European Commission

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations



Preparing Europe for increasingly complex disasters

Manuscript completed by: Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations in August 2026.

PDF	ISBN 978-92-68-44067-4	doi:10.2795/9854211	KR-01-26-017-EN-N
Print	ISBN 978-92-68-44068-1	doi:10.2795/7700376	KR-01-26-017-EN-C

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2026
© European Union, 2026



The Commission's reuse policy is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39 – https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/833/oj). Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). This means that reuse is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given.

© European Union for all images, unless otherwise stated. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.



Preparing Europe for increasingly complex disasters

© EU2026



/Foreword



Europe's risk landscape is changing. Climate-related hazards are becoming more frequent and intense, while conflicts, health emergencies, technological risks and other complex crises can place unprecedented pressure on national response capacities. These challenges remind us that effective disaster response begins long before a crisis strikes.

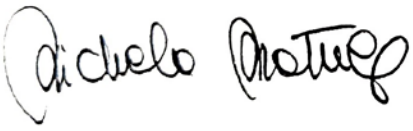
Over the years, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism has evolved to strengthen cooperation, preparedness and collective response across Europe. At the heart of this evolution is rescEU: the EU's strategic reserve, providing additional capacities when national resources and voluntary assistance through the European Civil Protection Pool are stretched.

From aerial firefighting and emergency shelter to medical capacities, energy, strategic stockpiles and transport, rescEU has become a tangible expression of European solidarity. Its value is not measured only by the assets it maintains, but by its ability to make those capacities available rapidly, wherever they are needed, and to support countries facing emergencies of a scale or complexity beyond their individual capacity.

The experience of recent crises, including Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and increasingly severe wildfire seasons, has demonstrated the importance of investing in preparedness, maintaining operational readiness and working together across borders. It has also shown that resilience must remain dynamic: the capacities we will need tomorrow may not be the same as those we need today.

This is also the direction set by the Preparedness Union Strategy, which provides an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society framework for anticipating and responding to an increasingly diverse range of risks. The development of a comprehensive EU stockpiling strategy further underlines the importance of strategic reserves and resilient supply chains in ensuring access to critical resources and the continuity of vital societal functions. Within this broader preparedness architecture, rescEU will continue to strengthen and adapt its strategic reserve, ensuring that Europe has the capacities needed to respond to emerging risks while keeping existing capabilities fit for purpose.

This publication provides a snapshot of that journey – from preparedness to response, and from national capacity to European solidarity in action.



Michela Matuella
Director

/Why rescEU?

Preparing Europe for increasingly complex disasters

© EU2026



Across Europe and beyond, disasters are becoming more frequent, more severe and increasingly complex. Climate change, health emergencies, conflicts and disruptions to critical infrastructure are placing unprecedented pressure on emergency response systems.

Today's crises rarely occur in isolation. Several countries may face the same emergency simultaneously, limiting their ability to assist one another and highlighting the need for stronger preparedness and coordinated action.

For more than two decades, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) has enabled EU Member States and UCPM participating states ([1]) to respond together to disasters. As risks evolve, the EU needs a shared strategic reserve that can be mobilised when national capacities are overwhelmed.

rescEU ([2]) is Europe's answer – providing an additional layer of protection to ensure that critical response capacities remain available whenever and wherever they are needed.

([1]) The UCPM participating states comprise Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

([2]) https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_ena

/Changing risk landscape



More frequent and extreme weather events



Pandemics and cross-border health crises



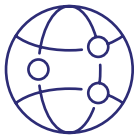
Disruption of essential services and energy systems



Armed conflicts and large-scale displacements



Medical, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN), hybrid, and other evolving security risks



Emergencies affecting multiple countries at the same time

From lessons learnt to European preparedness

Solidarity is at the heart of the UCPM. Through the UCPM, Member States support one another by sharing expertise, response teams and specialised equipment whenever disasters strike.

Recent crises have shown that when several countries are affected at the same time, assistance provided at national level alone may not be enough.

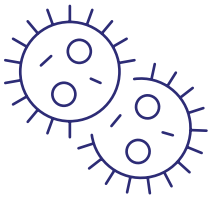
These experiences highlighted the need for a shared EU strategic reserve that remains available when national capacities are stretched. Within this policy framework, rescEU was created to provide that additional layer of protection, ensuring that essential response capacities are ready to be deployed whenever and wherever they are needed.

These lessons have also shaped the EU's wider preparedness agenda, including the Preparedness Union Strategy and the development of the comprehensive EU Stockpiling Strategy.



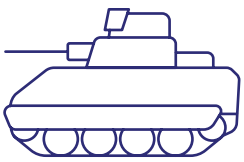
Record wildfires

Demonstrated the need for additional shared aerial firefighting capacities to support countries facing increasingly frequent and severe wildfires.



COVID-19 pandemic

Highlighted the need for strategic EU reserves of medical supplies, equipment and coordinated response capacities to address simultaneous cross-border emergencies.

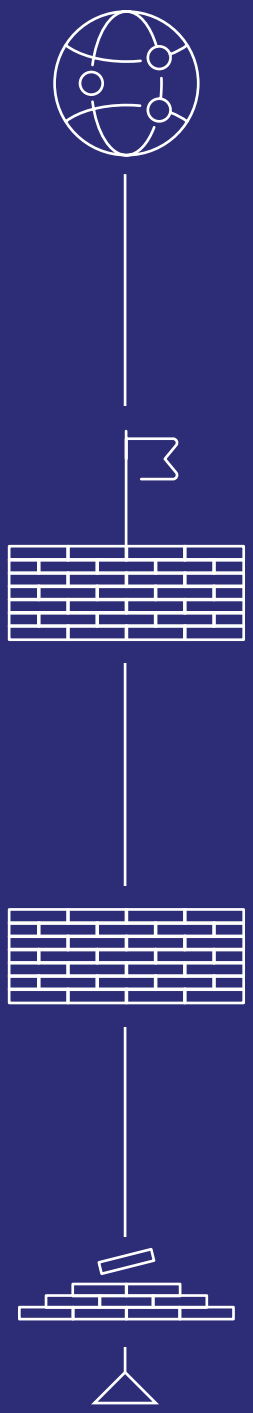


Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

Confirmed the value of rescEU in providing large-scale shelter, energy, medical and CBRN assistance during prolonged and complex emergencies.

Building the EU's safety net

From the first European civil protection framework to rescEU's strategic reserve



2025

A growing European capacity

rescEU capacities are now hosted in 24 Member States and participating states, and the reserve covers a growing range of risks and response needs.

2019

rescEU is established

The EU creates rescEU as an additional layer of protection, with strategic capacities and reserves that can be mobilised when national resources and mutual assistance are insufficient.

2013

The mechanism is strengthened

The UCPM is reinforced to improve preparedness, prevention and response to major emergencies.

2001

European cooperation begins

The UCPM is established, enabling countries to coordinate assistance and respond collectively to disasters.

/WHAT IS rescEU?

Europe's strategic reserve

rescEU is the EU's strategic reserve of disaster response capacities.

As part of the UCPM, rescEU provides additional resources whenever national capacities and the European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) are under strain during a disaster.

The ECPP brings together specialised civil protection capacities committed and funded by EU Member States and participating states for rapid deployment following a request for assistance through the UCPM. These capacities combine trained personnel and equipment and undergo certification and registration, including simulation exercises, to ensure operational readiness and compliance with common quality standards.

rescEU capacities are fully financed by the EU and hosted by the EU Member States and UCPM participating states across Europe. rescEU assets are maintained in a constant state of operational readiness and coordinated through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

From firefighting aircraft and emergency medical capabilities to strategic stockpiles, shelter, energy and transport assets, rescEU ensures that critical response capacities remain available whenever extraordinary situations exceed national capabilities.

By investing collectively in preparedness, the EU can respond faster, more effectively and with greater solidarity to disasters affecting both European citizens and populations beyond its borders.

THREE LEVELS OF PROTECTION

NATIONAL RESPONSE

First line of response

Managed by the affected country using its national capacities, which can also be offered through the UCPM to support other countries.

ECPP

Specialised capacities made available by Member States and participating states for deployment through the UCPM. Capacities combine trained personnel and equipment and undergo certification and registration to ensure operational readiness and compliance with common standards.

rescEU

EU strategic reserve

Fully EU-financed capacities mobilised when national resources and voluntary assistance are insufficient.

EU-FUNDED

The EU fully finances rescEU capacities – from procurement and maintenance to operations – ensuring they remain ready whenever needed.

OPERATIONAL READINESS

rescEU capacities are strategically pre-positioned across Europe and maintained in a constant state of operational readiness.

RAPID DEPLOYMENT

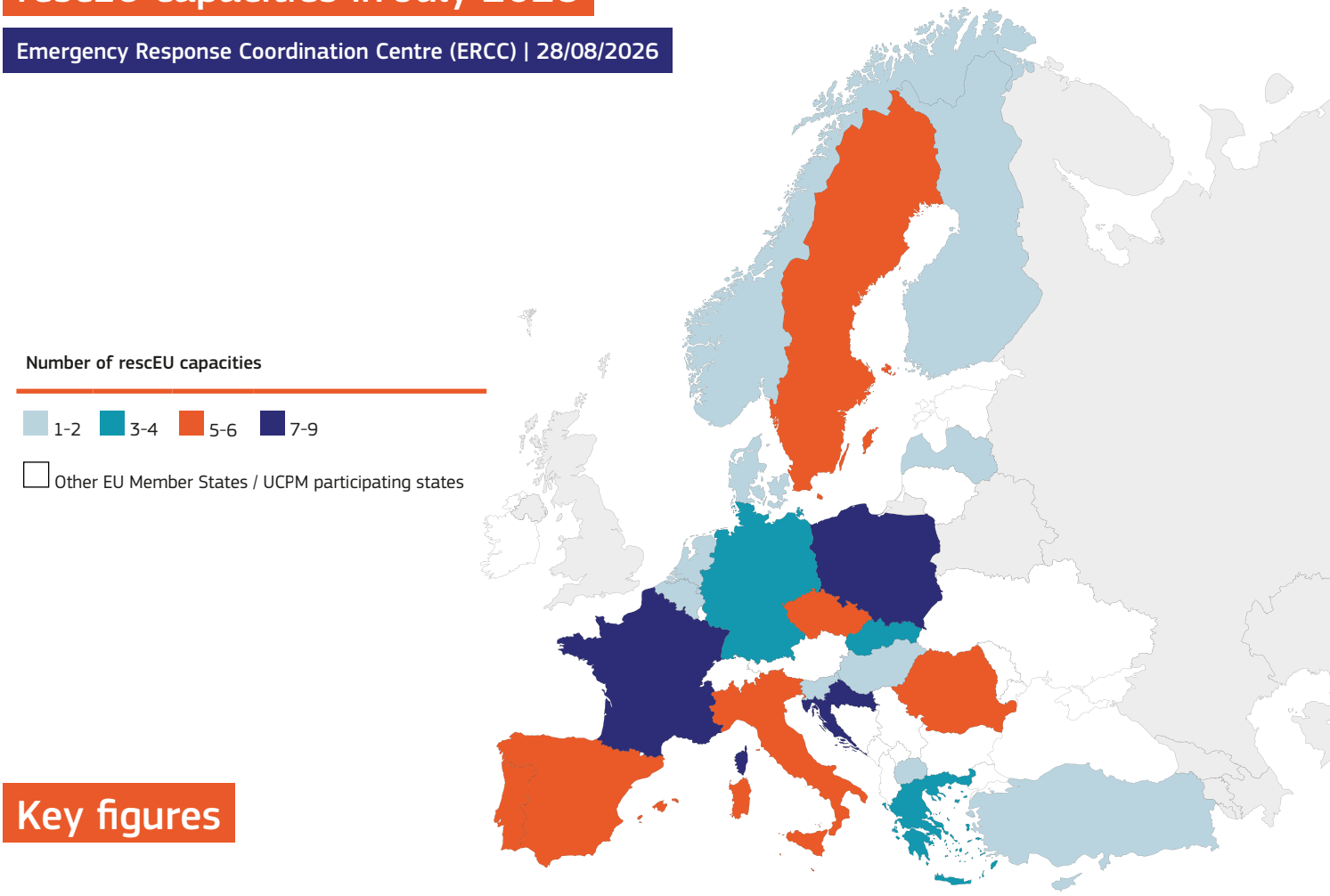
Coordinated by the ERCC, rescEU assets can be rapidly mobilised to support disaster response across Europe and beyond.

