



Dear Reader,

We are pleased to share the latest updates from the Empower-Citizens project. In recent months, we conducted **interactive workshops and interviews with authorities, civil society organisations** and other key stakeholders in our use cases in Italy, Norway and Romania.

Together, we discussed participatory methods for citizen engagement in preparedness planning. Their insights have directly informed important revisions of the *Citizen and Authority Learning and Improving Preparedness Plans Procedure* (CLIPP).

We are now happy to announce the official release of the **CLIPP Prototype and the Deliverable 2.2** - a structured framework offering step-by-step guidance, methodological recommendations, and practical tools for participatory societal resilience projects involving municipalities, regional and national urban settings.

Let's dive in!

## KEY SECTIONS

[Key Results](#)

[Key Highlights](#)

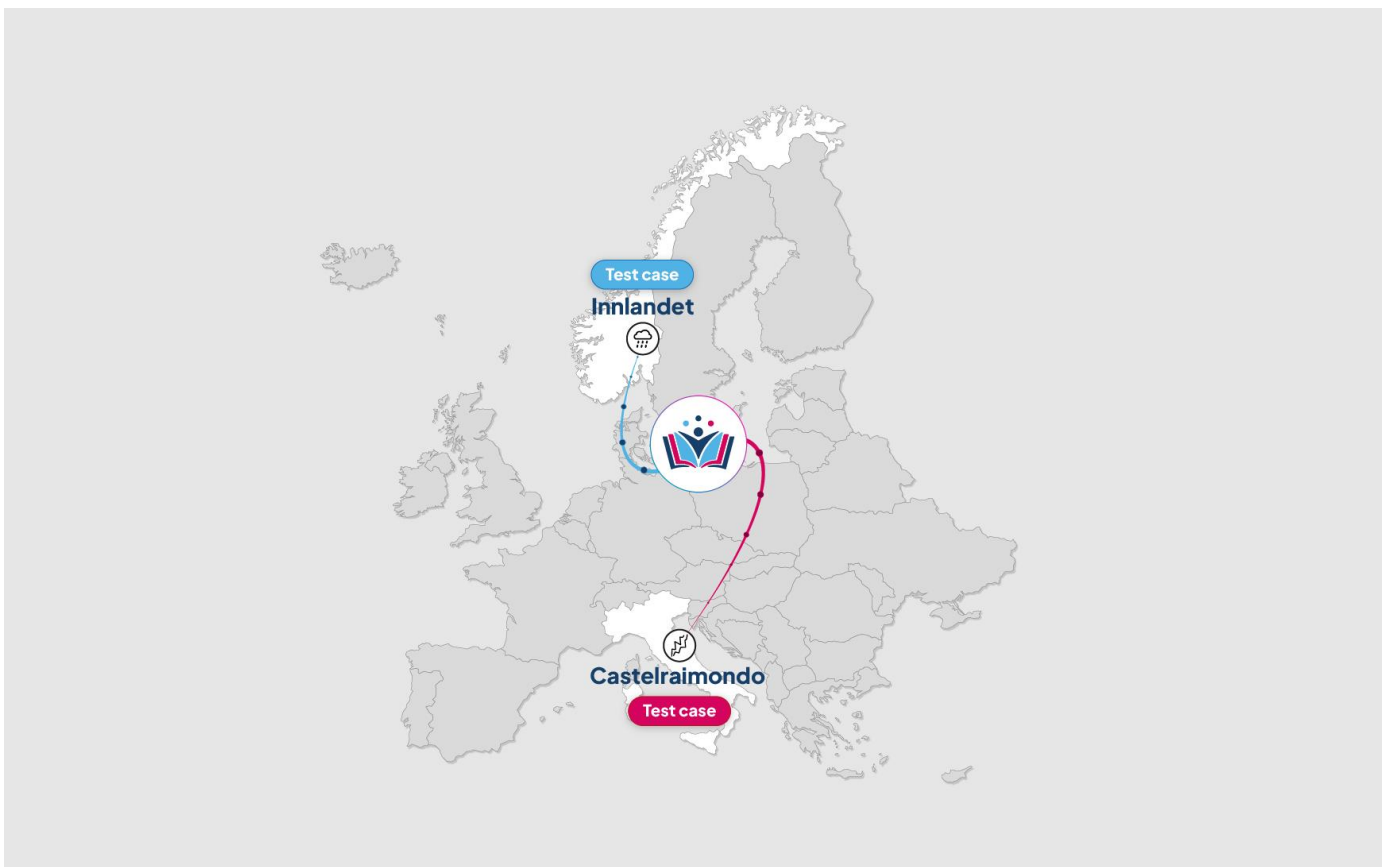
[Next Events](#)





