



European Civil Protection Policies

EVANDE project, Technical report



European Civil Protection



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www.evande.eu

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Preface

The technical booklet on European Civil Protection Policies is produced by the European civil protection project EVANDE (Enhancing Volunteer Awareness and education against Natural Disasters through E-learning).

The EVANDE project was implemented the period 2015-2016 and was co-funded by the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (Grant Agreement No. ECHO/SUB/2014/693261). It was coordinated by the Natural History Museum of Crete-University of Crete, in Greece and involved also the following partners:

- Technical University of Crete -Laboratory of Distributed Multimedia Information Systems and Applications, GREECE
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- Earthquake Planning & Protection Organisation, GREECE
- Fondazione Hallgarten - Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca, ITALY
- Centre for Educational Initiatives, BULGARIA.

The present booklet is a synthesis of selected civil protection knowledge and experiences in Greece, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria and EU. It aims to present basic knowledge and information on European Civil Protection Policies.

The booklet is targeting local authorities' staff and civil protection volunteers and aims to offer insights on how civil protection policies and initiatives could be improved. The contributors were both staff member of the EVANDE partner organizations as well as experts and external collaborators.

Further information about the EVANDE project:

EVANDE website: www.evande.eu

EVANDE e-learning platform: <http://evande.coursevo.com>

EVANDE Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/evandeproject>

Table of Contents

1. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism.....	6
1.1 Background - The EU Civil Protection Mechanism from 2001 to 2013 and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument.....	6
1.2 The new Civil Protection Mechanism UCPM (Union Civil Protection Mechanism).....	9
1.3 Legal Framework of the Mechanism.....	16
1.4 EU Civil Protection Mechanism Activations.....	18
1.5 Ex-post evaluation of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and of the Civil Protection Financial Instrument (2007-2013).....	23
2. Training Activities.....	27
2.1 The Community Mechanism Induction Course (CMI).....	28
2.2 The Technical Experts Course (TEC).....	29
2.3 The Module Basic Course (MBC).....	29
2.4 The Operational Management Course (OPM).....	30
2.5 The Security Course (SEC).....	30
2.6 The Information management Course (IMC).....	31
2.7 The International Coordination Course (ICC).....	31
2.8 The Assessment Mission Course (AMC).....	32
2.9 The High Level Coordination Course (HLC).....	33
2.10 The Head of Team Course (HOT).....	33
2.11 The Operational Management Refresher Courses (OPM-R) and The High Level Coordination Refresher Courses (HLC-R).....	34
3. Modules, exercises and exchange of experts.....	35
3.1 Modules.....	35
3.2 Exercises.....	37
3.3 Exchange of experts.....	41
4. Response.....	43
4.1 The strategic Operational centre – The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).....	43
4.2 European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC) consisting of a <i>voluntary pool</i>	46
5. Best Practices.....	48
6. Links to training materials and European initiatives.....	53
7. Glossary.....	58
8. Annex: Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Greece, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy.....	61
8.1 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Greece.....	61
8.2 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Bulgaria.....	71

8.3 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Spain.....	74
8.4 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Italy.....	79

1. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

1.1 Background - The EU Civil Protection Mechanism from 2001 to 2013 and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism is a relatively new tool that was established by the Council Decision of 23 October 2001 in order to cope better with natural and man made disasters interventions.

All the EU member states have their own civil protection and have cooperated in the past, but the main task of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM) is to enhance a better coordination among member states in case of urgent response actions and major emergencies. By pooling the civil protection capabilities of the participating states, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism can ensure a better protection of people, but also of the natural and cultural environment.

The main role of the Civil Protection Mechanism is to facilitate co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major emergencies which may require urgent response actions. Such cases may arise from a natural, technological, radiological or environmental disaster, including accidental marine pollution, or from a terrorist act, occurring or threatening to occur inside or outside the European Union.

The mechanism is based on a series of elements and actions, including:

- compiling an inventory of assistance and intervention teams available in EU countries;
- establishing a training programme for members of such teams;
- launching workshops, seminars and pilot projects on the main aspects of interventions;
- setting up assessment and coordination teams;
- establishing a Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) and a common communication and information system;
- establishing a Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) between the MIC and EU countries' contact points;
- helping to develop detection and early warning systems;
- facilitating access to equipment and transport by providing information on the resources available from EU countries and identifying resources available from other sources;
- making additional transport resources available.

In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, CPM goal is to provide added-value to European civil protection assistance by making support available upon request of the affected country. This may arise if the affected country's disaster preparedness is not sufficient to provide an adequate response in terms of available resources. By pooling the civil protection capabilities of the participating states, the Community Mechanism can ensure even better protection primarily of people, but also of the natural and cultural environment as well as property.