/rescEU capacity typologies

- Aerial Firefighting (AFF)
- Transport and Logistics
- Medical Capacities
- CBRN Capacities
- Emergency Shelter
- Emergency Energy
- Private Donations Scheme

rescEU capacities in July 2026

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) | 28/08/2026



Key figures

rescEU capacities in development

€600 million to strengthen rescEU firefighting fleet with medium amphibious planes

€270 million to strengthen rescEU firefighting fleet with helicopters

© European Union, 2026. Map created by ERCC Analytical Team. Sources: DG ECHO, GISCO, Esri.

	Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) medium amphibious planes	Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) light planes	Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) helicopters	CBRN decontamination	CBRN detection, sampling, identification and monitoring capabilities	Strategic stockpiles of medical and CBRN items	Shelter capabilities	Energy stockpiles	Donations hub	Transport capabilities	Medical Air Evacuation (MEDEVAC)	Emergency Medical Team (EMT)
BELGIUM	-	-	-	-	-	①	-	-	-	-	-	1
CROATIA	2 2	-	-	1	-	① 1	1	-	-	-	-	-
CYPRUS	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CZECHIA	-	-	2 2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
DENMARK	-	-	-	-	-	①	-	-	-	-	-	-
FINLAND	-	-	-	-	-	②	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRANCE	2 2	-	1	-	-	① 1	-	-	-	-	-	1
GERMANY	-	-	-	①	-	②	-	-	-	-	-	1
GREECE	2 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HUNGARY	-	-	-	-	-	①	-	-	-	-	-	-
ITALY	2 2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
LITHUANIA	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LUXEMBOURG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
THE NETHERLANDS	-	-	-	-	-	①	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH MACEDONIA	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	①	-
POLAND	-	-	-	-	1	① 1	1	①	①	② 1	-	-
PORTUGAL	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
ROMANIA	-	-	①	-	1	① 1	①	-	-	-	-	1
SLOVAKIA	-	-	2 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SLOVENIA	-	-	-	-	-	①	1	-	-	-	-	-
SPAIN	2 2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
SWEDEN	-	2	-	-	-	①	② 1	-	-	-	-	-
TÜRKIYE	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	22	8	9	3	3	21	9	1	1	3	1	8

Registered ①

In phase of development 1

Transition capacities for the 2026 wildfires season 1

Click for more information on rescEU: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en

Built on preparedness: driven by solidarity

Hosted across 24 countries (Member States and participating states), rescEU forms a strategically distributed European network of disaster response capacities.

This geographic distribution enables the rapid mobilisation of specialised assets, ensuring that assistance can reach affected countries quickly while strengthening preparedness and solidarity across Europe.

Capacities can be deployed individually or combined, depending on operational needs, to provide integrated assistance.

The reserve reflects the diversity of risks facing Europe today – from natural hazards, health emergencies and technological accidents to conflicts.

Operational capacities – including the firefighting fleet, Medevac, emergency shelter, emergency energy reserves, and medical and CBRN stockpiles – already provide vital support during disasters, while additional capabilities continue to strengthen Europe's strategic reserve.

Since its establishment, rescEU has supported hundreds of emergency deployments and response operations, from the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to the Türkiye earthquakes and record wildfire seasons.

Through continuous investment, operational cooperation and shared preparedness, rescEU strengthens the resilience of Europe as a whole.

© EU2026



Key figures

24 Host countries strategically distributed across Europe

100% EU-funded via direct grants

8 Capacity families covering critical emergency needs

24+ Aircraft (firefighting planes, helicopters, transport fleet and medical evacuation plane)

24/7 ERCC coordination and year-round monitoring

300+ deployments



/HOW rescEU works

From request to response:

European solidarity in action



© EU2026

When disaster strikes, the affected country can request assistance through the UCPM.

The ERCC assesses the situation around the clock and coordinates offers of assistance from Member States and participating states.

If needs cannot be met through offers from Member States or capacities available through the ECPP, rescEU capacities are mobilised.

rescEU capacities can be organised into modules: self-sufficient clusters of assets that can be deployed independently, combining the equipment, resources and support needed to perform a specific response function.

Following the ERCC's assessment of remaining needs, rescEU capacities are rapidly deployed by air, land or sea to support countries overwhelmed by disasters, in close coordination with the host governments.

Whether responding to wildfires, earthquakes, health emergencies or conflicts, rescEU delivers critical assistance where it is needed most – helping to save lives, protect communities and restore essential services.

Every deployment demonstrates the strength of European solidarity in action.



Disaster occurs

A natural or man-made disaster hits a country.



Assistance is requested

The country activates the UCPM and requests support.

The ERCC coordinates response



The ERCC gathers information on the needs and coordinates assistance offers, including national capacities, ECPP resources.



rescEU activated

If gaps remain, rescEU capacities are mobilised.

Assets are deployed



They reach affected areas by air, land or sea to the affected area.



People receive support

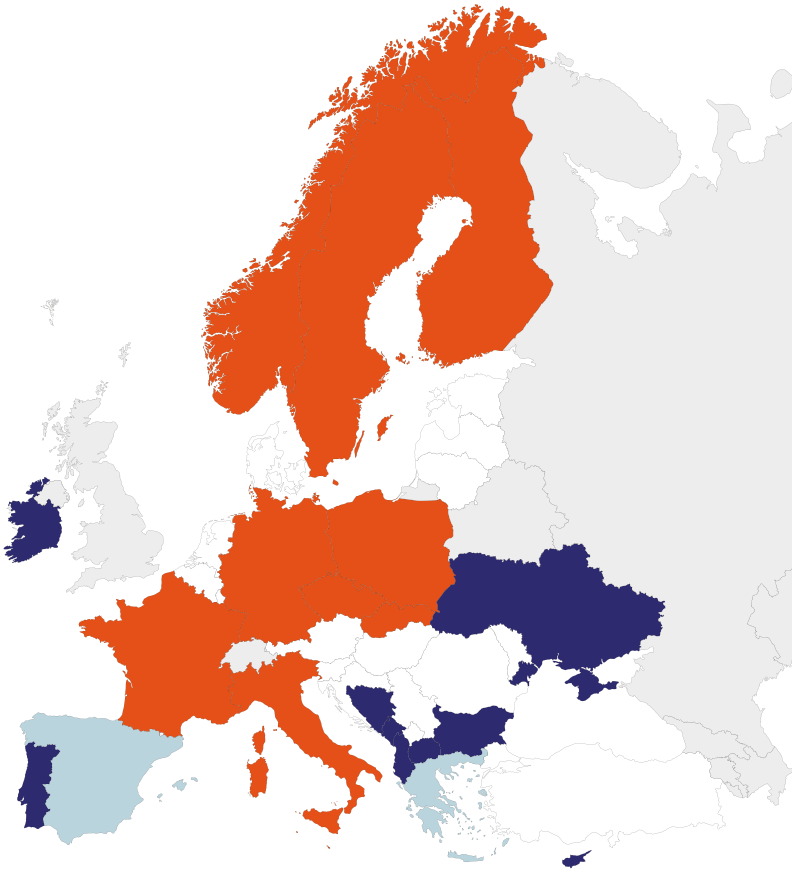
Lives are saved, shelter and essential supplies and services are provided, and communities are supported.

rescEU deployments over time

rescEU deployments in 2025

55 deployments of rescEU capacities

11 countries received assistance via rescEU

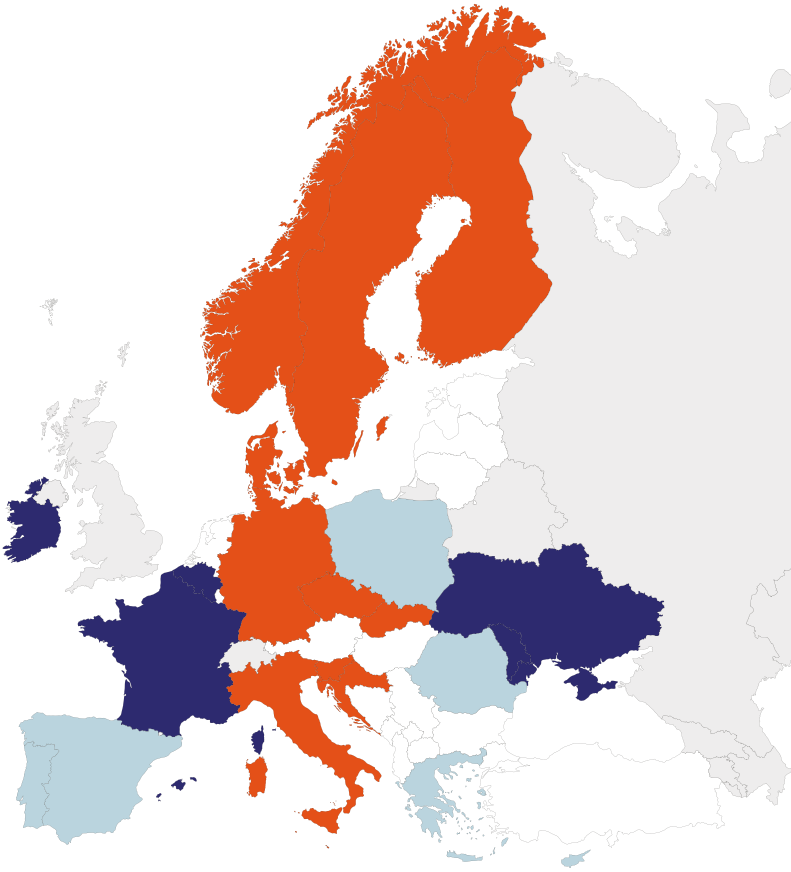


- Country receiving assistance via rescEU
- Hosting country that sent assistance via rescEU
- Hosting and receiving country
- EU Member States and UCPM participating states

rescEU deployments from Jan-Aug 2026

66 deployments of rescEU capacities

11 countries received assistance via rescEU



rescEU deployments via EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) in 2025 and from January to August 2026

2025	22	Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) planes
2026	18	
2025	5	Medical evacuations (MEDEVAC)
2026	12	
2025	7	Strategic stockpiles of CBRN and medical items
2026	11	
2025	6	Donations via the rescEU Private Donations Scheme
2026	4	
2025	10	Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) helicopters
2026	8	
2025	–	Transport and logistics
2026	5	
2025	1	Energy capacity (generators)
2026	2	
2025	1	Shelter capabilities
2026	1	

/Aerial Firefighting (AFF)

Fighting wildfires from the air when national capacities are overwhelmed



As wildfires become more frequent and intense across Europe, rapidly reinforcing national firefighting capacities is essential to protect lives, communities, infrastructure and the environment.

© EU2026

Climate change is extending the wildfire season across Europe. Major fires can develop rapidly and affect several countries at the same time, placing national firefighting resources under pressure when they are needed most.

