

November 4 – Panels

Day 2 09:00-09:45 Plenary room Webstreamed	Keynote speeches • MoC: Karin Helmstaedt
Day 2 09:45-10:45 Plenary room Webstreamed	High-level plenary session – The Path from Civil Protection to Cross-Sectoral Coordination in Crisis Management: A Paradigm Shift? Traditional civil protection frameworks - while highly effective in their original scope - were not designed to address the multidimensional nature of today's threats. To bridge the gaps between traditional civil protection and the realities of today's new threat landscape, there have been calls for a more coordinated, anticipatory and cross-sectoral approach to crisis management. In some Member States, this change in response has already taken place: their focus shifted from a natural hazards-focused approach to an all-hazards approach, integrating health, security and hybrid risks into preparedness systems. Given the reality of this development, this high-level plenary session will examine how Member States' experiences and lessons learned can influence the development of future EU cross-sectoral and cross-border crisis management and why it is crucial to think about this shift now. During the high-level plenary, panellists will discuss how the EU can further support Member States' operational planning, including through the provision of situational awareness and anticipatory analysis of possible spillover effects, or the facilitation of structured information-sharing, while respecting mandates and competences. Challenges such as the risk of stretching operational capacity while expanding strategic functions, and the need to respect national competences while strengthening coordination at EU level will also be discussed, including through experiences from civil protection authorities in Member States. The panel will explore ways to support a more resilient and coordinated European crisis management system through a discussion between representatives of the European Commission, national governments, and the European Parliament. • Maciej Popowski, Director-General, DG ECHO • Igor Taro, Minister of Interior of Estonia (tbc) • Lisbeth Bech-Nielsen, Minister for Resilience and Preparedness of Denmark (tbc) • Léon Gloden, Minister for Home Affairs of Luxembourg (tbc) • Leire Pajin, MEP, European Parliament • Moderator: Karin Helmstaedt

Day 2 11:15-12:45 Plenary room Webstreamed	Session 10: From Forecast to Action: Innovative Early Warning Systems for Civil Protection How can research and innovation strengthen civil protection preparedness by linking multi hazard forecasting and impact based situational awareness with decision support, warning communication and response? Civil protection authorities, risk management organisations and European research projects are brought together to explore how forecasting, Earth observation, high resolution modelling, AI, exposure and vulnerability data, and scenario driven Digital Twins can provide timely operational intelligence. The panel will also discuss the warning chain as a nationally sovereign responsibility, supported by coordinated European mechanisms, and to how interoperable, user-oriented systems can support coordinated decisions, trusted warnings and effective response. It will consider how co-development, standards, governance, training and accessibility can help embed proven solutions in practice. The aim is to identify pathways for moving innovation from research into institutional use. • Christoph Kautz, Director for Space Policy, European Commission, DG DEFIS • Georgios Giannopoulos, Acting Director for Societal Resilience and Security European Commission, Joint Research Centre • Michela Matuella, Director for Emergency Management, European Commission, DG ECHO • Luigi D'Angelo, Director of the Emergency Management Office, Italian Civil Protection Department • Jürg Luterbacher, Prof. / Chair and MedEWSa Coordinator, Justus Liebig University Giessen • Moderator: Daniela Di Bucci Senior Officer, Italian Civil Protection Department
Day 2 11:15-12:45	Session 11: Evolving Flood Risks in Europe In a rapidly evolving climate, local civil protection authorities are increasingly responsible for managing sudden-onset events. Civil protection plans, which guide decision-making, information management and response, therefore need to be adapted in both format and technological tools. During critical events, timely and effective information is essential. This information must be prepared in advance and clearly linked to the emergency plan, with well-defined trigger conditions. Monitoring and communication procedures should therefore be carefully developed and formalised. The panel will explore key elements for effective civil protection plans, focusing on monitoring, alert and response systems. It will draw on lessons learned from major EU flood events between 2023 and 2026, but also the perspectives of experiences outside the EU, combining real cases with what-if scenarios. • Paolo Covelli, Senior Civil Protection Officer, Region of Tuscany - Civil Protection Office, Italy • Romanella Vio, Senior Civil Protection Officer, Italian Civil Protection Department

	• Daniel Samper Sánchez, Technical Expert in Forest Brigade, Valencia Provincial Firefighters Consortium • Luisa Celma Meque, President, Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD) • Klemen Smid, Commander of Civil Protection for Gorenjska, Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief • Moderator: Ali Al-Jaberi
Day 2 11:15-12:45	Session 12: Innovations for Crisis Management: Bringing Drones and Ground Robots into action Advances in unmanned vehicles, AI, autonomous navigation, hazard detection and 3D mapping are transforming crisis management by enhancing situational awareness. However, civil protection agencies are often struggling to integrate these technologies into routine operations. A key challenge is the growing number of solutions and their limited interoperability with each other and legacy systems. Strengthening technical, procedural and organisational alignment across Europe is essential for effective deployment. During this session, first responders, researchers and technology developers will discuss accelerating the transition from innovation to operations, interoperability between robotic systems and command structures, training needs, regulatory frameworks, and sharing lessons learned across organisations and countries. The session aims to identify priority actions for EU-level interoperability, recommendations for training frameworks and requirements for scaling pilots to operations. • Jakub Ryzenko, Head of Crisis Information Centre, Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Science (CBK PAN) • Pierre Ferrandini, Commander, SIS2B • Robbert Heinecke, Robotics & Innovation Expert Co-Founder & CEO, Futurised • Eva Leroux, Business Developer, CS GROUP • Moderator: Christian Resch, Managing Director, Disaster Competence Network Austria
Day 2 14:30-16:00 Plenary room Webstreamed	Session 13: Safety Skills Belong to Everybody: Inclusive Civil Protection is the Future The session will start with briefly introducing the work on inclusion under the Preparedness Union Strategy (guidelines) and upcoming training possibilities. It will then explore the role of persons with disabilities as active participants in civil protection, highlighting how inclusive approaches strengthen preparedness and emergency response. Through an exchange of good practices and lessons learned from across Europe, participants will examine how successful approaches can be adapted and transferred between countries, with a particular focus on strengthening collaboration between the civil protection/disaster risk reduction (CP/DRR) and disability sectors. This session is designed for first responders, civil protection practitioners and policymakers who want practical insights into how disability inclusion improves emergency outcomes, strengthens community resilience and ultimately saves lives.

