



GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING A POOL OF EXPERTS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION POOL

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version # - Date	Changes made
Version 1 – March 2026	Creating the ECPP expert guidelines

1. BACKGROUND

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) regularly selects experts of various backgrounds for deployments under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Most experts participate in emergency response missions while others participate in preparedness or prevention activities (i.e. ‘advisory’ missions). These experts may be deployed as members of a European Union Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) or members of another team (e.g. JEU, UNDAC team etc).

The experience gained over recent years has demonstrated that a deployable EUCPT must be formed of experts possessing the adequate UCPM knowledge and competencies. Moreover, especially in response missions, it is critical to speed up the process of requesting experts, receiving nominations from Member States (MS) and Participating States (PS)¹, assessing the nominated experts’ profiles and finalising their selection. Furthermore, experience shows that ad-hoc, spontaneous nominations from MS/PS may have an impact on the availability of experts and hence the feasibility of a EUCPT deployment.

Decision 1313/2013 explains the role experts play in the UCPM². Furthermore, Article 11 provides that “[The European Civil Protection Pool] shall consist of a pool of voluntarily pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and include modules, other response capacities and categories of experts”.

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704 defines the general rules for mobilising EUCPT experts, including ECPP experts, for which Article 16 specifically defines a certification and registration procedure, as follows:

- | |
|---|
| 1. Team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Teams shall be considered as certified and shall become eligible for registration in the ECPP once they have completed, |
|---|

¹ Referred to collectively as Member States in the rest of the document

² See article 17 (Support on site) for response operations and Article 21 for prevention and preparedness actions

where necessary, the relevant courses and exercises of the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme.

2. Member States shall register certified team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Teams in the ECPP after sending a written commitment to the Commission.
3. Member States may commit and register a given number of coordination and assessment experts and technical experts under particular profiles, as set out in Annex IV.
4. The Commission shall verify the compliance of coordination and assessment experts and technical experts with their respective profiles upon their nomination for deployment.

Annex V of Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704 provides that “*guidelines present the detailed procedure and tools for the certification, registration and selection of [ECPP] experts. The guidelines are approved by the Commission Expert Group on Capacities.*”

As the procedure for selecting experts to staff an EUCPT will be revised after further discussions among MS/PS supported by adequate IT tools, the present guidelines are initially limited to defining the operational modalities for committing, certifying and registering ECPP experts. The guidelines will be expanded to the selection and mobilisation of EUCPT experts for deployments when there will be agreement across MS/PS and the right IT tools are agreed and available.

The management of personal data complies with the data protection records and privacy statements for the [ECPP](#), the [UCPM training and exercise programme](#) and for [CECIS / PROCIV-NET](#).

2. THE ECPP FOR EXPERTS

2.1. Experts’ categories and capacity goals

The ECPP for experts includes the following categories of EUCPT experts:

- Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders (TL/DTL)
- Coordination and Assessment experts (on information management, operations, safety & security and logistics)
- Technical Experts, including those listed in Annex IV of Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704.

The EUCPT profiles in Annex define the roles, tasks and minimum requirements for each of the above expert categories. Profiles can be updated periodically depending on interests and needs.

Statistics on recent deployments demonstrate that the UCPM requires a total number of around 100 experts to be deployed each year on average, out of which 8 are TL/DTL, 10 coordination and assessment experts, the remaining deployments being technical experts. For a quick and effective selection process when an EUCPT must be staffed and deployed, the ECPP should include enough experts of each category.

For this reason, a minimum target number also called “capacity goal” should be defined for each category of expert. Meeting the capacity goals will contribute to making the availability

of EUCPT experts more predictable. Member States can each commit on a voluntary basis as many experts as they want.

NB: In addition to the 16 technical expert profiles listed in the Annex IV of Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/704, the capacity goals below also include 2 new profiles, for Medevac and burn assessment, as they were recently identified as necessary to support UCPM response operations.

Category	Capacity goal
Team Leader & Deputy Team Leader	100
Coordination and Assessment experts of which:	140
- Operations	30
- Information management	40
- Logistics	40
- Safety and security	30
Technical experts (18)	260
- Dam assessment experts	10
- WASH experts	10
- Environmental experts	20
- Geologists/volcanologists	10
- Seismologists	10
- Marine pollution response experts	10
- Waste management experts	10
- Structural engineering experts	30
- Epidemiologist/Public health experts	20
- Health coordination experts	20
- Forest fire behaviour experts	20
- Cultural heritage experts	10
- CBRN experts	10
- Civil engineers	10
- Site planners	10

- Transport and Logistics experts	20
- Medevac experts	10
- Burn assessment experts	20

The capacity goals can be adjusted periodically based on experience and lessons learnt from forming and deploying EUCPTs.