The rescEU Aerial Firefighting capacity provides a European strategic reserve of firefighting airplanes and helicopters to reinforce national response capacities. Fully financed by the EU via direct grants to Member States and participating states, and strategically hosted across Europe, the fleet embodies European solidarity in action.

Why was it created?

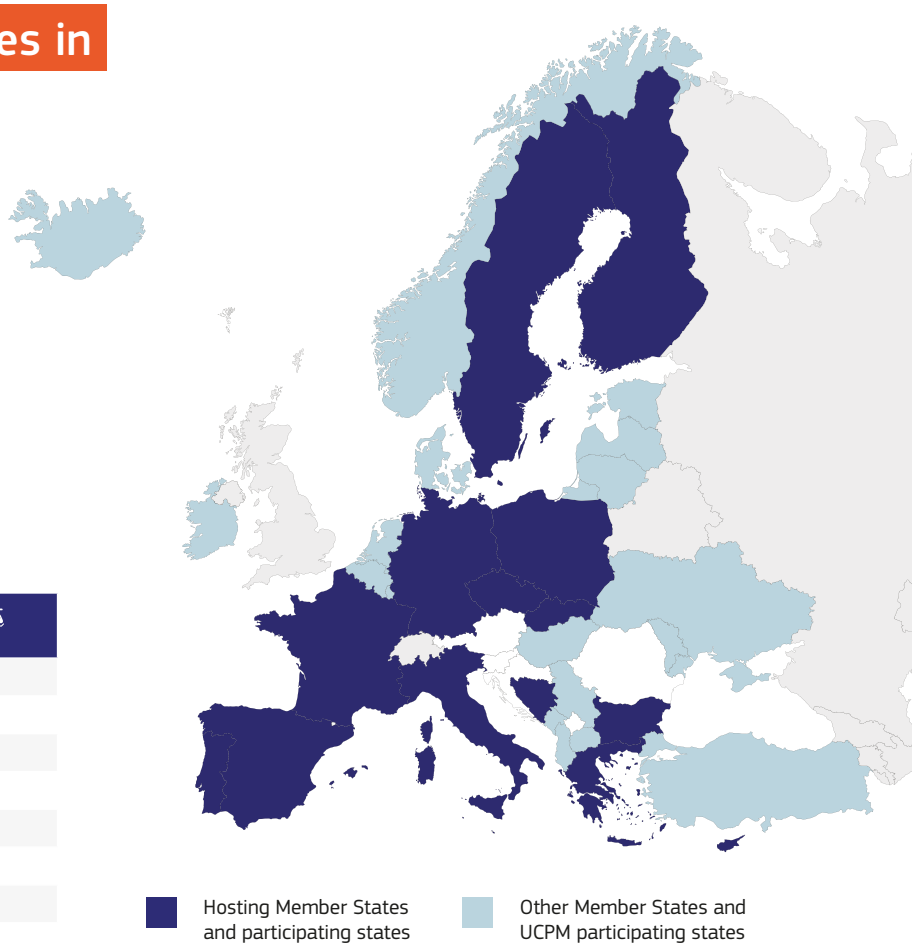
A permanent European fleet is now being progressively developed. Until it is fully operational, the EU finances a rescEU transition fleet, ensuring that aerial firefighting capacity remains available during each wildfire season. In 2026, this transitional capacity comprises 18 airplanes and 4 helicopters, complemented for the first time by 1 helicopter from the permanent rescEU fleet hosted in Romania.

Forest Firefighting Capacities in 2025 (rescEU)

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – DG ECHO Daily Map | 27/05/2025 (*)

AERIAL FIREFIGHTING FLEET
rescEU CAPACITIES

	Medium amphibious aircraft	Light aircraft	Helicopter
CROATIA	2	-	-
CYPRUS	-	2	-
CZECHIA	-	-	2
FRANCE	2	-	1
GREECE	2	-	-
ITALY	2	-	-
NORTH MACEDONIA	-	2	-
PORTUGAL	-	2	-
ROMANIA	-	-	1
SLOVAKIA	-	-	1
SPAIN	2	-	-
SWEDEN	-	2	-
TOTAL	10	8	5



This map illustrates the UCPM firefighting capacities assembled by the EU under two different modalities, rescEU and the European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP)(3), to combat the 2025 European wildfires season. Source: DG ECHO(4)

(*) © European Union, 2025. Map created by ERCC Analytical Team. Sources: DG ECHO, GISCO. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

(3) https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/european-civil-protection-pool_en
(4) https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/eu-organises-firefighting-teams-and-fleet-aircraft-support-wildfire-hit-countries-2025-05-26_en

What challenge does it address?



Extreme wildfires

Rising temperatures and prolonged drought, increasing wildfire frequency, intensity and season length across Europe.



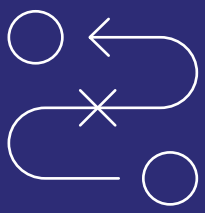
Simultaneous emergencies

Simultaneous wildfires stretching national aerial firefighting capacity at peak demand.



Communities and infrastructure

Threats to lives, communities, ecosystems and critical infrastructure.



Capacity gaps

Insufficient national resources during large-scale or prolonged emergencies.



12 scooping airplanes

A permanent fleet will consist of 12 medium amphibious firefighting airplanes designed to collect water directly from surface waters and conduct repeated firefighting missions rapidly. The airplanes will be hosted by Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy and Portugal have been signed. First delivery is expected in 2028.



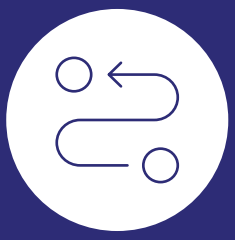
5 helicopters

A fleet will consist of 5 firefighting helicopters that provide additional operational flexibility and complement the response by accessing areas where fixed-wing aircraft may be less suitable. The first permanent rescEU helicopter has already been delivered to Romania, while implementation is progressing in Czechia and Slovakia. These three countries will be hosting the helicopters.

Building Europe's permanent firefighting fleet



3 hours deployment readiness



2026 FLEET

18 transition airplanes

4 transition helicopters

1 permanent helicopter

12 host countries



2030 PERMANENT FLEET

12 airplanes

5 helicopters

9 host countries

rescEU is moving towards a permanent European aerial firefighting reserve, while a transitional fleet provides operational coverage during the build-up phase. The two arrangements are complementary: the transitional fleet ensures capacity is available now, while the permanent fleet establishes a long-term European reserve.The permanent

rescEU fleet, expected to be fully operational by 2030, will comprise 12 scooping airplanes and 5 helicopters, and will be hosted across 9 countries:

- **Cyprus**
- **Czechia**
- **France**
- **Greece**
- **Italy**
- **Portugal**
- **Romania**
- **Slovakia**
- **Spain**

In parallel, the transitional fleet provides additional aircraft during the move to the permanent configuration, ensuring that European aerial firefighting capacity remains available while the new assets are procured and delivered. Contracts for the permanent airplanes have been signed and production is underway, while the first permanent rescEU helicopter has already been delivered to Romania. As permanent aircraft gradually enter service, the transitional arrangements will be reduced, completing the transition to a stable, long-term European aerial firefighting reserve.

/AFF in action

Wildfire season 2026: one fire season, one European response



© EU2026

The 2026 wildfire season demonstrated the operational value of having European aerial firefighting capacities available when national resources came under pressure. Successive heatwaves, prolonged drought and strong winds created extreme fire conditions across large parts of Europe, turning what were once local emergencies into simultaneous, cross-border crises. By the end of July, temperatures had reached 45 °C in parts of Spain and France, while wildfire danger remained at extreme levels across central Europe, the eastern Mediterranean, France and the Iberian Peninsula.

As fires intensified simultaneously across Europe, countries increasingly called on the UCPM for assistance. By 18 September, the UCPM had been activated 10 times in Europe for wildfires and twice outside Europe, with the ERCC coordinating 42 aerial firefighting assets and 18 ground firefighting teams.

Overall, 25 rescEU firefighting aircraft and helicopters were deployed throughout the 2026 wildfire season as part of a broader European response involving aerial assets and ground firefighting teams. During July, rescEU capacities supported major wildfire responses in France, Spain and Portugal. In France, aircraft and helicopters from Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden were mobilised. In Spain, four rescEU Canadair aircraft from Greece and Italy were deployed, while Portugal received support from two aircraft from Italy and one from Spain. In August, rescEU capacities were also deployed to Belgium, with two air tractors from Sweden, and to Serbia, where helicopters from Czechia, Romania and Slovakia supported firefighting operations.

The response extended beyond aerial assets. Ground firefighting teams, ECPP teams, rescEU capacities and ERCC coordination worked together to reinforce national response efforts, demonstrating how European capacities can be combined and deployed according to the needs of each emergency.

The 2026 wildfire season also highlighted the human and societal impact of increasingly severe wildfires. France saw around 220 000 people evacuated and 37 000 hectares burned in the Gironde fires, while fires around Madrid led to the evacuation of 62 500 people, with a further 36 000 residents confined to their homes. More than 62 000 hectares were affected in Spain.

From aircraft in the sky to firefighters on the ground, the 2026 season showed how European solidarity, coordinated through the ERCC, can translate strategic preparedness into operational support when national capacities are under pressure.

rescEU

Europe's strategic aerial reserve

18 **firefighting planes**

5 **helicopters**

12 **host countries**

rescEU provides Europe's last-resort aerial firefighting capability, ensuring that critical assets remain available during large or simultaneous wildfire emergencies.

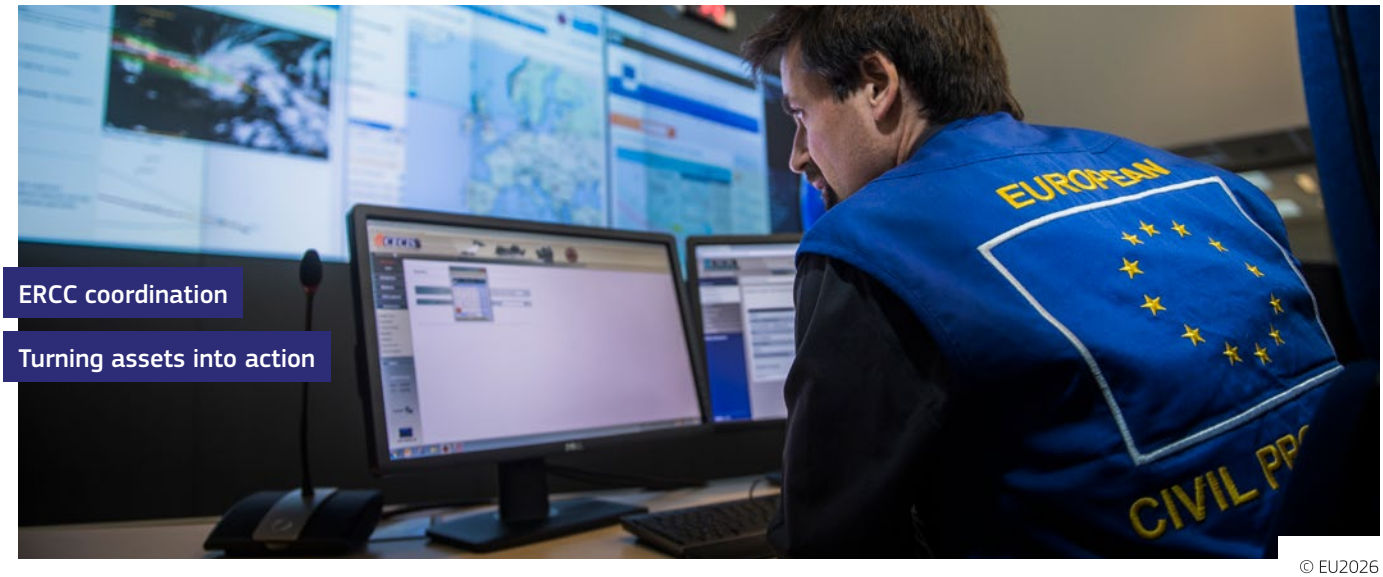
ECPP and pre-positioning

777 **firefighters pre-positioned**

Ground modules

14 **Member States**

Before the peak wildfire season, 777 firefighters from 14 Member States are strategically pre-positioned in high-risk countries to strengthen local response capacities.