	• Nadia Hadad, Vice-President, European Disability Forum • Marijana Berket, Head of Department, Civil Protection Directorate, Ministry of the Interior, Croatia • Markku Salminen, Project Director, Chief Fire Officer, Illo Volunteer Fire Brigade, Finland • Marija Bočiarovaitė, Project Manager, Lithuanian Disability Forum • Ola Abualghaib, Director, UN Disability Fund • Moderator: Cristina Otano, Senior Operations Officer, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Bank
Day 2 14:30-16:00	Session 14: Health Emergencies
Day 2 14:30-16:00	Session 15: PLACEHOLDER
Day 2 16:15-16:30 Plenary room Webstreamed	Closing remarks • Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management • Karin Helmstaedt, Master of Ceremony/Moderator

Workshops

Day 2 11:15-12:45	Workshop 7: Institutionalizing Youth Engagement in Disaster Preparedness and Response Recent disasters have shown that young people are not bystanders, but often first responders, partners, and advocates within their communities. The Ukraine refugee response illustrated this clearly, with youth networks, including Scout associations, supporting frontline service delivery, countering misinformation, and strengthening community cohesion. Organized by UNICEF and the Alpine Region Youth Council to bridge operational experience with policy, this session explores how youth engagement can be institutionalized within national protocols, coordination mechanisms, and civil protection strategies, including budget allocations. Drawing on past emergencies and the Call to Action from the 2024 Europe and Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, it brings governments, youth organizations, and international partners into dialogue. Audience members will take part in facilitated group discussions, generating policy recommendations for follow-up action by Member States.
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	• Kristina Palajsa, Head of Division for Disaster Risk Reduction Rescue and Protection Directorate, Ministry of Interior of Montenegro • Valentina Di Giuseppe, Volunteer Service Officer, Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department of Civil Protection • Sian Bagshaw, Director, People, Culture and Engagement, World Scout Bureau • Manuel Aita, Volunteer Member, Italian Civil Protection, EUSALP Youth Council • Gaetano Vivo, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG ECHO
Day 2 11:15-12:45	Workshop 8: Strengthening Host Nation Support Across Europe: from Guidelines to Action The workshop will showcase how five complementary European projects are strengthening Host Nation Support (HNS) across different national and cross-border contexts. Participants will discover innovative approaches to developing national HNS systems, enhancing cross-border cooperation, improving interoperability, strengthening governance and coordination mechanisms, and increasing operational readiness for receiving and managing international assistance. The session will also present practical tools and solutions developed by the projects, including procedures, liaison functions, training curricula, manuals and exercises. Through short project presentations and interactive discussions, participants will gain practical insights and exchange experiences on implementing the revised EU Host Nation Support Guidelines 2024 across Europe. • Anne Dalemans, Counsellor, Public Federal Service Directorate-General for Civil Protection • Frank Cools, Advisor-trainer civil protection, Netherlands Institute for Public Safety • Mirnesa Softić, Head of the Operational Communication Center of BiH – 112, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Ólafur Loftsson, Project Manager / NCP, Icelandic Civil Protection • Dr. Susanne Wacht, Head of Unit, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance of Germany
Day 2 14:30-16:00	Workshop 9: Establishing Capability Targets for Disaster Resilience over the Next Decade The workshop takes as its starting point the Join Research Centre's (JRC) foresight study <i>Strengthening European Union's Future Disaster Resilience</i> and looks ahead to the work now beginning on identifying the capabilities the EU will need over the long term. That work comes at a decisive moment, as preparations for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) programming period get under way and R&I priorities are being shaped. Participants are invited to shape the discussion directly: how should the EU set long-term capability targets so that investment can be directed towards innovative solutions that will genuinely deliver them?

	Following a short introduction by the JRC and a panel exchange on the innovation perspective, participants will work in facilitated table discussions, with conclusions feeding into the forthcoming JRC report on long-term capability needs. • Isabelle Linde-Frech, Head of Research Group Public Technology and Innovation Planning (TIP), Fraunhofer FKIE • Christian Resch, Managing Director, Disaster Competence Network Austria
Day 2 14:30-16:00	Workshop 10: Citizens and Civil Society in War Time Do general rules and instructions prepared for peace-time circumstances function in disruption or even in war time? The workshop focuses on citizens' own awareness, knowledge and preparedness in a continuity of tensed geopolitical environment. Participants will reflect on their understanding of a prepared citizen in time of escalation, war time and moving to new a normal and recovery. The workshop will explore that despite the level of disturbance, every-day life goes on, but how do people cope? How and from which sources do we create our understanding of the situation? Who do we trust? How do we strengthen our own resilience to be flexible and prepared, even in war time? What do we need, where do we actively get what we need without burdening public services? What do we need to overcome and from whom we get it? How do authorities and organisations support the people to stay resilient? Future project initiatives will build on the discussion's outcomes and recognised gaps and needs. • Hanna-Leena Tikkanen, Head of Preparedness, Finish National Rescue Association • Ronja Fürstenau, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) • Vitali Lylyk, State Emergency Service of Ukraine • Moderator: Jari Honkanen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Interior, Finland