2.2. Commitment of experts

Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders: Once a year, the Commission invites Member States (through their national civil protection authorities) to identify and provisionally **commit** qualified experts to be trained, registered and deployed as Team Leader (TL) or Deputy Team Leader (DTL) of EUCPTs. This provisional commitment takes the form of a formal correspondence addressed to DG ECHO Director General (@ ECHO-DIRECTOR-GENERAL@ec.europa.eu).

The commitment becomes firm and confirmed once the expert completes the required training path, unless, for a duly justified reason, the Member State withdraws the ECPP commitment for the expert and notifies the Commission accordingly.

For each expert, as decided by the Member State in agreement with the expert, the ECPP commitment is valid for an initial period of one to three years (after the expert is certified and registered), a period that can be renewed or extended by the Member State.

The commitment of experts does not entail any compulsory availability (in line with Article 11(7) of the UCPM Decision 1313/2013/EU). In practice, it means that experts are not expected to be on a standby mode (24/7) but instead they should keep their availability status in CECIS up-to-date and, when contacted to staff an EUCPT, they have to confirm or decline their availability. The voluntary nature of the commitment of experts remains a key principle.

When committing experts, Member States are strongly encouraged to improve the gender ratio in deployments by actively identifying women experts and encouraging their nomination. In the longer term, the objective of the Commission and Member States is to reach a complete gender balance in the ECPP for experts, with equal numbers of female and male experts committed, registered and deployed.

In the commitment letter, the national CP authority should indicate:

- i. the full names of the proposed experts,
- ii. the number of years each expert will be made available for UCPM response operations as EUCPT TL or DTL, after certification and registration in CECIS,
- iii. a confirmation that each expert complies with the selection criteria for entering the UCPM training programme,
- iv. a confirmation that each expert is medically fit for the training programme and subsequent potential deployment missions,

- v. the UCPM training and exercises record of each expert (training course/exercises and dates).

In this commitment phase, each national civil protection authority should closely involve its National Training Coordinator (NTC).

Other categories of experts: Each Member State can commit a defined number of experts per category on a voluntary basis, considering the minimum requirements for each expert category (see Annex - EUCPT profiles). As this commitment is about a number of experts and not pre-identified individuals, there is no ECPP certification. For each category of expert, as decided by the Member State, the ECPP commitment for a given number of experts of a defined category is valid for an initial period of one to three years, that the Member State can renew or extend. The commitment takes the form of a correspondence addressed to DG ECHO Director General (@ ECHO-DIRECTOR-GENERAL@ec.europa.eu). The commitment does not entail any compulsory availability (in line with Article 11(7) of the UCPM Decision 1313/2013/EU).

2.3. Training and certification

Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders (TL/DTL): The development of a roster of certified TL/DTL builds on the UCPM training and exercises programme, and more specifically its deployable path.

To be certified as an EUCPT TL/DTL, the expert must successfully complete the deployable path of the UCPM training and exercises programme, as explained below.

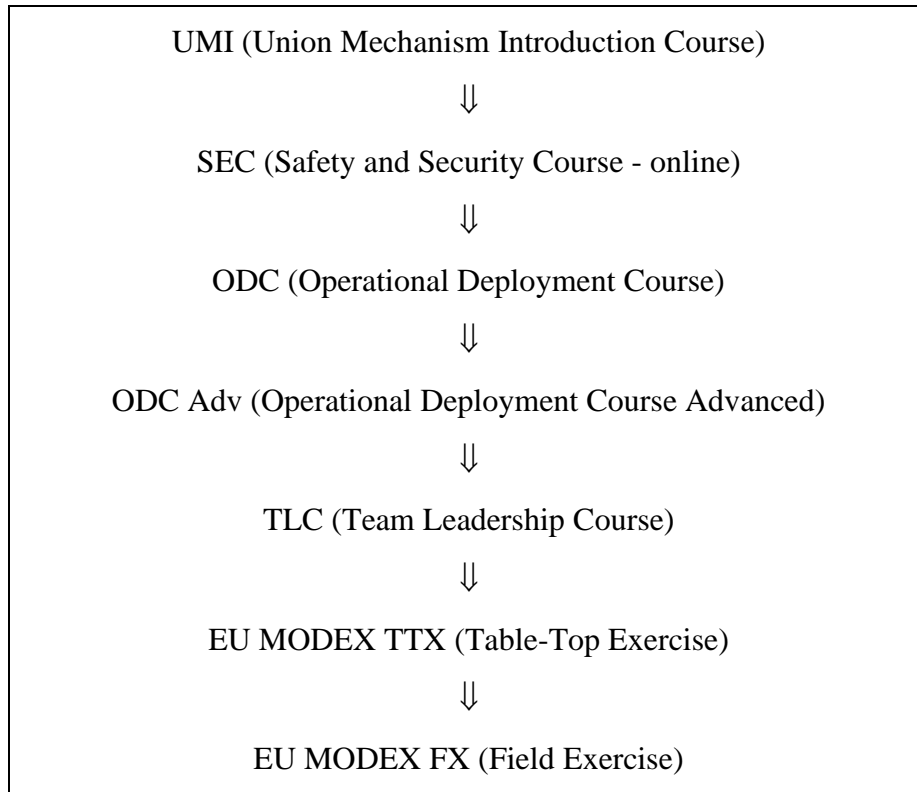
After receiving a commitment letter, the Commission determines which of the following cases applies to the expert:

- i. The candidate TL/DTL expert has completed the UCPM deployable path (or equivalent training courses under previous UCPM training programmes, see table below): The Commission invites the Member State to register the expert as EUCPT TL/DTL in CECIS (see 2.4)
- ii. The candidate TL/DTL expert has partly completed the UCPM deployable path (or equivalent training courses under previous UCPM training programmes, see table below): The Commission identifies the missing training courses and/or exercises and informs the Member State accordingly. The Member State nominates the expert in the recommended training courses and/or exercises and informs the Commission when the expert has attended them fully. The Commission invites the Member State to register the expert as EUCPT TL/DTL in CECIS (see 2.4)
- iii. The candidate TL/DTL expert has not started the UCPM deployable path (nor equivalent training courses under previous UCPM training programmes): The Commission informs the Member State that the expert should start and complete the deployable path of the UCPM training and exercises programme. The Member State nominates the expert in all steps of the deployable path and informs the Commission when the expert has fully completed the deployable path. The Commission invites the Member State to register the expert as EUCPT TL/DTL in CECIS (see 2.4).

Picture 1 offers a visual representation of this process.

The Commission recognises that not all experts entering the deployable path of the UCPM training and exercises programme will eventually complete it and become fully trained EUCPT TL/DTL. Experts committed to become certified EUCPT TL/DTL are selected in priority for participating in the deployable path of the UCPM training courses and exercises.

The deployable path of the UCPM training and exercises programme consists of the following sequence of training courses and exercises:



NB: Committed EUCPT TL/DTL to the ECPP will be selected in priority for the Team Leadership Course (TLC).

It is estimated that an expert can complete the deployable path in 2 years.

In case an expert has already followed UCPM training courses under a previous training programme, the following equivalence table will be used by the Commission to determine which other training courses and exercises the expert should attend:

	equivalent to....
UMI	CMI / TEC / MBC
SEC (online)	New course - no equivalence
ODC	OPM
ODC advanced	SMC and/or AMC

TLC	HOT or CND + HLC
MRS	SME
EU MODEX TTX	same
EU MODEX FX	same

Other categories of experts: While they are not formally certified, they have to meet training requirements (see EUCPT profiles).

2.4. Validation and registration

Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders (TL/DTL):

After the Member State has informed the Commission that the expert has successfully completed the deployable path of the UCPM training and exercises programme and she/he has the adequate medical condition to be deployed on missions, the Commission invites the Member State to register the expert as an EUCPT TL/DTL in CECIS.

The Member State, in full coordination with the expert, registers the expert on the [CECIS expert platform](#). The expert profile contains i.a.: contact details, education and training, languages, preferred geographical areas for deployments, a list of previous international deployments (including UCPM, UNDAC or as part of a national team), feedback form of the EU MODEX field exercise (when available) and relevant types of field expertise and operational competences that could constitute an asset for her/his deployment in a specific emergency.

The Commission confirms in CECIS that the expert is certified.

The expert curriculum and personal profile can be updated and adapted by the NA, meaning that they can modify the expert's area of competences and preferences in the platform. The NA should also notify the expert's unavailability periods as necessary.

For each expert, the ECPP certification and registration is valid for 5 years. The Commission can extend the certification and registration for a renewed 5-year period on the condition that, in the last 3 years of the certification period:

- Either the expert participates in a field exercise (EU MODEX or full-scale exercise),
- Or attends the Mechanism Refresher Seminar (MRS) as a refresher training course,
- Or is deployed as a TL or DTL in an EUCPT in a real UCPM response operation.

The Commission strongly encourages nominating MS/PS and the experts to get / maintain the necessary vaccinations to be deployable in a wide range of geographical areas. As per the specificities of each emergency, the ERCC will select and deploy experts that have the recommended vaccinations for the country / region of deployment.

Other categories of experts: The Commission keeps a registration system separate from CECIS.

PICTURE 1: REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR TEAM LEADERS AND DEPUTY TEAM LEADERS