ERCC coordination

Turning assets into action

© EU2026

The ERCC coordinates assistance, mobilises resources and works with liaison officers, Copernicus and the Wildfire Support Team to ensure real-time situational awareness and operational coordination.

AFF IN ACTION – France, Spain

Recent wildfires and rescEU response

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

DG ECHO Daily Map | 28/07/2026 (*)



The map reflects the operational deployment status at the time of the map elaboration. Countries listed in the accompanying tables may not appear on the map if their capacities had not yet arrived in the country or had already returned.

© European Union, 2026. Map produced by the JRC and DG ECHO. The boundaries and the names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union.

Fire danger forecast (FWI) (*) 29 Jul-4 Aug

Source: Copernicus EMS EFFIS

- Very extreme
- Extreme
- Very high
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- UCPM activation

- Location of burnt areas Source: Copernicus EMS EFFIS (5) 19-28 Jul at 13:00 UTC
- Burnt area extent
- Active fire 25-28 July Source: Copernicus EMS EFFIS (6)
- Place — Affected place of interest for UCPM and Copernicus EMSR response
- Base of Operation (BoO) and number of BoO Source: DG ECHO
- Location of prepositioned firefighters via the UCPM 16-31 July

(*) Values represent the median over a 7-day period.
(5) https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/about-effis/technical-background/rapid-damage-assessment
(6) https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/about-effis/technical-background/active-fire-detection
(7) https://x.com/interiorgob/status/2081749170214306166
(8) https://abcnews.com/US/257000-evacuated-amid-wildfires-spain-france/story?id=135084380

rescEU response as of 28 July at 17:00 CEST

	rescEU firefighting helicopter	rescEU light firefighting plane	rescEU medium scooping plane
FRANCE			
CZECHIA	1	-	-
SLOVAKIA	1	-	-
PORTUGAL	2	-	-
SWEDEN	-	2	-
CROATIA	-	-	1
GERMANY	2		-
SPAIN			
GREECE	-	-	2
ITALY	-	-	2

On 23 July, France activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), requesting aerial and ground firefighting capacities.

On 24 July, Spain activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), requesting aerial and ground firefighting capacities.

Over 20-28 July Source: MI Spain [7], ABC news [8], CENEM

Impact overview

FRANCE

54 injured people

250 000 evacuees

SPAIN

89 000 evacuees



© EU2026

/Transport and Logistics

Connecting people, cargo and response capacities



When crises disrupt transport networks, rapid access to strategic airlift can be critical to moving people, equipment and assistance where they are needed.

Large-scale emergencies can quickly disrupt commercial transport networks, leaving countries unable to move people, response teams or critical equipment at the required speed. The COVID-19 pandemic – including the large-scale repatriation of EU citizens in 2020 – as well as the evacuation from Afghanistan in 2021 and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine demonstrated the strategic importance of having European transport capacities available when commercial or other transport options are unavailable or insufficient.

© EU2026

What challenge does it address?

Disrupted transport networks

Commercial and cargo flights unavailable during major crises

Time-sensitive deployment

Teams, modules and specialised equipment requiring rapid transport to affected areas

Critical cargo

Medical supplies, equipment and other essential goods requiring reliable transport during emergencies

One fleet, multiple functions

The rescEU Transport and Logistics capacity provides rapidly deployable air transport for people, cargo and response teams, complementing national and commercial transport resources when these cannot meet emergency needs.

This capacity also provides **multipurpose airlift**, combining narrow-body and wide-body aircraft that can be configured for different operational needs.

By maintaining access to strategic airlift at European level, rescEU reduces dependence on commercial availability and ensures that critical transport can be mobilised when crises disrupt normal networks.



© EU2026

PEOPLE

Consular evacuations and repatriations

CARGO

Critical supplies and equipment

TEAMS

Deployment of response teams and modules

CAPACITIES

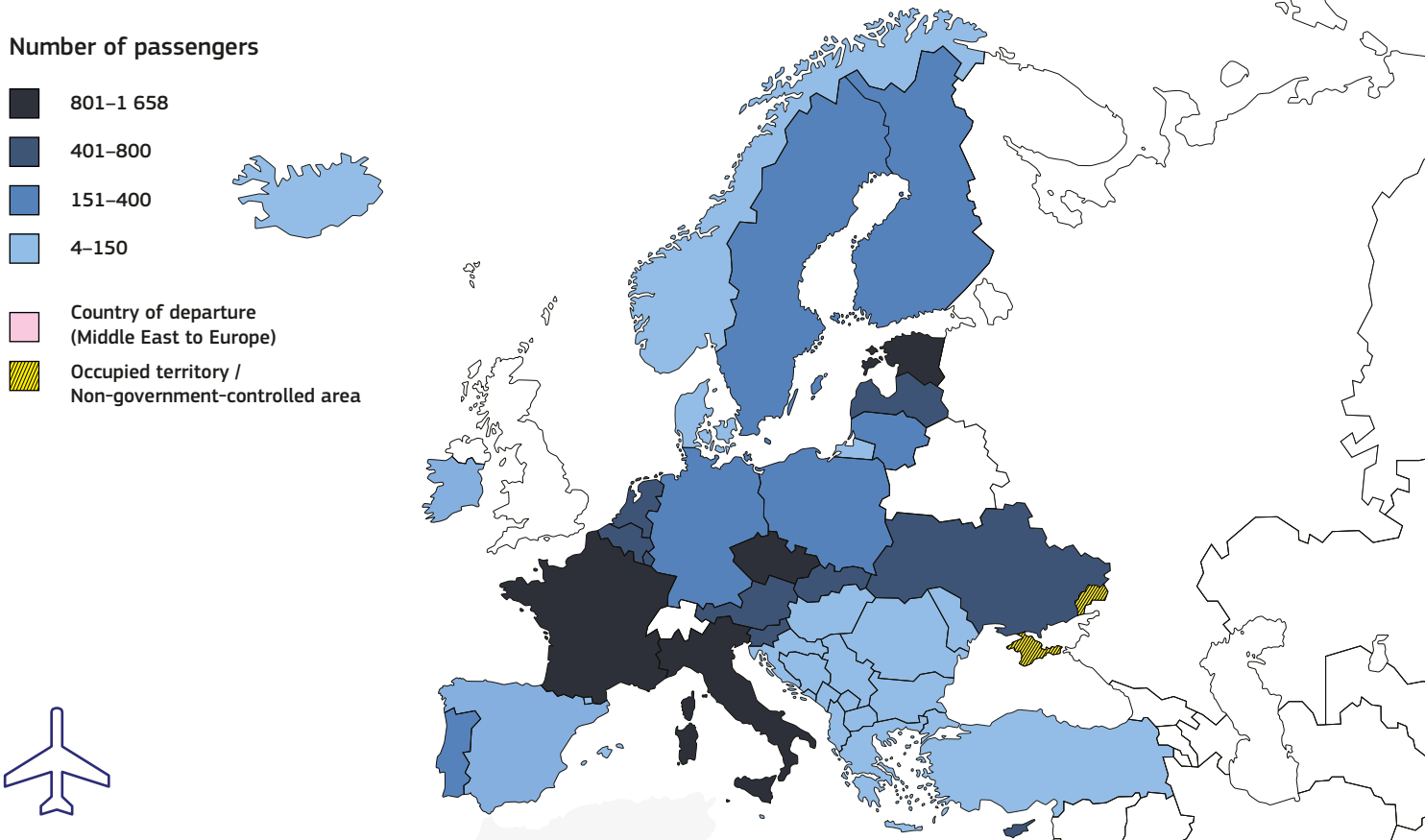
Transport of specialised response equipment

Middle East | Repatriations through the UCPM

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

EU Civil Protection Mechanism as of 23 March at 15:00 CET

21 EU Member States and **2 UCPM participating states** have activated the UCPM



92 flights completed, including
5 rescEU flights

13 400 passengers transported, including:

- **12 500 EU Member State** nationals
- **250 UCPM participating state** nationals
- **650 third-country** nationals

Key figures



3 operational multipurpose aircraft



12 hours deployment readiness

Bringing Europeans home

In March 2026, following the escalation in the Middle East, disruptions to air transport left European citizens stranded across the region. The ERCC coordinated repatriation efforts, while rescEU Transport and Logistics capacities were mobilised for the first time, bringing citizens safely home from the region to Europe. The operation demonstrated the value of having strategic European airlift available when normal transport options are disrupted.

The capacity is currently hosted by Poland

Fleet at a glance

The rescEU Transport and Logistics fleet combines wide-body and narrow-body multipurpose aircraft, providing flexibility to move people, cargo, response teams and specialised equipment according to operational needs.

The wide-body aircraft provides high passenger and cargo capacity for large-scale transport operations, while the narrow-body aircraft offer more flexible options for passenger and cargo movements. Together, the aircraft can support evacuations and repatriations, deployment of response teams and modules, and the transport of critical supplies and specialised equipment.

The fleet is supported by dedicated flight and cabin crews, enabling rapid mobilisation and deployment according to the aircraft configuration and operational requirements.

/Medical Capacities

Providing care when needs surge



When a major emergency overwhelms healthcare systems, rapid access to medical care, medical evacuation and essential medical supplies can save lives.

Large-scale disasters, pandemics, conflicts and CBRN incidents can rapidly exceed national healthcare capacity. rescEU provides an additional European layer of medical support, combining field hospitals, specialised evacuation and strategic stockpiles to ensure that critical assistance can be mobilised when and where it is needed.

Together, these capacities cover different stages of a health emergency.

© EU2026



Respond

Emergency Medical Teams



Deploy specialised medical care directly where healthcare systems are under pressure, including through a modular field hospital designed to adapt to different emergency scenarios.

Evacuate

Medical Evacuation



Transfer patients requiring specialised or intensive care to hospitals with the appropriate capacity, including patients affected by complex trauma, burns or CBRN exposure.