The Mechanism also:

- develops detection and rapid alert systems for catastrophes that may hit Member States, with a view to enabling rapid response by other countries;
- provides support for accessing equipment and transport resources;
- supports consular assistance to EU citizens in major emergencies in third countries if requested by

- the consular authorities of the Member States;
- integrates transport provided by Member States by financing additional transport resources necessary for ensuring a rapid response to major emergencies;
- develops civil protection modules, namely specialised operational teams comprising personnel, transport and equipment provided by Member States and “packaged” in accordance with the task in question, in line with specific criteria.

Since its creation, the Mechanism has provided civil protection assistance in a variety of natural and man-made disasters, it has facilitate the cooperation in disaster response, preparedness and prevention among European states, coordinating response at a European level in order to avoid duplication of relief efforts and to ensure that assistance meets the real needs of the affected regions.

The CPM main supporting organizations are:

1. The Monitoring and Information Centre (Mic)

MIC is the operational heart of the Mechanism , is an operative unit offering 24/7 response for facilitating the mobilisation of civil protection resources from EU countries in the event of an emergency.

The centre gives countries access to a community civil protection platform: the CECIS, Common Emergency Communication and Information Centre, for communication and exchange of information between the MIC and National Contact Points in Member States.

2. Common Emergency Communication and Information Centre (Cecis)

The Cecis is an IT system run directly by the Mic in Brussels for immediate effective dialogue between 24/7 operations centres in Member States.

The requests made by the affected country are matched by the system to offers of assistance from countries that decide to intervene.

Cecis provides all the Member States with information and updates on the emergency until it is resolved.

The Mechanism was originally located in the DG Environment’s Civil Protection Unit, but with the Lisbon Treaty its coordinating role passed to EU Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).

After 10 years of implementation, increasing activations and a successful string of and emergency responses within and outside the EU, a necessity for better cooperation and levels of protection in domestic, European and international levels emerged.

A Decision for a new Mechanism for the period 2014-2020 was adopted in December 2013 and from January 1st 2014, a new, improved Union Civil Protection Mechanism is in force. *The Article 196 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union* constitutes the primary legal basis for the Union Mechanism.

The Mechanism currently includes all 28 EU Member States in addition to Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (the latter currently renewing its membership). Turkey and Serbia have recently signed the agreements to join the Mechanism.

Concerning the **Civil Protection Financial Instrument**, it was established with the Council Decision 2007/162/EC, and through it financial assistance was given to improve the effectiveness of response to major emergencies and to enhance preventive and preparedness measures for all kinds of emergencies.

A total of €189.8 million was committed for the implementation of the Civil Protection Financial Instrument for the period 2007-2013.

Whilst the majority of the Mechanism actions were financed through the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, some actions were financed through additional funds granted by the European Parliament and the Council as well as other EU Instruments. National civil protection authorities also contributed by:

- Providing part of the co-financing required by the Financial Instrument;
- Having civil protection staff participating in the Mechanism actions; and,
- Providing in-kind resources (i.e. civil protection assets and equipment).

The budget for the implementation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism for 2014-2020 is €368.4 million of which €223.7 million shall be used for prevention, preparedness and response actions inside the EU and €144.6 million for actions outside the EU. These amounts are complemented by contributions from non-EU countries that participate in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

1.2 The new Civil Protection Mechanism UCPM (Union Civil Protection Mechanism)

A rising trend in natural and man-made disasters over the past decade has demonstrated that coherent, efficient and effective policies on disaster management are needed now more than ever.

The EU Civil Protection legislation was revised at the end of 2013 to better respond to the natural and man-made disasters in a swift, pre-planned and effective manner and thus to increase the security of EU citizens and disaster victims worldwide.

The revised EU Civil Protection legislation (Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism – 1313/2013/EU and the Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/762/EU) builds on an established system that has proven to work well. The primary responsibility for disaster management remains with the Member States.

The new Mechanism places a much greater emphasis on disaster prevention, risk management, and disaster preparedness, including the organisation of trainings, simulation exercises and the exchange of experts, but also developing new elements, such as a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities by the Member States.

The revised legislation contains new actions to be undertaken in relation to disaster risk reduction and the scope of building a culture of prevention, promoting better preparedness and planning, closer cooperation on disaster prevention and more coordinated and faster response.

For these reasons the legislative basis includes measures that will help to be better prepared for any upcoming disasters and that will ensure closer cooperation among the participating States.

The main focus of the Decision 1313/2013/EU is related to:

- Increasing the culture of prevention and preparedness
- Replacing ad-hoc response with a pre-planned approach
- Supporting the Member States on their capacity development.

