

# UCPM PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS



**A Peer Review of disaster risk management provides a country or a region with an opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and human induced hazard-related disasters and to identify ways of improving prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.**

The European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), under the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), supports the Member States, the Participating States, eligible Third Countries and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses and putting forward recommendations to increase effectiveness.

The UCPM Peer Review Programme promotes an integrated approach to disaster risk management by taking a comprehensive look at prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

Peer reviews also support a wider policy dialogue across Europe and beyond, improving policy coherence and facilitating the exchange of good practices on civil protection and DRM.

Participating countries form a network of practitioners sharing experiences and lessons learned.

To date, 21 UCPM peer reviews have been carried out, most recently Land Brandenburg (Germany), Kosovo\* and Czechia. Reports of all reviews can be found on the [Peer Review website](#).



## How is a peer review conducted?

▶ The Peer Review Programme operates on the basis of a strong, transparent partnership between DG ECHO and the civil protection authorities of the country/region under review. The peer review team includes a group of independent experts (the 'peers'), the national or regional contact point, representatives of DG ECHO, and a facilitator team.



### Defining the scope

Countries/regions expressing an interest in enrolling in the 2025-2027 Programme discuss objectives and expected outcomes of a peer review with DG ECHO.



### Selecting the peers

DG ECHO selects the peers that will conduct the review. The experts are often proposed by civil protection authorities of other UCPM countries.



### Preparing for the review

The facilitator supporting the review process prepares an initial desk report, summarising the DRM system, along with insights from a survey among relevant stakeholders, selected in collaboration with the country under review.



### Handover of the final report

The peer review team formally hands over the final report to the civil protection authority. From the review kicks off to the final report, it usually takes 8 to 10 months to complete the process.



### Draft review report

Based on the knowledge collected during the mission, the peer review team drafts the report, including strengths and recommendations. The civil protection authorities have the opportunity to review the report during the drafting process.



### On site mission

The peer review team travels to the country/region under review to gain on-the-ground insights and identify strengths and areas for improvement. Relevant stakeholders are invited to participate in meetings. The mission lasts approximately one week.

## What are the benefits of a peer review?

Based on an independent review, a peer review assists civil protection authorities in improving their DRM capabilities, and

- ▶ identifies better approaches to policy and operations,
- ▶ facilitates mutual learning and exchange of good practice,
- ▶ raises awareness among stakeholders in the reviewed country,
- ▶ proposes concrete recommendations.

For further information on the Peer Review Programme: [ECHO-CP-PEER-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ECHO-CP-PEER-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu)

The 2025-2027 Peer Review Programme is implemented in cooperation with



\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.