Supply

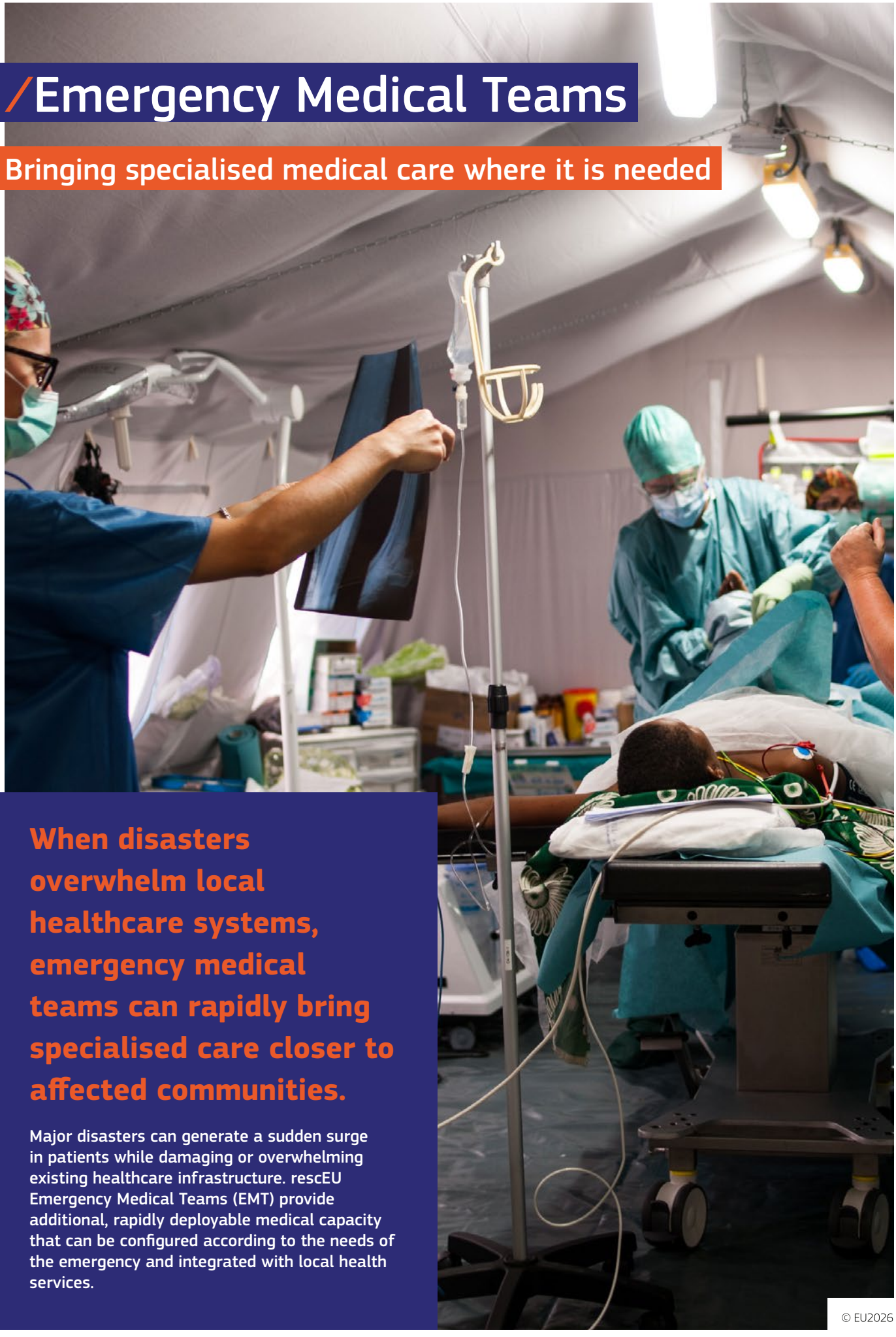
Medical and CBRN Stockpiles



Provide essential medicines, medical devices, protective equipment and CBRN response equipment when national stocks are insufficient.

/Emergency Medical Teams

Bringing specialised medical care where it is needed



When disasters overwhelm local healthcare systems, emergency medical teams can rapidly bring specialised care closer to affected communities.

Major disasters can generate a sudden surge in patients while damaging or overwhelming existing healthcare infrastructure. rescEU Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) provide additional, rapidly deployable medical capacity that can be configured according to the needs of the emergency and integrated with local health services.

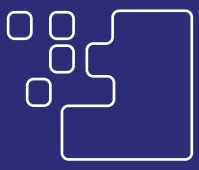
© EU2026

What challenge does it address?



Overwhelmed healthcare systems

Sudden surges in patients can exceed local medical capacity



Fragmented local capacity

Health services often lack additional staff during large-scale emergencies



Rigid, non-adaptable capacity

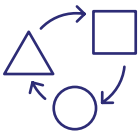
Fixed hospital infrastructure cannot scale to match severity of each emergency

A scalable hospital where national capacity is under pressure

The rescEU EMT, currently under development by a consortium of 7 EU Member States and 1 UCPM participating state, will form a pan-European field hospital with 21 modular sub-capacities.

Its modular design allows different combinations of specialised medical services to be configured and deployed according to the emergency. This provides comprehensive care across diverse and complex disaster scenarios, rather than relying on a single fixed model.

The rescEU EMT is expected to become operational in 2027, creating a permanent European field hospital that can be configured for different high-impact emergencies.



21 modular

sub-capacities



150 patients

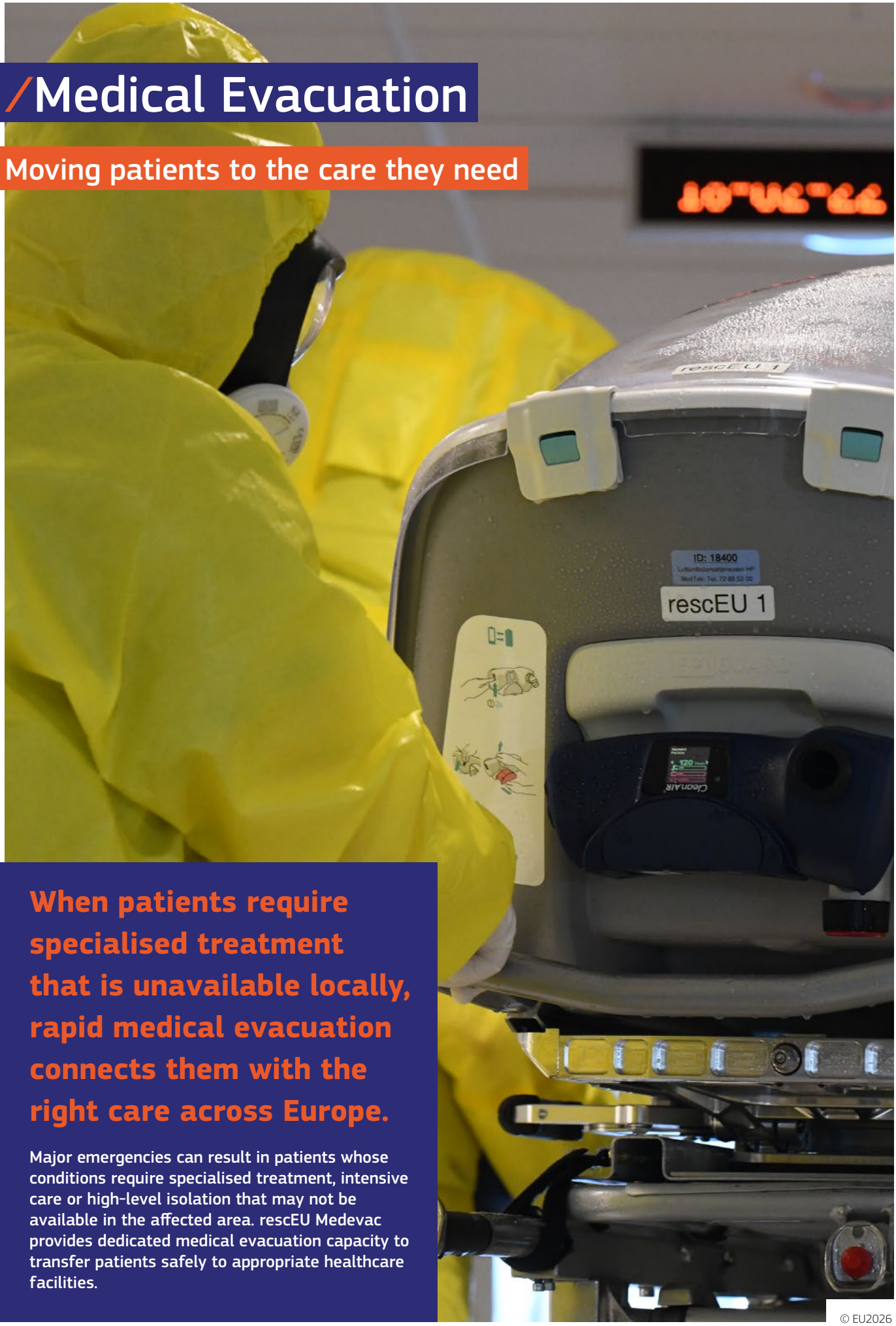
max. capacity

Host countries

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Portugal
- Romania
- Türkiye

/Medical Evacuation

Moving patients to the care they need



When patients require specialised treatment that is unavailable locally, rapid medical evacuation connects them with the right care across Europe.

Major emergencies can result in patients whose conditions require specialised treatment, intensive care or high-level isolation that may not be available in the affected area. rescEU Medevac provides dedicated medical evacuation capacity to transfer patients safely to appropriate healthcare facilities.

© EU2026

What challenge does it address?

Critical patients

Patients requiring specialised or intensive care

Limited local capacity

Specialised treatment unavailable in the affected area

High-level isolation

Patients requiring specialised isolation, including CBRN cases

Specialised care when and where it is needed

rescEU Medevac connects patients with specialised healthcare facilities while helping affected health systems manage sudden surges in demand.

Norway-hosted Medevac

The Norwegian Medevac capability can perform medical air evacuations for high-level isolation cases, CBRN-exposed patients, burn patients and patients requiring ECMO.

Operational since 2021

1-5 patients max.

Depending on configuration

Scope

Highly infectious disease patients, CBRN/burn patients, discussion on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

Poland-hosted Medevac

Currently under development, the Polish capacity will provide additional evacuation capability for large numbers of patients during large-scale emergencies.

Operational from 2027

16 patients max.

Depending on configuration

In action

Hantavirus outbreak 2026 – Tenerife, Spain

During the 2026 hantavirus outbreak, the Norway-hosted rescEU Medevac capacity was deployed to Tenerife to support the safe transfer of patients requiring high-level biocontainment and specialised care.



© EU2026

/Medical and CBRN Stockpiles

Europe's strategic reserve of life-saving medical countermeasures



© EU2026

Health emergencies can escalate rapidly, placing extraordinary pressure on healthcare systems and disrupting access to essential medical supplies. Pandemics, CBRN incidents, natural disasters and conflicts can quickly exhaust national stockpiles, leaving countries in urgent need of additional support.

The rescEU Medical and CBRN Stockpiles provide a coordinated European reserve of medical countermeasures, including medicines, personal protective equipment, critical medical devices and specialised CBRN equipment. Fully financed by the EU and strategically distributed across Europe, the stockpiles ensure that essential supplies remain available for rapid deployment whenever national capacities are overwhelmed. This strengthens Europe's preparedness for large-scale health emergencies and complex crises.





© EU2026

Why was it created?

The stockpiles were established following the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen European preparedness for serious cross-border health threats and CBRN incidents. They provide an additional layer of protection by ensuring the availability of essential medical supplies, equipment and therapeutics during large-scale emergencies, complementing national stockpiles and reinforcing solidarity across the Union.

What challenge does it address?