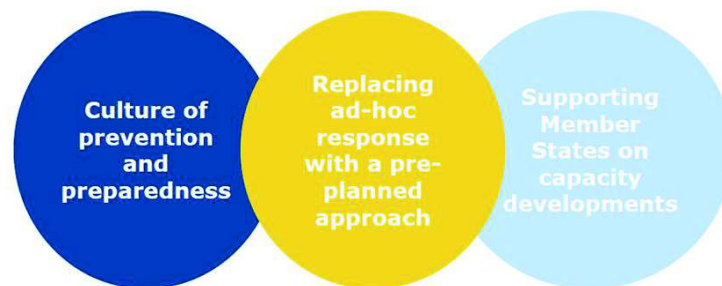


Figure 1.1 focus on the Decision 1313/2013/EU (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

In this framework, Member States have agreed to regularly share a summary of their risk assessments and best practices, as well as to help each other identify gaps and to refine their risk management planning, in order to reduce disaster risk and to further strengthen the joint collaboration in building resilience to disasters. A better understanding of risk is the basis for more effective disaster management and the Member States favor a coherent and effective approach also through the sharing of non-sensitive information (information whose disclosure would be contrary to the essential interests of the security of the Member States), and the sharing of good practice. Moreover, the countries:

- carry out risk assessments at national or sub-national level and make available to the Commission a summary of the main points contained in them by 22 December 2015 and every three years;
- develop and refine their plans for managing disaster risks at national or sub-national level;
- make available to the Commission's assessment their ability of risk management at national or sub-national level every three years after the development of the relevant guidelines, and whenever there are major changes; and participate, on a voluntary basis, to the so-called "peer review" on the issue of assessing the ability of risk management.

The reform, as well as underlining the importance of prevention, preparedness and response to natural and/or man-made disasters - art. 196 of the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)** - focuses also on the involvement of regional authorities and of the entire National Service of Civil Protection, in order to ensure interventions and assistance in case of need.

The new mechanism has an operationally enhanced profile: the involvement of the regions meets the need for interoperability and preparation of those involved - with the addition of the need for a civil protection across sectors, as in the case of cooperation in the field of marine pollution.

This commitment is carried out in full respect of the solidarity clause foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, according to which "*The Union and its Member States shall act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster*".

In terms of civil protection, there will be more training available for personnel outside their home countries, more response exercises in areas such as search and rescue and field hospitals, more exchanges between experts and closer cooperation with neighboring countries.

A new Emergency Response Coordination Centre (EERC) was inaugurated in May 2013. It reinforces and transforms the Monitoring and Information Centre into an Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and the MIC (monitoring Information Centre) ensuring 24/7 operational capacity and serving the member states and the European Commission in facilitating the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions. It also monitors the situation related to risks and emergencies around the world and provides an information and coordination hub during emergencies.

A voluntary pool of Member States' response capacities and experts on stand-by is going to be established, with partial EU funding support, to enable more effective pre-planning, immediate deployment, and coordinated interventions.

The proposal also includes for the first time a common effort of Member States to assess and address gaps in response capacities with the help of EU seed financing of up to 20 per cent of necessary investment.

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism will also cover:

- provisions relating to risk assessment and risk management planning;
- increased predictability of assistance and better identification and addressing of potentially significant response capacity gaps;
- more cost-effective and better coordinated transportation of assistance to the affected countries;
- co-financing buffer capacities to address temporary shortcomings.

The **types of disasters** covered by EU CP Mechanism are:

Natural disasters - Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones, typhoons

Manmade disasters - Environmental disasters (oil spills, Deepwater Horizon, HU alkali sludge accident 2010)
- Complex emergencies (Georgia 2008, Syria, Ukraine 2014)

Health emergencies - Ukraine H1N1 / Ebola crisis 2014, H1N1 crisis (medical support Bulgaria, Ukraine)

Assistance to consular support - Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation Mumbai - India) - Evacuation of EU citizens from Libya and TCN from Tunisia/Egypt; Yemen)

The budget for the implementation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism for 2014-2020 is €368.4 million of which €223.7 million shall be used for prevention, preparedness and response actions inside the EU and €144.6 million for actions outside the EU.

The new legislation reinforces the intervention of the Mechanism in the three phases of disaster management cycle:

PREVENTION

Prevention means supporting the Member States in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies. The new Mechanism is going to improve knowledge methodologies and access to data. In this framework risk assessment guidelines, risk management plans, peer reviews are going to be realized and continuously updated. Other than this the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into sectorial policies is one of the most important priorities.

