as well as the Scientific Advice Mechanism's report on [AI in Emergency and Crisis management](#). Responding to this, the e-learning course 'Introduction to AI for Disaster Risk Management' (DRM) is under preparation at the EU Academy. The Commission hosted the 3rd meeting of the 'Global Initiative on Resilience

to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions' in December 2025 with over 300 participants in person and online. The Commission also integrated the [Apply AI Strategy](#) into future Knowledge for Action in Prevention & Preparedness (KAPP) calls for medium-term support, and published a position paper on building capacity for AI in disaster preparedness through the Global Initiative.



The Building Capacity for AI-powered Disaster Risk Management workshop in Brussels, June 2025. © European Union 2025.

These combined events showcased the latest and incoming AI-based Commission tools, including the flagship digital twin [Destination Earth](#), work by the Joint Research Centre ([see science for policy brief](#) on AI approaches for DRM), [AI for Public Good](#) support for the Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS), and projects from Horizon Europe such as [CARMA](#) on autonomous rescue robots for emergency response.

Two editions of the Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management Summer School were held – in Vienna 2024 and in Barcelona 2025 – with more than 200 participants in total and the objective of closing the gap between science, policy and operations. On both occasions, 83-87 % of participants rated the quality of the programme as 'very high' or 'above average'. The fifth edition is planned to be held in Tallinn on 26-28 May 2026.

The Civil Protection Forum 2024 was the first time that research and innovation stakeholders, such as consortia from Horizon Europe, were part of the exhibition and the sessions at a scale that helped to further close the science-policy-operations gap. Similarly, the Commission participated in scientific conferences, such as the International Symposium on Safety, Security, and Rescue Robotics, the European Geosciences Union General Assembly, and the ECMWF's AI for Weather and Climate Preparedness and Resilience high-level event, to promote the value of operational uptake in the academic community.

The behavioural science strand and the [Competence Centre on Behavioural Insights](#) continue to support population preparedness, such as through the development of a European pilot training course on risk communication. A knowledge primer on [behavioural insights for disaster preparedness](#) was completed in May 2025 and further virtual reality studies are in progress on how the populations act during emergencies (floods and wildfires) and respond to misinformation during them.

Capacity development and funded projects reinforce scientific activities.

For example, [EUMA](#) and [COLLARIS2](#), while distinct in scope, are complementary in supporting the validation and operational use of scientific knowledge. EUMA is starting the master's programme International Disaster Management and Civil Protection in 2026 while COLLARIS2 is enhancing the use of drones in disaster management. Similarly, [EDERA](#) and [INLINE](#) improve flood early warning in the Copernicus Emergency Management Service and integrate these services further into civil protection authorities.

In many cases, these projects have synergies with research and innovation funding from Horizon Europe, as the [CERIS workshop on synergies in EU funding for civil security](#) in September 2025 showed. For example, the [INCLUDING](#) project supported the build-up of CBRN capacities in rescEU, the Horizon Europe project [FIRE-RES](#) paved the way for the KAPP project [EWED](#) on an extreme wildfire events database, and [TEMA](#) has been part of civil protection exercises to better integrate AI-based modelling and data analytics. Additionally, [CLIMAAX](#) is supporting regions with lump sum funding to run climate risk assessments, and [FIRELOGUE](#) contributed to the development of European integrated wildfire risk management strategies.

Starting in the 2026 work programme, more topics will have a mandatory requirement for proposals in Horizon Europe to build a pipeline to operational and strategic needs, as well as employ co-development with civil protection authorities.

Future of new technologies in disaster preparedness and industry cooperation

For the future, deeper coordination of relevant Horizon Europe projects for the benefit of the civil protection community is already in motion. In addition to this, efforts are being made to bring EU-provided [innovation procurement](#) of required new technologies closer to Member States' authorities, such as through a matchmaking workshop for preparing new projects on 12 March 2026. The AI for disaster preparedness strand is set to continue with four more detailed e-learning modules and integrating AI needs further into the KAPP calls. A polycrisis exploration workshop on stress-testing disaster preparedness, run by the Joint Research Centre, is planned for the second half of 2026.

The proposal for the [European Competitiveness Fund](#) – which would integrate action-oriented topics of Horizon Europe starting from 2028 – is a key component of long-term support to innovation and market uptake in the sector. This integration could necessitate enhanced cooperation with, for example, the public-private Preparedness Task Force, to support both Member States and industry coherently and in compliance with public legislation so that European products successfully transition from prototype to operational use. Bearing these developments in mind, changes to the disaster risk management (DRM) Science and Planning working group could be made to streamline and increase the strategic importance of new technologies.



Conclusion

This activity report on 2024-2025 has provided the European Commission and its partners with a valuable opportunity to reflect on how the Knowledge Network has evolved to meet the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) community's needs during a period of extraordinary challenges. The Knowledge Network has proven its capacity to deliver results even as Europe faces multiple, concurrent crises – from the protracted emergency in Ukraine to devastating wildfires, floods and other climate-related disasters affecting communities across the continent. Colleagues from the Commission, national and regional civil protection authorities, academia, scientists and researchers, first responders, and civil society organisations are also now mobilising around the implementation of the Preparedness Union Strategy.

Looking ahead to 2026, colleagues involved in the implementation of Knowledge Network activities are already preparing for an ambitious programme of work, including the preparations for the next edition of the European Civil Protection Forum. The community will meet once again in Brussels for this ninth edition, to be held in November 2026.