Pandemic outbreaks

Essential medicines, vaccines and protective equipment needed at short notice

Mass casualty incidents

Hospitals and emergency medical services facing demand beyond national resources

CBRN incidents

Specialised antidotes, protective equipment and response tools required for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats

Complex crises

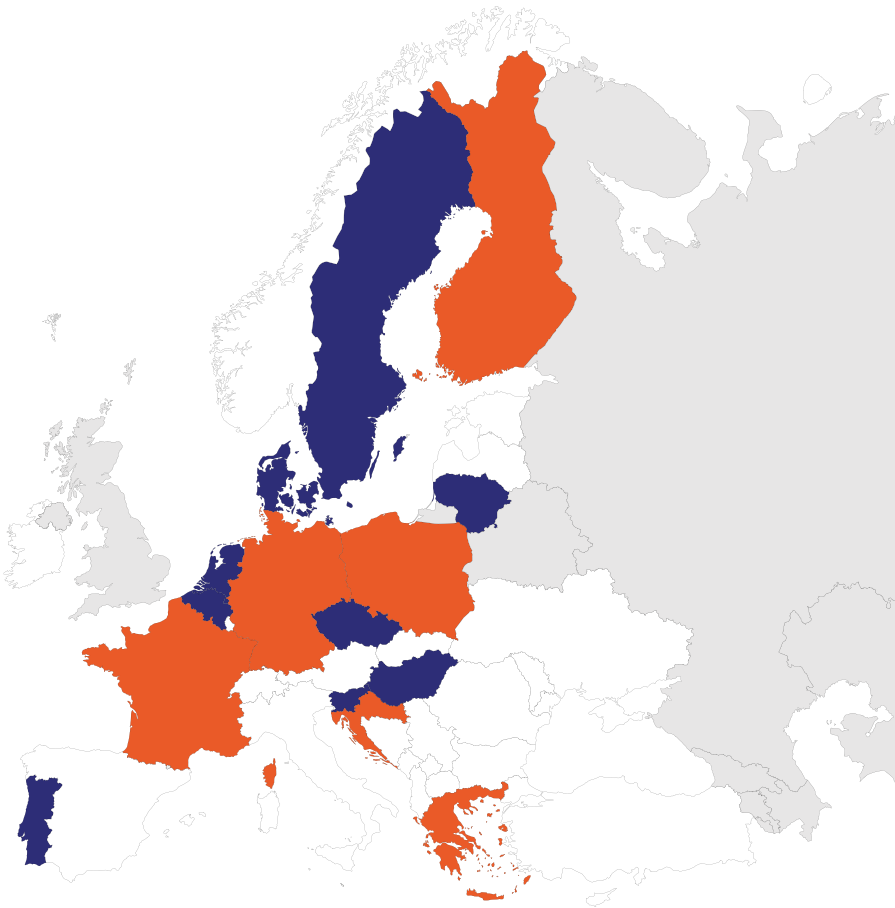
Critical medical supplies at risk during conflicts and large-scale disasters

rescEU strategic stockpiles of medical and CBRN items in 2026

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

24/02/2026

rescEU capacities	Strategic stockpiles of medical and CBRN items
BELGIUM	1
CROATIA	2
CZECHIA	1
GREECE	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	2
FRANCE	2
GERMANY	2
HUNGARY	1
LITHUANIA	1
THE NETHERLANDS	1
POLAND	2
PORTUGAL	1
ROMANIA	2
SLOVENIA	1
SWEDEN	1



Other EU Member States / UCPM participating states

In action

COVID-19 pandemic

The first rescEU medical stockpiles became operational during the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the rapid deployment of PPE and essential medical supplies to countries facing acute shortages. In **May 2020**, assistance was mobilised to **Spain and Italy**, demonstrating the added value of a shared European reserve during a large-scale cross-border health emergency. Since then, the stockpiles have continued to strengthen European preparedness and response to medical and CBRN incidents, ranging from pandemics and emerging disease threats to mass casualty incidents and public health needs arising from natural disasters. They can also support civil-military cooperation in conflict-related scenarios and address chemical and radiological-nuclear safety challenges in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment.



Medicines and therapeutics

Antibiotics, antivirals, vaccines, immunoglobulins, antidotes and other essential medicines.



Medical devices

Life-support devices for intensive and emergency care.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Masks, protective suits, gloves, etc.



CBRN equipment

Specialised equipment for CBRN hazards (i.e. detection, monitoring and decontamination equipment, patient isolation units, etc.).

Key figures



22

strategic stockpiles



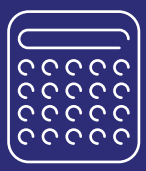
16

host countries



12 hours

max. deployment time



5+ years

operational

/Responding to CBRN Emergencies

Detecting hazards, protecting people, restoring safety

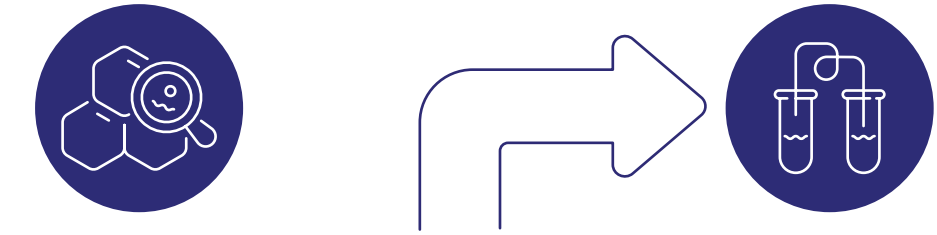


Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies are among the most complex and demanding disasters to manage. Whether arising from accidental releases, deliberate attacks or other hazardous incidents, these events require highly specialised capabilities to detect invisible threats, assess risks and protect affected populations.

The rescEU CBRN Capacities provide specialised European assets for detection, sampling, identification and monitoring (DSIM) and decontamination (DECON).

© EU2026

CBRN response cycle



Detect

Collect samples and identify hazardous substances.

Analyse

Provide rapid scientific assessment using mobile laboratories.

Decontaminate

Remove hazardous contamination from people, vehicles, buildings and infrastructure.

Mitigate

Reduce the impact of incidents and mitigate risks to affected communities.

Why was it created?

The rescEU CBRN Capacities have been established to strengthen Europe's preparedness for CBRN emergencies by providing specialised response teams and assets that can be rapidly deployed during large-scale disasters, security incidents and high-risk cross-border events. They complement national capacities by ensuring that advanced CBRN assets are available whenever additional European support is required.

What challenge does it address?

Chemical hazards

Accidental or deliberate releases of hazardous chemicals

Radiological and nuclear incidents

Radioactive materials that require detection and safe response operations

Biological threats

Infectious agents and biological contamination

High-risk events

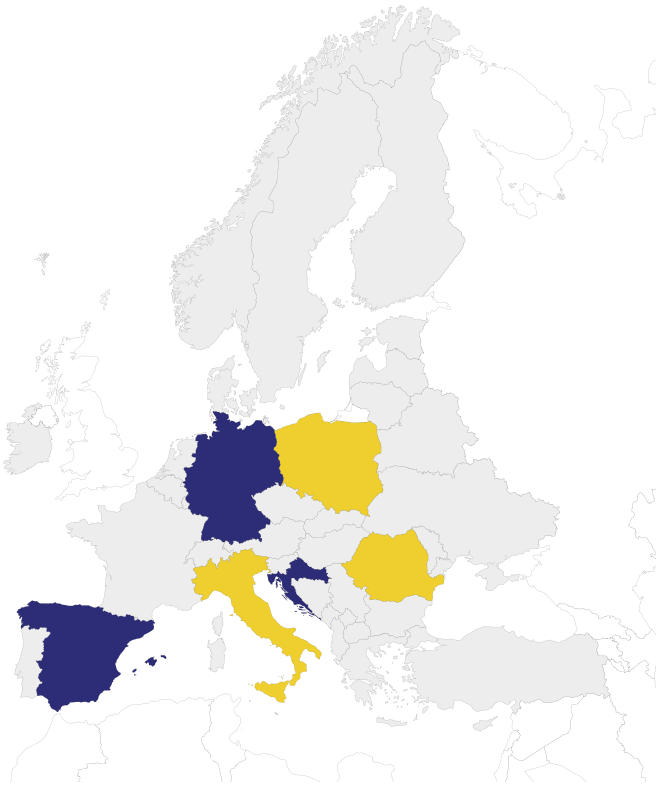
Mass gatherings and major European events requiring enhanced preparedness

The rescEU CBRN reserve consists of two complementary capability types.

DSIM teams use advanced detection equipment, mobile laboratories and scientific expertise to identify hazardous substances, analyse samples and monitor contaminated areas, providing the information needed to guide decision-making.

DECON teams operate to decontaminate people, animals, vehicles, buildings, equipment and infrastructure from chemical, biological and/or radiological agents, helping to restore safe operational environments.

Distribution of CBRN European reserve



Europe's specialised rescEU CBRN reserve

DECON		DSIM	
	GERMANY		ITALY
	SPAIN		POLAND
	CROATIA		ROMANIA

In action

Strengthening preparedness before crises occur

As with many rescEU capacities, CBRN assets can be pre-positioned ahead of large-scale events, strengthening national preparedness and ensuring that specialised European support is available should a CBRN incident occur.

Pre-positioned resources can provide additional detection, surveillance and response capacity during major European events. Mobile laboratories and specialised detection teams can support the rapid identification of hazardous substances and enable authorities to respond swiftly to potential incidents.

This approach reinforces prevention, preparedness and resilience, while ensuring that specialised European expertise and equipment can be made available rapidly when and where they are needed.

Maximum response capacity

rescEU decontamination capabilities can support the rapid treatment of large and complex contaminated areas, infrastructure, vehicles and people. They can be deployed to decontaminate roads and paved surfaces, building façades, interior spaces, and passenger vehicles. The capabilities also support the treatment of both ambulatory and non-ambulatory casualties, enabling a flexible response to a wide range of CBRN contamination scenarios.

Key figures

6
strategic CBRN Capacities
(3 DECON and 3 DSIM)

6
host countries

12 hours
deployment readiness

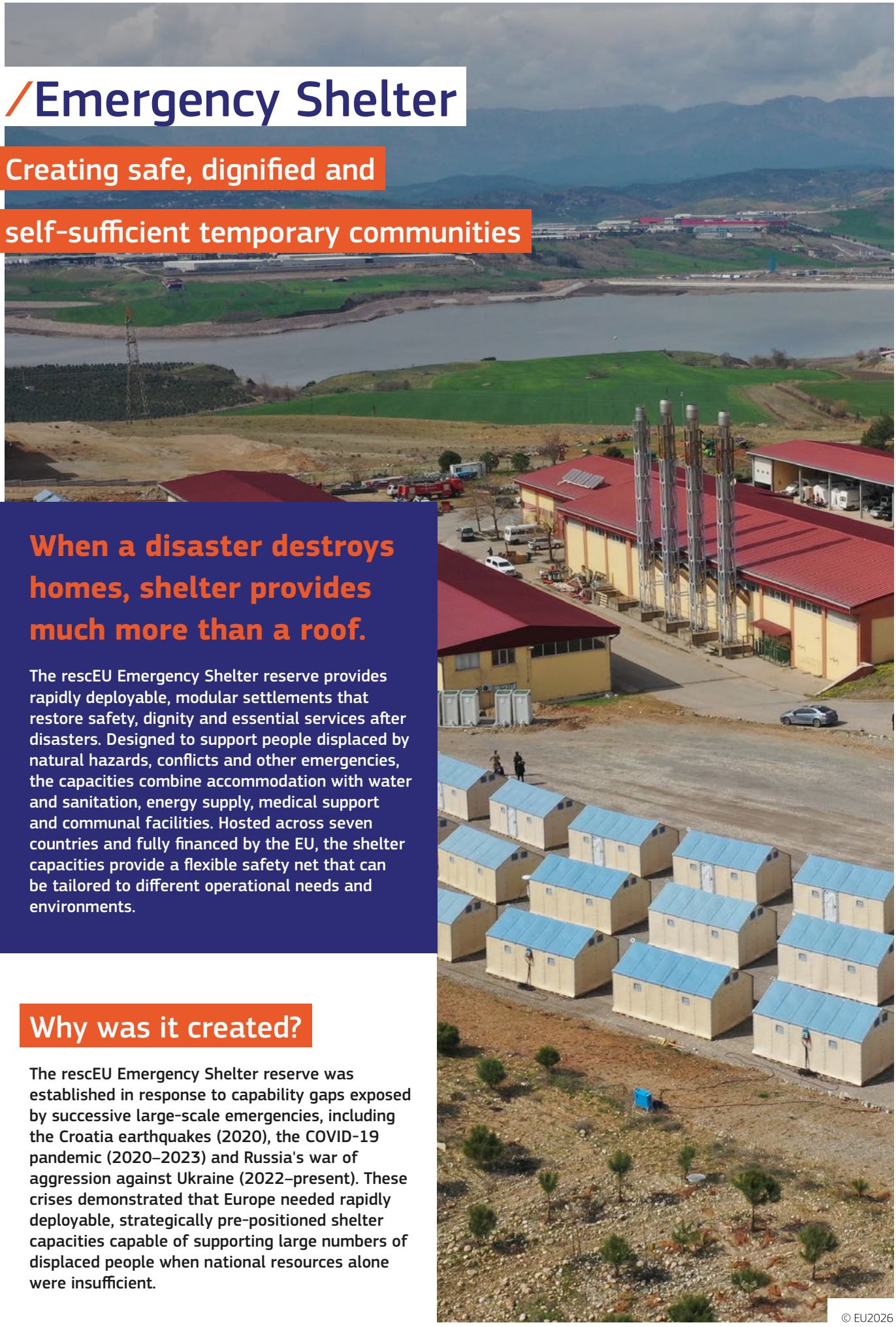
2026
Full operational capability by year end



© EU2026

/Emergency Shelter

Creating safe, dignified and self-sufficient temporary communities



© EU2026

When a disaster destroys homes, shelter provides much more than a roof.