In relation to the Climate Change adaptation, the Mechanism also

- promotes Member States' risk assessments and mapping through the sharing of good practice;
- establishes and updates a cross-sectoral overview and map of the disaster risks faced by the Union taking into account the likely impacts of climate change
- encourage exchange of good practices on preparing national civil protection systems to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Concerning Prevention the main Commission's actions are

- Promoting Member States' *risk assessments and mapping through the sharing of good practice*;

- Establishing and update a *cross-sectoral overview and map of the disaster risks* faced by the Union taking into account the likely impacts of climate change;
- Encouraging exchange of *good practices on preparing national civil protection systems*.

The main Member States' actions are described below



Figure 1.2 Member States actions (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness means increasing competences for civil protection assistance interventions and responses inside as well as outside Europe. It means also providing countries with the opportunity to train their civil protection teams, increasing their ability and effectiveness in responding to disasters. For these reasons the Mechanism organises training programmes, exercises during simulated emergencies, exchange of expert's programmes, cooperation projects. Preparedness means also early warning tools and capability assessment and certification.

The new Mechanism is planning some on going key developments such as:

- the development of civil protection response modules;
- the identification of experts and teams for EU missions;
- the development of the training exercises, exchange of experts, also through the lessons learned;
- the facilitation through the Host Nation Support (how to receive assistance); - the use of geo-spatial information /maps derived from satellite remote sensing (Copernicus emergency management service), both in preparedness and in response.

RESPONSE

Response means facilitating the cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major disasters inside and outside the EU.

Assistance may include search and rescue teams, medical teams, shelter, water purification units and other relief specialised experts /items requested, all hazard approaches, including the biological one.

Finally, the new international elements of the Civil Protection Mechanism are related to:

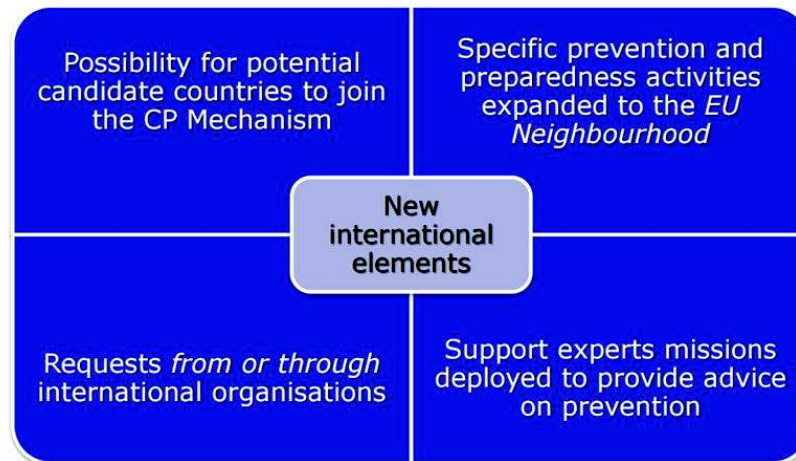


Figure 1.3 International elements of the Civil Protection Mechanism (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Supplementary activities of the Mechanism

The Mechanism provides emergency communications and **monitoring tools**, through a system of web-based alert and notification applications enabling real time exchange of information between participating states and the ERCC.

The Mechanism has developed the **disaster forecasting and disaster management tools**: a proper planning, monitoring, and early warning can mitigate damages, sometimes preventing them from turning into humanitarian catastrophes. So the Mechanism has a near real-time alert systems with the aim of improving its rapid analytical capacity.

The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) has developed the European Flood Alert System (EFAS) and the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). EFAS alerts the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) on the most severe flood events and EFFIS provides daily meteorological fire danger maps and forecasts up to six days before, including maps of burnt areas and damage assessment.

The Global Disaster Alerts and Coordination System (GDACS), developed by Joint Research Centre and used jointly by the EU and UN, is a fully automatic 24/7 alert system which gathers data about natural events (earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical storms, floods and volcanoes).

Meteoalarm is an online alert platform established by the European meteorological services, which issues European weather warnings.



Figure 1.4 Global Disaster Alerts and Coordination System (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The Mechanism helps in **marine pollution emergencies**, where it works closely with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Accidental oil spills and cleaning operations are the main source of pollution from ships, placing enormous demands on the national authorities responsible for response and clean-up operations. Europe is the world's largest market of crude oil imports, transported from and to Europe mainly by sea. Inevitably, some of this makes its way into the sea, whether by accident or resulting from ship operations.

EMSA was established by the European Union in 2002 in the aftermath of the Erika disaster. EMSA assumes the leading role in ensuring a uniform and effective level of maritime safety, maritime security, prevention of and response to pollution caused by ships as well as response to marine pollution caused by oil and gas installations and providing technical and scientific assistance to the European Commission and Member States.

EMSA manages a network of standby at-sea oil spill recovery vessels based in all the regional seas of Europe. These are normal commercial vessels which carry out day-to-day operations but, upon request, cease their normal activities and quickly move to the scene of the oil spill. The Agency also provides satellite imagery for detection and monitoring of oil spills, pollution response experts to give operational and technical assistance, and information service for chemical spills at sea.