The training courses continue to expand in scope and reach, with an increasingly diverse portfolio of capacity development opportunities. The EU MODEX programme has delivered multiple field and tabletop exercises, strengthening the preparedness and interoperability of civil protection modules across Europe. Peer review missions have provided critical support to Member States and participating states in wildfire risk management, CBRN preparedness and other priority areas, with lessons learnt being systematically captured and shared across the community.

Project coordinators and their partners continue to drive innovation through the Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) programme and Technical Assistance for disaster risk management (DRM) initiatives, with the 2025 call for proposals attracting a record number of applications. The Knowledge Series, launched in autumn 2024, created new opportunities for practitioners, scientists and policymakers to connect around strategic themes including multi-hazard approaches, artificial intelligence, behavioural insights and climate resilience.

As the Knowledge Network continues to implement its Strategic Plan 2022-2026, it does so with confidence that it has established itself as an indispensable pillar of the UCPM. The Knowledge Network will continue to be there, facilitating knowledge exchange and engagement with stakeholders, ready to support the civil protection community as it builds a more resilient Europe, prepared by design for the challenges of the 21st century.

Highlights of 2024

29 February
Belgium



Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) established

The new financial support instrument was set up by the EU and the World Bank to enable national civil protection and disaster risk management authorities to access technical assistance and global knowledge on prevention and preparedness.

June
Belgium



Launch of the Knowledge Library

The Knowledge Library was added to the online platform, significantly increasing the number of knowledge-sharing opportunities.

3 June
Belgium



First in-person meeting of the UCPKN DRM Science and Planning working group

The expert group advanced discussions on disaster risk management science and planning.

20-24 May
Italy



Peer Review

A team of peer experts supported Italy with wildfire risk governance and preparedness and response phases. Special attention was paid to analysing the coordination and collaboration between national and regional levels.

4-5 June
Belgium



8th Civil Protection Forum (CPF)

The flagship CPF, themed 'Shaping a disaster-resilient Union', brought together over 1 500 participants from more than 70 countries for discussions, knowledge exchange and networking.

25-28 November
Hungary



National Training Coordinators (NTCs) meeting

Participants met in Budapest to discuss the strengthened role of NTCs in the revised UCPM Training Programme and review course implementation and selection processes.

12-13 November
Belgium



Boosting Disaster Risk Management Financing workshop

Over 80 representatives of national authorities and EU stakeholders met in Brussels to discuss challenges and opportunities in disaster risk management financing.

20 October
Germany



MAGNITUDE full-scale exercise

The full-scale exercise MAGNITUDE, simulated large-scale disaster scenarios.

17-21 October
Italy



EU MODEX exercise

The exercise brought together over 230 participants from 12 different European countries. The goal was to strengthen civil protection teams' ability to respond to extreme weather events and their impacts on both urban and cultural environments.

26-27 September
Vienna



3rd Summer School: Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management

The summer school provided participants with insights into evidence-based approaches to disaster risk management.

Highlights of 2025

27-31 January

Portugal



EU MODEX exercise

The exercise combined Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Emergency Medical Team (EMT) operations.

14 July

Land Brandenburg,
Germany



Peer Review

A team of peer experts supported the region of Land Brandenburg, Germany, in its wildfire risk management, highlighting the need for an overarching wildfire risk management strategy, improved integration of wildfire prevention in forest management plans, and increased support for local authorities. The report was presented to the authorities in July 2025.

26 February

Belgium



Youth Policy Dialogue on Preparedness

The dialogue brought together 23 young leaders in Brussels to discuss risk awareness and preparedness with Commissioner Hadja Lahbib.

7-11 April

Albania



FLOODNORTHALB full-scale exercise

The exercise simulated large-scale flood scenarios to test civil protection responses.

26 March

Belgium



Launch of the Preparedness Union Strategy

The strategy sets out 30 key actions and a detailed action plan to enhance Europe's capability to prevent and respond to emerging threats, emphasising an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

25-26 March

Poland



Civil Protection Capacity Building and EU Funding Workshop

Held in Warsaw under the Polish EU Presidency, the workshop brought together 70 participants from 30 countries and EU institutions to discuss capacity building and funding opportunities.

23-26 September
The Netherlands



1st preparEU pilot training course on risk communication

A total of 16 representatives from Member States and participating states and one participant from the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) participated in this first iteration of the training. Three days focused on designing risk communication strategies and knowledge exchange between countries.

14-18 October
Austria



EU MODEX exercise

Medical teams exercised alongside mountain, cave and urban search and rescue teams in the area of Graz, Austria.

4-6 November
Italy



EU Science for Preparedness Conference

The 8th annual seminar of the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre brought together experts from scientific, policy, and crisis response communities to learn, share and explore how science can help better anticipate and prepare for future crises.

2-3 October
Belgium



Technical Assistance Financing Facility (TAFF) workshop

Brussels hosted a TAFF workshop with 120 participants, showcasing knowledge exchange and practical collaboration on disaster risk management projects. During the workshop, six country reports on wildfire and earthquake risk management were published.

11-12 December
Belgium



Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions

The high-level workshop and 3rd meeting focused on advancing resilience strategies using AI solutions.

29 September-1 October
Spain



4th Summer School: Evidence for Policy in Disaster Risk Management

The summer school in Barcelona provided evidence-based training on disaster risk management.





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