The rescEU Emergency Shelter reserve provides rapidly deployable, modular settlements that restore safety, dignity and essential services after disasters. Designed to support people displaced by natural hazards, conflicts and other emergencies, the capacities combine accommodation with water and sanitation, energy supply, medical support and communal facilities. Hosted across seven countries and fully financed by the EU, the shelter capacities provide a flexible safety net that can be tailored to different operational needs and environments.

Why was it created?

The rescEU Emergency Shelter reserve was established in response to capability gaps exposed by successive large-scale emergencies, including the Croatia earthquakes (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2023) and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine (2022–present). These crises demonstrated that Europe needed rapidly deployable, strategically pre-positioned shelter capacities capable of supporting large numbers of displaced people when national resources alone were insufficient.

What challenge does it address?

Protection
Safe, accessible spaces for vulnerable populations

Loss of housing
Displaced people left without accommodation after disasters

Lack of water and sanitation
Limited or unsafe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services

Disrupted essential services
Loss of power, medical support and communal facilities

A strategically distributed European reserve

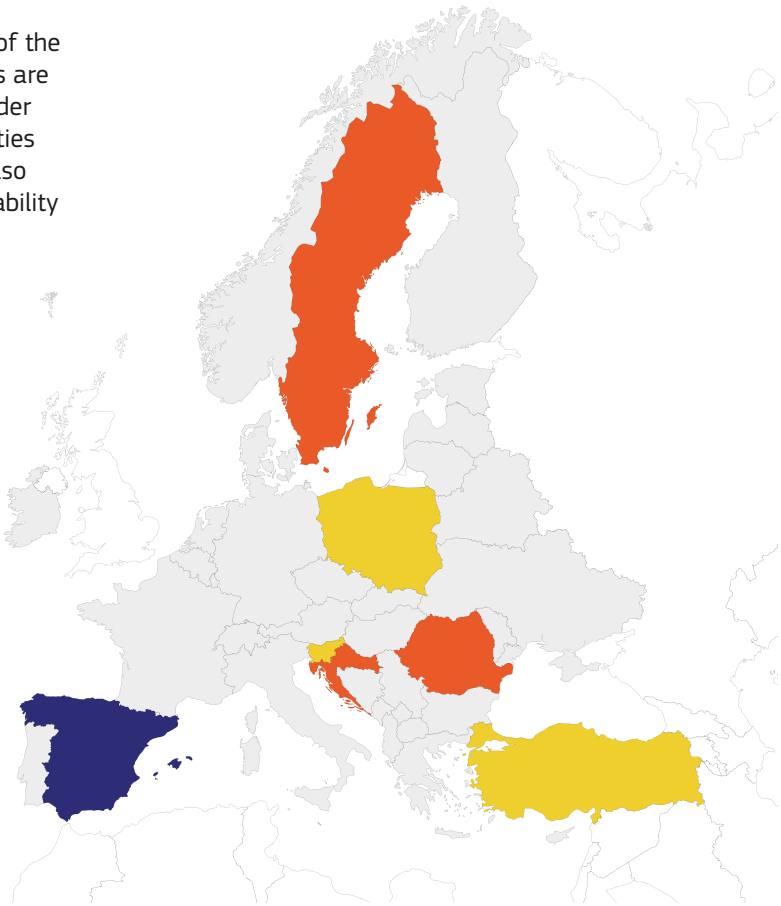
The rescEU Emergency Shelter reserve combines long-term European shelter capacities with emergency reserves initially established to address the immediate needs arising from the unprecedented humanitarian consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Together, they form one of Europe's largest strategic shelter reserves.

As needs in Europe continue to evolve in the context of the wider geopolitical risks, the Ukraine-related capacities are expected to be progressively integrated into the broader rescEU reserve. This approach will allow these capacities to continue supporting Ukraine when needed, while also strengthening Europe's long-term preparedness and ability to respond to future crises.

The reserve is strategically hosted across six Member States and one participating state, enabling rapid mobilisation throughout Europe and beyond. Capacities differ in design but are interoperable within the UCPM and coordinated through the ERCC.

Distribution of shelter reserves

HYBRID (CONTAINERS AND TENTS)	
CROATIA	
SWEDEN	
ROMANIA	
TENT-BASED	**CONTAINER-BASED**
SPAIN	POLAND
	SLOVENIA
	TÜRKIYE



What does the capacity include?

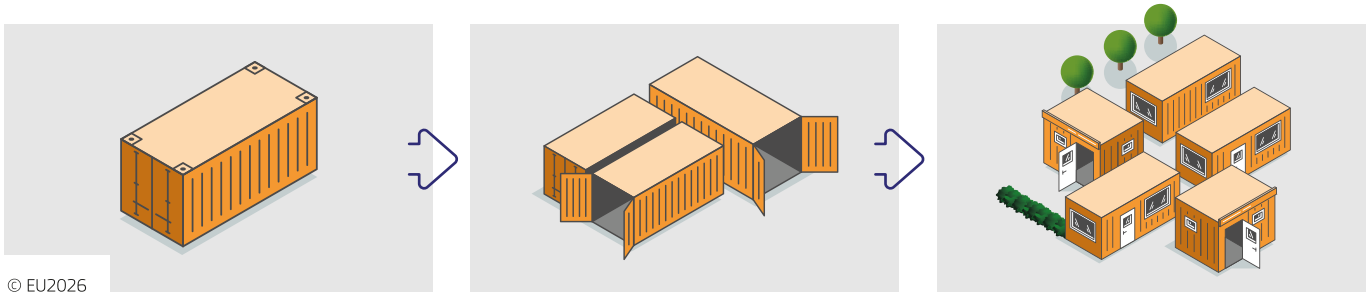
Every deployment combines accommodation with the essential services required to establish a safe, functional and self-sufficient temporary settlement. Depending on operational requirements, shelter packages can include accommodation units, water and sanitation systems, power generation, medical facilities, camp management infrastructure, information and communication technology, lighting, and logistics support.



© EU2026

Modular and scalable

Depending on operational needs, capacities can be mobilised as individual assets, partial camps or complete settlements, allowing the response to adapt to the evolving emergency.



© EU2026

Individual assets

Shelter components deployed to reinforce an existing operation

Partial deployment

A small site adapted to operational needs

Full settlement

A complete temporary community providing accommodation and essential services for large-scale displacement

Why modularity matters

The same reserve can support different emergency scenarios – from reinforcing an existing national response with individual assets to establishing complete temporary settlements to establishing complete temporary settlements designed to accommodate thousands of displaced people.

Shelter in action

From earthquakes to conflicts, rescEU shelter capacities have supported displaced populations, providing safe temporary accommodation and essential services in some of Europe's most complex emergencies.

Ukraine – 2022 to present

Since 2022, rescEU has supported Ukraine through one of its largest shelter operations. Sweden deployed **2 800 light containers (Relief Housing Units (RHU))** and more than **10 600 additional beds** across 5 oblasts to support the establishment of 'Points of Invincibility': warm spots for people to shelter, charge their phones or get a hot meal. rescEU has also supported the establishment of transit centres for internally displaced people, providing temporary accommodation, registration and medical screening, helping people before onward transportation to safer locations. Via its stocks in Romania, rescEU also deployed **16 000 hygiene kits**, **40 high-capacity generators** and **3 water purification stations**, helping restore essential services in affected areas. The deployment remains ongoing as needs continue to evolve.



© EU2026

Türkiye – February 2023

Following the devastating earthquakes of February 2023, rescEU mobilised emergency shelter capacities to support thousands of displaced people. Sweden deployed **500 light containers (RHU)**, while Romania provided **2 000 emergency tents**, together offering temporary accommodation for **up to 10 500 people**.

RHU feature tags



1. Metal frame



2. Light cover panels (flat pack)



3. Additional insulation, raised wooden floor



4. Waterproofing (tarpaulins)

/Emergency Energy

Keeping essential services running when power fails



When disasters disrupt electricity supplies, restoring power becomes one of the first priorities for protecting lives and supporting emergency response.

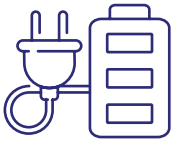
© EU2026

The rescEU Emergency Energy reserve provides rapidly deployable power generation capacities to maintain critical infrastructure and essential services during major emergencies. Developed in response to growing energy security risks and the serious pressures created by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the reserve ensures that electricity can be restored quickly wherever national capacities are overwhelmed. Hosted by Germany and Poland, though Germany's grant has now concluded, and fully financed by the EU, rescEU Emergency Energy strengthens Europe's preparedness for prolonged power outages and complex emergencies.

Why was it created?

The rescEU Emergency Energy reserve was established in 2022 as significant gaps were identified in emergency energy supply capacities across Europe. Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure demonstrated the need for a strategic European reserve capable of rapidly restoring electricity to hospitals, water systems, emergency shelters and other critical infrastructure.

What challenge does it address?



Power outages

Disasters and infrastructure failures disrupting electricity supply



Critical infrastructure

Hospitals, water systems and public services at risk without power



Humanitarian emergencies

Emergency shelters and relief operations left without reliable power



Energy security

Countries facing prolonged disruptions to energy supply

A strategically distributed European reserve

Although Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/1198 allows a broad range of emergency energy solutions – including batteries, solar systems, lighting equipment, fuel supply and synchronisation equipment – the rescEU Emergency Energy reserve has so far been developed through the procurement of power generators.

The reserve includes **generators**, ranging from small units supplying individual households (12.5–45 kilovolt-amperes) to large generators of up to **2 000 kilovolt-amperes**, capable of powering hospitals, district heating systems, emergency shelter camps and other critical infrastructure. Their diversity allows the reserve to respond flexibly to different operational needs and emergency scenarios.

Strategic generator reserves



Germany

Operational from 2022–2023



Poland

Operational since 2023

Ukraine

Since 2022, the rescEU Emergency Energy reserve has provided a vital lifeline to Ukraine by supplying more than 4 100 emergency generators to maintain electricity for hospitals, district heating systems, emergency shelters and other critical infrastructure damaged during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Repeated deployments have supported the decentralisation of backup energy production, helping communities maintain essential services during severe winter conditions and attacks on the energy network. In January 2026, renewed large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure left over one million people without electricity, water or heating during freezing temperatures, prompting the rapid mobilisation of additional emergency energy assistance.