When the crisis occurs in developing countries, civil protection assistance typically goes hand in hand with EU humanitarian aid.

Often, cleaning efforts and recovery from an oil spill require costs which go beyond what a single country can bear. Therefore, a number of regional and bilateral cooperation agreements were established between maritime states. The EU participates in these agreements and conventions that cover the regional seas around Europe like the Helsinki and Barcelona conventions, and Lisbon and Bonn Agreements.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism also intervenes in marine pollution emergencies. When a request for assistance is received following a marine pollution incident, the ERCC can quickly mobilise oil recovery

capacity and expertise from the participating states and EMSA, and facilitate the deployment of these assets and the EU Mechanism team.

Preparedness and response mechanisms in the field of marine pollution were reinforced by the Community cooperation framework that ran between 2000 and 2006.

The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is constantly monitoring the **forest fire risk and incidence** across Europe using national monitoring services and tools such as EFFIS (the European Forest Fire Information System). Over the summer period, the ERCC also organises weekly video conferences with the countries that are at high risk of forest fires and whose national capacities could get overwhelmed.

When the scale of fire exceeds the country's capacity to extinguish it on its own, the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism can be activated to coordinate the response from participating states. The EU countries can show solidarity by sending assistance in the form of water bombing aircraft, helicopters, fire-fighting equipment and personnel.

To provide for a joint and coordinated response, they frequently channel the assistance and exchange real-time information through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In addition, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism can co-finance the transport of assistance to the affected area.

Finally,

- the Mechanism cooperates with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) on the establishment of a tsunami warning system for the North Atlantic and Mediterranean region
- an agreement with the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) has allowed earthquake detection in the Mediterranean area to be considerably quicker and accurate, by adding sensors in Tunisia
- the Mechanism supports and complements the prevention and preparedness efforts of participating states, focusing on areas where a joint European approach is more effective than separate national actions. These include improving the quality of and accessibility to disaster information, encouraging research to promote disaster resilience, and reinforcing early warning tools.

Ten years ago, the concept of **resilience** was totally absent from the communications of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). Since, ECHO has progressively introduced the word in its official documents and seems now to consider resilience as one of the generic concepts needed to summarize its action. By having a close look at how ECHO has spread the concept in its different activities (publications, funding, official events) and the definitions that are associated to it, it appears that the use of the concept of resilience -and the debate that follows it- displays the will of this institution to gain better recognition in the field of the public policies, in which its own legitimacy remains for now weak.

ECHO follows a general trend initiated by the United Nation Office for Disaster Reduction and the NGOs specialized in humanitarian help, that promoted first the concept of resilience in order to gain better recognition of their work, and to advocate for an increase of their role that would be then not only connected to crisis intervention but also to prevention and development policies.

Therefore the value of resilience is a new paradigm and shows a new strategy to be more included in the Mechanism elaboration processes.

1.3 Legal Framework of the Mechanism

The Treaty of Lisbon underpins the commitment of the EU to provide assistance, relief, and protection to victims of natural or man-made disasters around the world (art. 214), and to support and coordinate the civil protection systems of its Member States (art. 196). It further mandates the European institutions to define the necessary measures for such actions to be carried out.

The legal basis of the New Mechanism are the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism – 1313/2013/EU and the Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/762/EU laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

There are two main pieces of legislation that cover European civil protection, these being Council Decision 2007/779/EC, Euratom establishing a Community Civil Protection Mechanism (recast) and Council Decision establishing a Civil Protection Financial Instrument (2007/162/EC, Euratom). The EU has an instrument that enables it to fund activities aimed at preventive action, preparedness and an effective response, particularly those carried out under the existing mechanism. This financial instrument covered the 2007-13 period and replaced the Community action programme in favor of civil protection, established by Council Decision 1999/847/EC.

Three Commission Decisions have been issued after the adoption of these two main pillars of civil protection legislation, each of them having a specific purpose within the meaning of the Council Decisions. One of these Decisions (2007/606/EC, Euratom) deals with laying down implementing rules for transport; the other two (2008/73/EC, Euratom and 2010/481/EC, Euratom) provide for the implementation of the modules concept.

The Community Civil Protection Mechanism and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument together cover three of the main aspects of the disaster management cycle – prevention, preparedness and response. The Mechanism itself covers response and some preparedness actions, whereas the Financial Instrument enables actions in all three fields. The two pieces of legislation are moreover complementary as the Financial Instrument finances the Mechanism.