## Learning from Practice: Insights from our Use Cases

Through interviews with municipal and county authorities in **Norway, Italy, and Romania**, we gained valuable insights into how citizen knowledge, volunteer networks, and local practices support preparedness. **These conversations highlight both challenges and opportunities to integrate CLIPP, strengthen community engagement** and helped shape the next phase of the CLIPP project, ensuring that citizens' voices and experiences are central to **preparedness across Europe**.



### Key Insights

1. Citizen knowledge, volunteer engagement, and local networks are essential for effective emergency response.
2. Formal plans alone are not sufficient - real-world action depends on practical, tacit knowledge.
3. Structured citizen involvement, recognition of volunteers, and transparent communication improve both preparedness and trust.
4. Flexible, locally adapted approaches are needed to ensure inclusive, sustainable participation



## Comune di Castelraimondo, Italy

- Civil **protection plans are actively communicated**, e.g., public dissemination events reaching hundreds of residents.
- Citizens currently have **limited roles in planning or updating procedures**, but administrations hope to expand participation.
- Opportunities include **intergenerational knowledge transfer** and direct interaction with citizens, e.g., public meetings and stand events.
- Challenges include **prioritizing informal, direct relationships** over formal participatory processes.



## Innlandet County, Norway

- Residents' **tacit knowledge and informal networks are crucial during emergencies**. During Storm Hans, locals identified detours and mobilized spontaneously to protect the community.
- Volunteer culture ('dugnadsånd') ensures rapid, coordinated response, but **formalisation can reduce participation**.
- Municipalities balance formal preparedness plans with **practical improvisation**, showing that documents alone don't ensure effective action.
- Needs include **more systematic citizen involvement**, mapping local resources, and clear communication on expectations during crises



## Galați, Harghita, Suceava, and Bucharest Sector 4, Romania

- Authorities have **well-structured institutional networks** and established channels for public awareness and preventive education.
- **Citizen involvement remains mostly indirect** via schools, volunteer initiatives, and public campaigns.
- Challenges include **low participation** during "quiet" periods, **lack of standardised methods for public consultation**, and **limited digital tools** to manage citizen feedback.
- **Strengthening cross-county coordination** and creating **active participation mechanisms** could enhance resilience and foster collaboration between authorities and communities.

## Co-Creating Preparedness: Workshops in Norway and Italy to Refine the CLIPP Procedure!



Over the past months, CLIPP organised **interactive workshops in Innlandet (Norway) and Castelraimondo (Italy)**, bringing together municipal staff, civil protection actors, volunteers, and community representatives. These workshops were designed not only to present the CLIPP procedure, but also **to critically reflect on its structure and explore how it could work in practice**. Participants examined real-life scenarios, discussed their local preparedness systems, and shared experiences from recent emergencies. Together, they assessed whether the current version of CLIPP truly responds to real-world needs or whether adjustments were necessary to improve its usability and relevance.