© EU2026

Key figures

5 000 +
generators procured

18
deployments

12 hours
deployment readiness

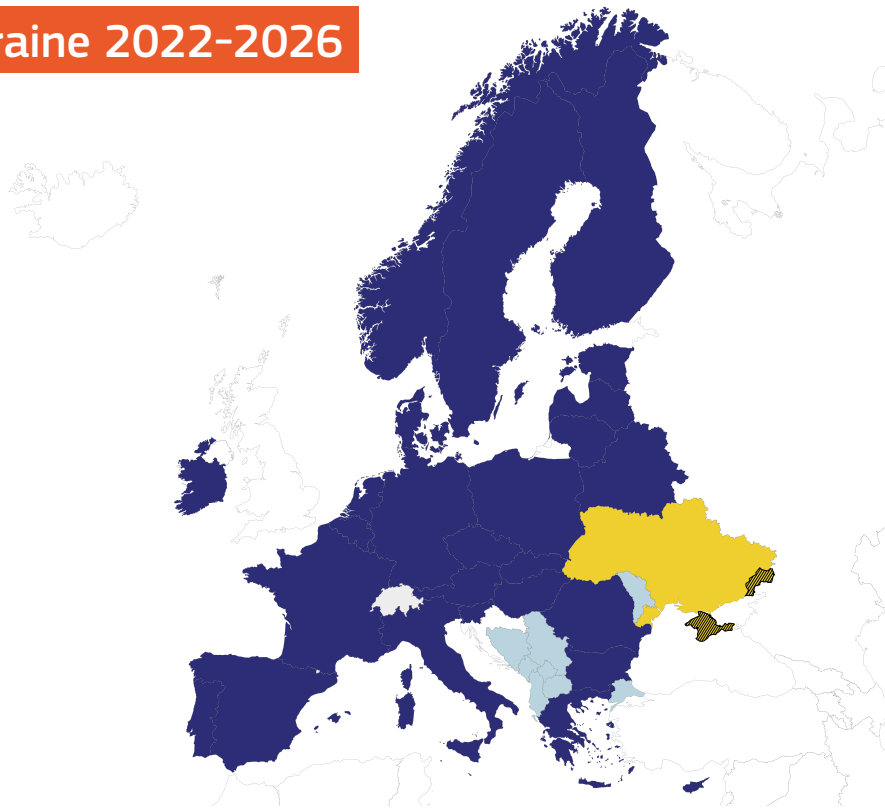
Energy items donated to Ukraine 2022-2026

Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

DG ECHO Daily Map | 23/09/2026

	Generator	Transformer
AUSTRIA	134	77
BELGIUM	761	-
BULGARIA	3	-
CYPRUS	1	-
CZECHIA	79	49
DENMARK	27	4
ESTONIA	56	68
FINLAND	522	465
FRANCE	285	7
GERMANY	1185	42
GREECE	4	-
ICELAND	5	93
ITALY	122	12
IRELAND	6	9
LATVIA	14	26
LITHUANIA	352	1241
LUXEMBOURG	142	30
MALTA	20	-
NETHERLANDS	765	568
NORWAY	183	45
NORTH MACEDONIA	-	6
POLAND	1656	217
PORTUGAL	15	-
ROMANIA	24	-
SERBIA	-	22
SLOVAKIA	237	9
SLOVENIA	49	77
SPAIN	100	2
SWEDEN	531	205

© European Union, 2026. Map produced by ERCC Analytical Team. Sources: DG ECHO, GISCO. It may not represent the latest updated official data. The boundaries and the names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the EU.



Generators and transformers donated as of 23 September 2026 (12:00 UTC)

30 countries (26 EU Member States and 4 UCPM participating States) provided energy items.

In total, **11 641 power generators** were donated to Ukraine **under the UCPM**, with an estimated **1 600 000 kVA** in power generation capacity.

3 282 transformers and 6 autotransformers donated.

Of the above, **4 139 generators** have been fully funded by the EU via its **rescEU energy reserves** developed by Germany, Poland and Romania and mobilised by the ERCC, while **224** have been channelled via its **rescEU Private Donations Scheme** created to support the delivery of international and private assistance.

>10 million energy repair items (including 9.9 million LED bulbs).

UCPM country providing generators and transformers through the UCPM.

EU Member States or UCPM participating states.

Non-government-controlled area, as of 23 February 2022.

/Private Donations Scheme

Connecting solidarity, delivering assistance, supporting those in need



© EU2026

When crises create urgent humanitarian needs, solidarity from private companies, public authorities and international partners can provide life-saving assistance where it is needed most.

The **rescEU Private Donations Scheme** enables the EU to channel large-scale in-kind donations from the private sector, public entities and international partners to countries affected by major crises. Through the **UCPM**, the European Commission matches donations with verified needs, coordinates logistics and ensures that assistance reaches its destination safely and efficiently.

The donation hubs have been hosted in **Belgium** and **Poland**. The Belgian grant has now come to an end, while the **Polish hub continues to support the scheme's operations**.

Why was it created?

The scheme was established following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine to mobilise additional in-kind assistance beyond national contributions. It complements Member State support by providing a structured mechanism to **receive**, **assess**, **coordinate** and **deliver donations** from companies, public entities and international partners, strengthening European solidarity during large-scale emergencies. As the world experiences a rising number of complex and interconnected emergencies that add pressure to existing structures, there is an increasing need to leverage the collective potential of all sectors of society for an even more effective and efficient response.

What challenge does it address?

Fragmented resources

Private-sector and international donations not yet mobilised or coordinated to support public emergency assistance

Mismatched donations

Donated items do not correspond to actual needs by recipient authorities

Complex logistics

Quality checks, temporary storage, customs support and transport coordination that can delay donations reaching those in need

Delivering assistance rapidly

Risk of delays or unsafe conditions when moving donations to affected communities

From donation to delivery

The **ERCC** evaluates donation offers, verifies recipient needs, coordinates arrangements with donors and organises delivery through dedicated rescEU donation hubs. Donations undergo quality checks before being transported to their final destination, using EU-funded logistics where appropriate.



Who can donate?

Private sector

Manufacturers, suppliers, industry associations and philanthropic organisations.

Public entities

National, regional and local authorities from outside the EU.

What can be donated?

Energy items

Generators, transformers and critical energy infrastructure equipment

Transport and logistics

Vehicles and logistics equipment supporting emergency operations

Medical supplies

Medicines, medical devices and critical healthcare equipment

Other essential items

Equipment responding to identified operational needs

CBRN equipment

Detection, decontamination and protective equipment

Operational value

The scheme transforms offers of solidarity into coordinated emergency assistance, matching donations with verified needs, ensuring quality standards and organising safe and efficient delivery through the UCPM.

Shelter

Shelter units, beds, hygiene and sanitation items





© EU2026

Supporting Ukraine through European solidarity

Following the launch of the scheme in 2022, the European Commission established dedicated **rescEU donation hubs** to channel contributions from private companies, public entities and international partners. The initiative has mobilised donations from numerous countries – including Australia, the Philippines, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, among others –providing critical energy equipment, medical supplies, shelter items and logistics support to Ukraine while complementing assistance provided by Member States.

/rescEU in Action

Ukraine

Europe's largest civil protection operation

Since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine has become the largest and most complex operation ever coordinated under the UCPM. What began as an emergency response to an unfolding humanitarian crisis has developed into a sustained, multi-sector operation supporting the functioning of essential public services across the country.

Throughout the conflict, repeated missile and drone attacks have targeted electricity generation and transmission systems, hospitals, water infrastructure, residential buildings, and emergency services. Each new wave of attacks has created different operational needs, requiring the ERCC to continuously adapt the assistance coordinated through the UCPM and the rescEU strategic reserve.

The scale of the operation is unprecedented. Since the activation of the UCPM in February 2022, Ukrainian authorities have submitted **over 300 requests for assistance**, while all 27 EU Member States and 6 UCPM participating states have provided assistance. This reflects the constantly evolving needs on the ground and the extraordinary scale of EU solidarity.

Support has been channelled through dedicated logistics hubs in Poland, Romania and Slovakia, creating an operational bridge capable of receiving, consolidating and dispatching assistance to where it is needed most. Through this hub network alone, approximately 160 000 tonnes of emergency assistance have already reached Ukraine.

Unlike many emergency operations, the response has continued to evolve. As attacks have increasingly focused on critical infrastructure, the priorities have shifted from the delivery of immediate relief supplies towards maintaining the country's essential services.

Energy equipment, emergency shelter, medical evacuation, specialised CBRN Capacities, passive protection systems and support for first responders have all become integral components of Europe’s response. This illustrates how rescEU is not a static reserve, but a dynamic capability that continuously adapts to changing circumstances while maintaining its operational value across different crises.



A coordinated European response

Ukraine demonstrates the strength of a truly integrated European response. Through the ERCC, every request is rapidly matched with the most appropriate capabilities from across Europe, combining Member State assistance with rescEU strategic reserves.

As the conflict has evolved, so too has the response. Support has expanded from emergency relief to protecting critical infrastructure, maintaining energy supplies, deploying shelter, strengthening CBRN preparedness and transferring thousands of patients for specialised medical care across Europe. This ability to continuously adapt ensures that assistance remains aligned with Ukraine's most urgent needs.

© EU2026

Total estimated value of rescEU assistance to Ukraine

€210 million

Delivered through 3 logistic hubs



Energy

4 138 generators from rescEU



Shelter

2 800 RHUs

19 750 beds



Medical and CBRN

5 categories

PPE · Decontamination · Detection and monitoring · Therapeutics · Medical devices



Private donations

mobilised through the rescEU scheme



© EU2026

/Looking Ahead

Evolving with Europe's changing risks

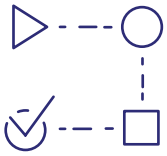
Europe's risk landscape is changing rapidly. Climate change is driving more frequent and severe wildfires, floods and extreme weather events. At the same time, geopolitical instability, hybrid threats and disruptions to critical infrastructure are creating new challenges that demand greater preparedness and faster response.

In her 2026 State of the Union speech, President von der Leyen highlighted that the most senior firefighters and emergency responders will look at all aspects of preparedness and prevention and make proposals, including for a future European Firefighting Fleet ( ).

To ensure rescEU remains fit for the future, the European Commission has launched a comprehensive needs assessment as part of the preparation for the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028–2034.

Building on the Preparedness Union Strategy, the Capacity Progress Report and the EU Stockpiling Strategy, the assessment will identify where Europe's strategic reserve should be strengthened, expanded and adapted to emerging risks. The review covers the full lifecycle of existing capacities – from procurement and stock management to replenishment and retrieval after deployment – while assessing future operational needs across firefighting, medical and CBRN Capacities, shelter, transport, logistics and energy.

Throughout the process, complementarity with national capacities and the ECPP remains the guiding principle, ensuring that rescEU continues to provide added value where collective European action is needed most.



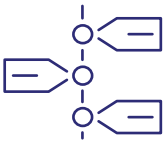
Lessons from operations



Consultation with Member States



Risk and gap assessment



Future rescEU capacities



A stronger European Preparedness

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you online.

On the phone or in writing

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union.
You can contact this service:

– by freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11** (certain operators may charge for these calls);

– at the following standard number: **+32 22999696**;

– via the contact form on our website.

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website (european-union.europa.eu).

EU publications

You can view or order EU publications at op.europa.eu/en/publications.
Multiple copies of free publications can be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local documentation centre (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex.

EU open data

The portal provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.



Publications Office
of the European Union

PDF ISBN 978-92-68-44067-4 doi:10.2795/9854211 KR-01-26-017-EN-N
Print ISBN 978-92-68-44068-1 doi:10.2795/7700376 KR-01-26-017-EN-C