There were two other legal texts that were the direct precursors to the current framework. The first dates back to 1999 establishing the Community Action Programme in the field of civil protection. A first two-years Action Programme (1998-1999) was followed by a five-years Action Programme (2000-2004). This was extended till 2006 through the Council Decision of 20 December 2004.

The second major legal text was the Council Decision of 23 October 2001 establishing the original Mechanism. A later Commission Decision of 29 December 2003 laid down the rules for the implementation of the Community Mechanism, defining its duties and the functioning of the various tools made use of in the Mechanism.

The tsunami that hit South Asia in December 2004 however beckoned a major overhaul of system as a whole. Both the Council and the European Parliament called on the Commission to explore areas of improvements to the Mechanism. This resulted in a series of Commission Communications aiming at developing a more robust European civil protection capacity, enabling the Union to react more rapidly and effectively to any type of disaster in the future. As a result, the Commission tabled a recast of Council

Decision (2001/792/EC) on January 2006 on 27 January 2006 intended to reshape the Mechanism. The Council Decision 2007/779/EC, Euratom was mainly based on this Communication.

The Commission also adopted a Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument for major emergencies on 20 April 2005. This proposal provided the future legal framework for the financing of civil protection operations. The Commission proposed a major increase in the future financing for European civil protection actions, with annual amounts ranging from €16 million in 2007 to €30 million in 2013. In doing so, the Commission recognised the importance of immediate civil protection assistance as a tangible expression of European solidarity in the event of major emergencies. Renamed the Civil Protection financial Instrument this legislation was adopted on 5 March 2007.

The very foundations of civil protection co-operation at a Community level go back as far as May 1985 in the May ministerial meeting (Rome). Six resolutions were consequently adopted over the following 9 years. The results of these resolutions were a number of operational instruments covering both preparedness and response. Activities were organised on the basis of the subsidiarity principle laid down in the Maastricht Treaty. Of importance is the Resolution of 8 July 1991 on improving mutual aid between Member States in the event of technological disasters.

The Commission Communication of 11 June 2002 described progress achieved in preparedness for emergencies, amongst others the set-up of a mutual consultation mechanism to deal with any crisis involving bioterrorist threats. Furthermore a joint Commission - pharmaceutical industry task force was launched, that drew up an inventory of the availability and capacities of production, stockpiles and distribution of serums, vaccines and antibiotics likely to be used to counter any bacteriological attack.

Other important legal basis are:

- Council Resolution of 22 December 2003 on strengthening Community cooperation in the field of civil protection research [Official Journal C 8 of 13.1.2004].

The Council encourages the development of research projects on the reduction of natural and technological risks and on mitigating their consequences. It also encourages research institutes and other relevant entities to establish common objectives for preventing and reacting to natural or technological risks.

- Council Resolution of 19 December 2002 on special civil protection assistance to outermost and isolated regions, to insular regions, to regions which are not easily accessible, and to sparsely populated regions, in the European Union [Official Journal C 24 of 31.1.2003].

The Council considers that outermost, isolated, distant insular and sparsely populated regions should benefit from measures suited to their individual situations. In particular, it encourages joint projects between regions with similar characteristics and the taking into consideration of these characteristics when planning responses to emergency situations, setting up specialised intervention teams and developing effective, reliable and adapted communication systems.

- Council Resolution of 28 January 2002 on reinforcing cooperation in the field of civil protection training [Official Journal C 43 of 16.2.2002].

The Council invites the Commission to look at any initiatives supporting the creation of a network of schools and training centres active in the field of civil protection and to give financial support to this

initiative and involve the candidate countries in its work. The Commission is also invited to consider the possibility of creating a European civil protection college to perpetuate such cooperation.

There are of course other legal texts which are not yet legislative pieces but contain proposals or observations which will have a bearing on civil protection. These include the Commission Communication on Reinforcing the Union' Disaster Response Capacity, the Communication on strengthening Early Warning System in Europe; and by the end of 2008 a document that will encompass a comprehensive prevention initiative.

Finally it must be underlined that Civil protection of course ties in with many other policy initiatives. The link with climate change is inevitable, while chemical accidents and marine pollution incidents have triggered the Mechanism into action. Community initiatives on forestry, soil, water and telecommunications also have links with civil protection. This list is not exhaustive.

1.4 EU Civil Protection Mechanism Activations

Any country in the world can call on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism for help.

Inside the European Union:

When a participating state is unable to handle a large national emergency, it may request assistance from the other participating countries through the ERCC, which receives the request and informs all the other countries involved. ERCC is responsible for communicating the request, allowing immediate dialogue between 24-hour operations centres in the various countries. The requests made by the affected country are matched by the system to offers of assistance from countries that decide to intervene. ERCC provides all the countries with information and updates on the emergency until it is resolved. The kind of intervention will vary depending on the event. The ERCC then facilitates dispatch of assessment and/ or coordination teams, experts, civil protection modules and ensures co-funding of assistance transport offered by participating states, but management of aid is the responsibility of the state requesting intervention.