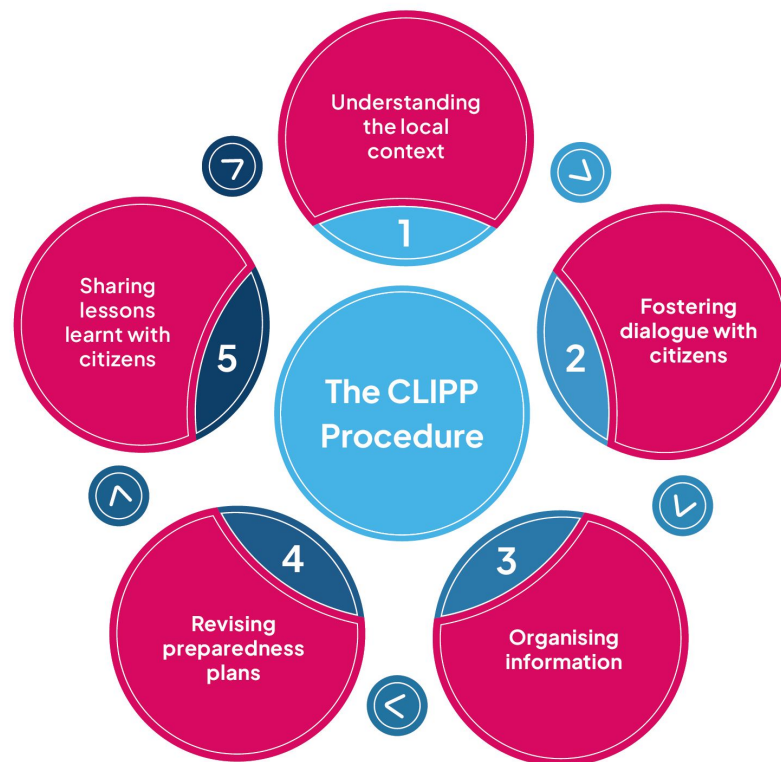
The workshops provided valuable insights into how the CLIPP procedure is understood, how it could be operationalised, and experienced by municipal staff and civil society organisations.

*Thanks to everyone who participated, your insights are helping make CLIPP more usable, inclusive, and effective for communities across Europe!*

*Explore the revised [CLIPP Handbook](#) and continue the dialogue with us!*



## Insights that helped us revising the CLIPP



The *Citizen and Authority Learning and Improving Preparedness Plans* is a structured procedure offering step-by-step guidance, methodological recommendations, and practical tools for institutions, authorities and first responders involved in the development and revision of preparedness plans at the local, regional and national levels. In the following you will find a picked selection of insights that helps us revising the different steps of the Procedure.

- 1. Understanding the Local Context:** Trusted community figures and volunteer networks are essential to reach all residents, especially vulnerable groups. Municipalities benefit from local knowledge and inter-municipal cooperation.
- 2. Fostering dialogue with Citizens:** Schools, local associations, and volunteers are effective channels to gather experiences and suggestions. Engaging younger residents remains a priority.
- 3. Organising Information:** Participants emphasized the importance of clearly synthesizing input, integrating it into preparedness plans, and coordinating across municipal and volunteer networks.
- 4. Revising preparedness plans:** Structured feedback, recognition, and regular dialogue are key to sustaining motivation and trust. Clear roles for volunteers improve collaboration.
- 5. Sharing lessons learnt with citizens:** Participants requested simplified language, visual guides, one-page summaries, and flexible, modular implementation to fit municipalities of all sizes.

[For more see D2.2](#)



## TRANSCEND Final Summit, Brussels, September 2025



At the **TRANSCEND Final Summit**, titled *“Unlocking Voices: Methods for Engaging Citizens in Security Research”* and held in Brussels, **Empower-Citizens** participated thanks to our partners from the **Romanian Department for Emergency Situations (DSU)**. The summit proved to be a highly engaging and productive event, bringing together experts, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss a diverse range of topics related to citizen engagement and security research.

**Empower-Citizens** was presented to an international audience of resilience experts, city planners, and policymakers. Discussions highlighted how citizen-driven approaches can be integrated into urban resilience strategies and explored opportunities for collaboration across EU-funded projects.

[Read more](#)

## Festival della Partecipazione, Bologna, September 2025



**Empower-Citizens** contributed to the **Festival della Partecipazione** held in Bologna, Italy, by showcasing the project. The session brought together multiple representatives of co-financed or fully financed European projects. **Empower Citizens** was introduced by our coordinator Sonia Matera. Maya Battisti, representing our key partner **Cittadinanzattiva APS**, shared how the project aims to implement truly participatory strategies for citizen engagement. Ilenia Cittadini, Councilor for Social Policies of the **Comune di Castelraimondo**, one of our project’s pilot sites, emphasized the crucial role of communities in building resilience, noting that collective intelligence often takes precedence over institutional support when facing emergencies.

[Read more](#)

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS



## Co-Creating Resilient Cities, Brussels, October 2025



In the session “Co-Creating Resilient Cities: Citizens, Data & Participatory Action,” Empower-Citizens joined CitiObs and CLIMAS\_EU to show **how citizens can actively shape climate action and disaster preparedness**. Moderated by Masha Smirnova (Eurocities) and attended by over 100 participants, the session highlighted inclusive co-creation practices and featured insights from project coordinators, including Sonia Matera (Deep Blue).