Outside the European Union:

The Mechanism may be activated by an affected country with a request for assistance to the ERCC. In these cases, the High Representative for foreign affairs and foreign policy together with the Presidency of the European Council coordinates the political response, in collaboration with the Commission. This guarantees links with the affected country, facilitating rapid deployment of community assistance, above all during the initial hours of the emergency.

If the United Nations are involved, they will assume management of operations. Activity is carried out by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department – ECHO in close collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs –OCHA.

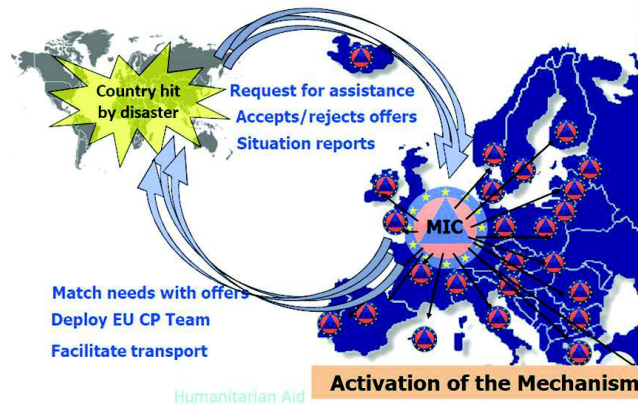


Figure 1.5 Activation of the European Mechanism (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Between 2001- March 2015, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has monitored over 300 disasters and has received well over 200 requests for assistance for disasters in Member States and worldwide.

Some data concerning the total estimated disaster impacts in Europe (2002-2011) can give a clear overview about the delivery of civil protection assistance

- 116 BILLION EUR damage
- 7.3 MILLION people affected
- 146 THOUSANDS people killed

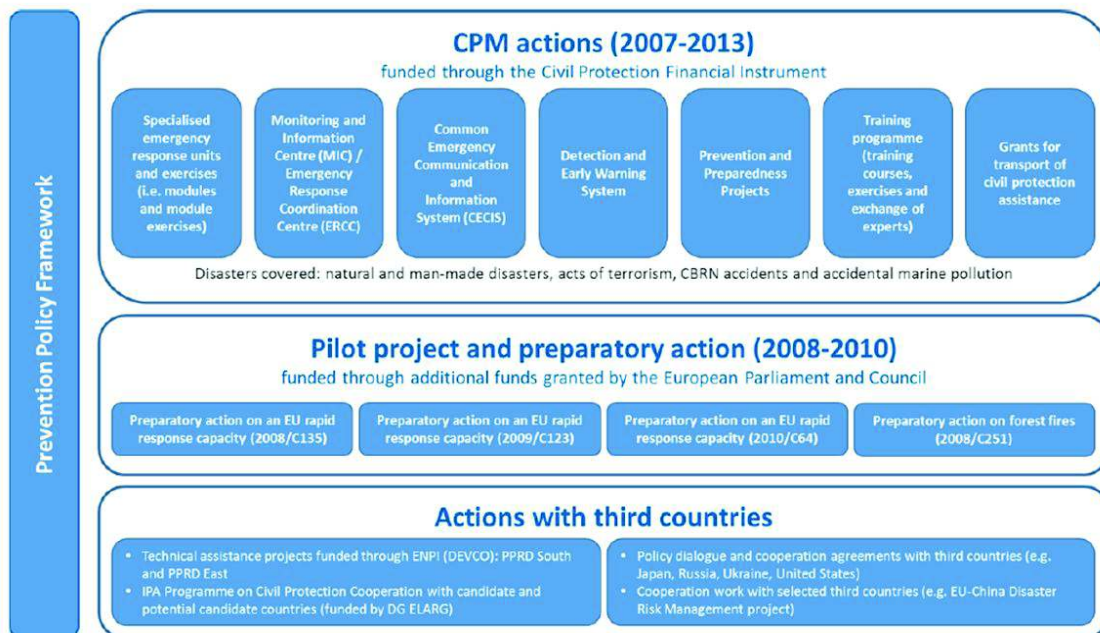


Figure 1.6 Prevention Policy Framework (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The Mechanism through the **Monitoring & Information Centre / Emergency Response Coordination Centre (MIC/ERCC)** was activated 223 times and oversaw 72 missions, deploying 246 experts and 64 liaison officers. Because the objective of the MIC/ERCC was to facilitate the immediate response efforts in the event of an emergency, it provided Participating States with a single entry point for civil protection information and coordinated the deployment of EU CP teams to affected areas.