This event focused on citizen-led urban initiatives, innovative use of data, and participatory action. Empower-Citizens presented its case studies demonstrating how community engagement, combined with systematic resilience preparedness, could help cities better respond to environmental, social, and infrastructural challenges.

[Read more](#)

## Joint 11th REA Symposium & 14th Resilient Health Care Society Meeting, Canela (BR), October 2025



Empower-Citizens was proudly represented at the “Joint 11th Biennial Resilience Engineering Symposium & 14th Annual Resilient Health Care Society Meeting” (20–24 October 2025). During the session on 23 October, the project showcased the abstract “*Empowering Citizens by Considering their Feedback in Preparedness Plans*”, highlighting **how citizen input can strengthen resilience in complex socio-technical systems**. The presentation reflected a collaborative effort across the project team, emphasizing the integration of human-centered, ethical, and resilience-focused approaches.



[Read more](#)



## Webinar: “Youth Volunteering & Preparedness - Building Bridges between the European Solidarity Corps and Civil Protection”

We are excited to share that Empower-Citizens took part in the recent webinar “*Youth Volunteering & Preparedness – Building Bridges between the European Solidarity Corps and Civil Protection*”, organised by SALTO ESC, DG EAC, and DG ECHO. The webinar explored how youth volunteering can transform Europe’s preparedness priorities into real action.

Our contribution highlighted how citizens’ feedback, including that of young people, can be systematically integrated into disaster preparedness plans. Testing phases in Italy and Norway showed that youth can act as key bridges between institutions and communities, translating technical information into accessible formats, building trust, and strengthening resilience at the local level.

The discussion reinforced that preparedness is a shared societal responsibility, and that youth volunteering is vital for cultivating skills, civic engagement, and community empowerment - without turning young people into emergency responders.

**WEBINAR**

## Youth Volunteering & Preparedness

 22.01.2026 | 14:30 - 16:00 CET

[Read more](#)

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

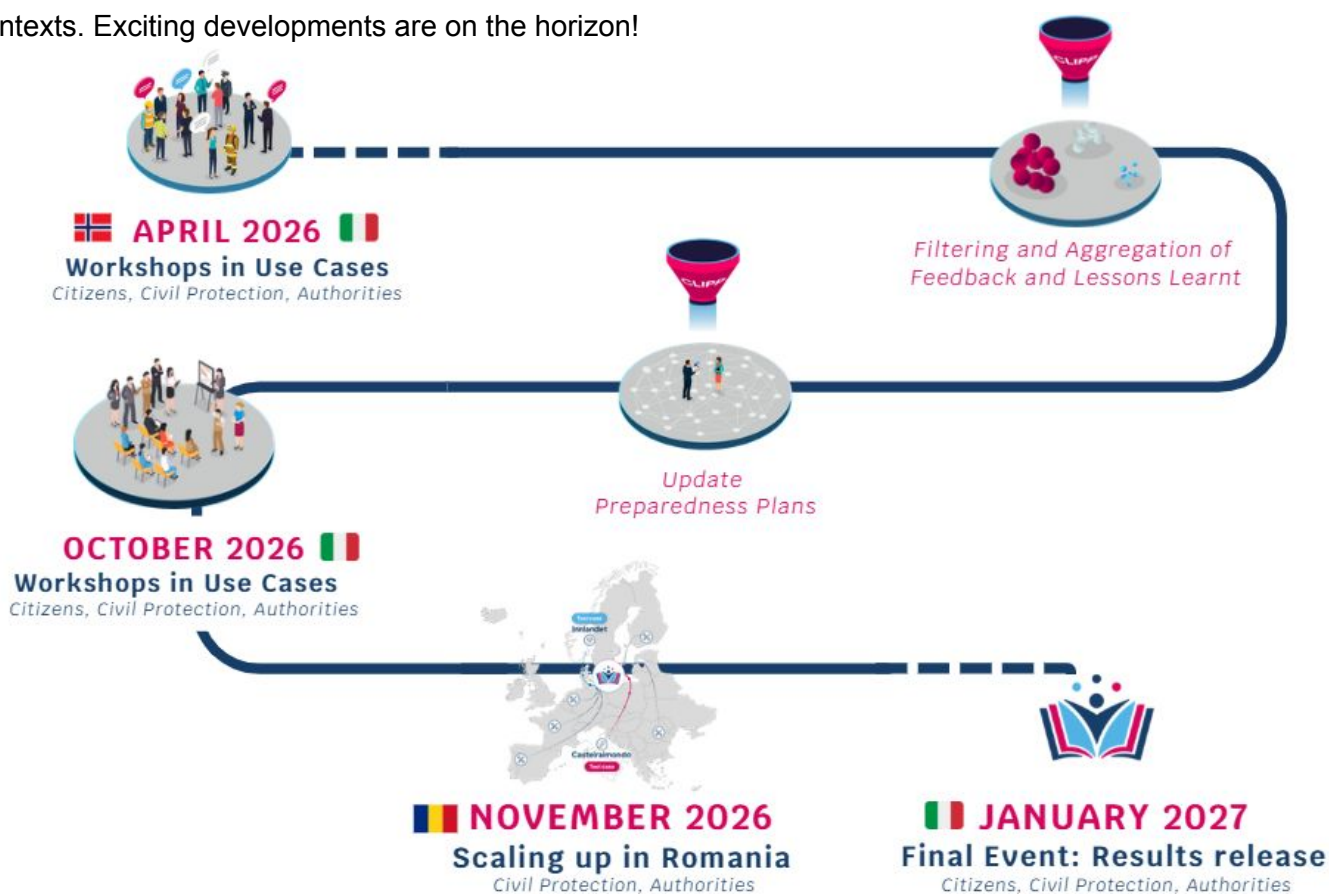


## Progress Consortium Meeting in Trondheim, Norway



In February, the entire **Empower-Citizens** consortium gathered in Trondheim for our progress meeting, kindly hosted by our partners at **NTNU Samfunnsforskning AS**. The meeting was an invaluable opportunity for exchange, alignment, and forward planning as we fine-tune our actions for 2026 - the second and final year of the project. Many thanks to the consortium for all the great work so far.

Looking ahead, **Empower-Citizens** will organize additional workshops in 2026 across the use cases in Italy, Norway, and Romania. These sessions will bring together municipal staff, civil protection actors, volunteers, and citizens to discuss and apply different stages of the **CLIPP Procedure** in real-world contexts. Exciting developments are on the horizon!





## Feedback Gathering Event Castelraimondo, 22 April 2026

We're bringing together citizens, local organizations, and authorities to reflect on the lessons of the 2016 earthquake, with a special focus on our community in Castelraimondo.

Whether you were there in 2016 or just care about the future of our town, we want to hear from you. Your feedback isn't just a comment—it's how you can help us shape the local preparedness plans!

**Join the conversation and make your voice count!**

[Contact us!](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**22 Aprile 2026**

*A tutti i Cittadini del  
Comune di Castelraimondo*

Seguici su LinkedIn



## Calibration and Scaling up Workshop

Bucharest, 18-19 November 2026


This initiative seeks to institutionalize the bridge between spontaneous community feedback and formal governmental preparedness frameworks.

To ensure the CLIPP procedure is both robust and interoperable across the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), the strategic input of national civil protection authorities and first-responder management is indispensable. Your expertise will ensure that our findings are not only theoretically sound but also practically applicable across diverse European jurisdictions.

**If you want to see how the results of the project could be scaled up, get involved and help us shaping further the CLIPP Procedure!**

[Contact us!](#)

The Empower-Citizens project is funded by the EU in Emergencies as part of the Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness **#KAPP** call of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism **#UCPM**, and will last 2 years, until January 2027.

 Read more about the project in our first blog post and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay updated on the latest activities!

Next issue: October 2026

## CONSORTIUM



Statsforvalteren i Innlandet



# Are you interested in citizen engagement in emergency preparedness actions?

To understand how you can get involved, [contact us at:](#)

[empower-citizens@dblue.it](mailto:empower-citizens@dblue.it)



Co-funded by  
the European Union



This project has received funding from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2024 Knowledge for Action in Prevention & Preparedness (KAPP) programme under the grant agreement No.101193397