The **Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)** enabled communication and information sharing between the MIC/ERCC and contact points of the Participating States, (1) sending and receiving alerts and details of assistance required; (2) showing available assistance capacities; and (3) tracking the development of ongoing emergencies. 150 modules and ten Technical Assistance Support Teams ('TAST') were registered on CECIS.

Concerning the **Detection and early warning systems**, 13 were developed with the aim to reduce the impact of disasters by ensuring the timely and effective provision of information so that rapid actions could be taken.

The **Transport of assistance** was developed in response to a transport deficit for addressing the logistical and financial burden associated with the transport of civil protection assistance by Participating States to a country affected by a disaster. The Financial Instrument co-funded 134 transport operations (122 co-financing through grant, 9 co-financing through the Commission's contractor and 3 combined co-financing).

Some examples of the activations of the Civil Protection Mechanism can give an idea of its degree of response to natural and man-made disasters

Examples from 2011 include assistance in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan, help in the evacuation effort of European citizens and third country nationals from Libya and facilitating the delivery of the emergency assistance to Turkey following the October earthquake.

In 2012 the Mechanism was activated to provide rapid assistance to fight destructive forest fires in Greece, Portugal, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina and Albania.

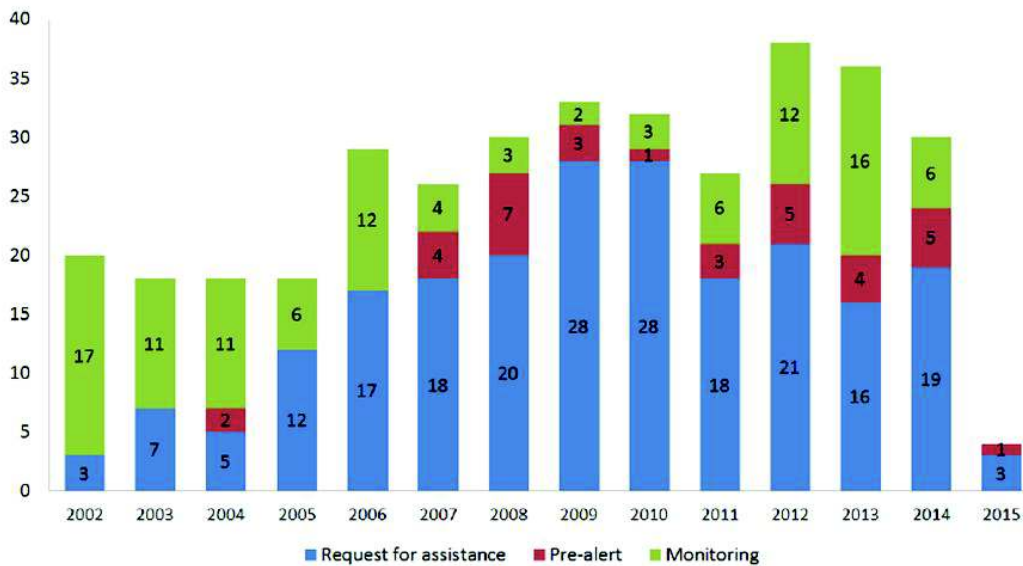
Examples from 2013 include the response to typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines in November 2013. The Mechanism also provided support to help Syrian refugees in Jordan (both in 2012 and 2013) through the delivery of material assistance by the participating states such as ambulances, tent heaters, wool blankets, hygiene parcels and kitchen sets, etc.

In 2014, the Mechanism was activated, following requests for assistance, on 19 occasions across the globe. In May 2014, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was mobilised following a request for assistance from both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia after devastating floods* in the region. This was the largest EU response operation, with 23 participating countries offering teams and equipment. The Mechanism was called to action in July 2014 by the World Health Organisation to help contain the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD). This has enabled the rapid, coordinated deployment of emergency supplies and experts offered by the participating member states through the ERCC, which also manages the system of medical evacuation for international health professionals working in the affected countries. In total, the European Union, together with its Member States, has made available close to €1.3 billion in financial aid for humanitarian aid, technical expertise, longer-term development assistance and investment in research for a vaccine and evacuation means for international humanitarian workers.

In response to the crises in Northern Iraq and Ukraine, airlift operations were co-financed and coordinated through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in 2014 and 2015, whereby several EU Member States sent in-kind assistance to IDPs in those two countries.

The following graphs give an overview of the number of activations from 2002 to 2015 and of the evolution of the hazards in relation to the different kind of emergencies.

Number of activations* of the EUCP Mechanism



*Activation = any event open in CECIS (request for assistance, early warning (pre-alert), monitoring)

Figure 1.7 Number of activation of the European Mechanism 2002-2015 (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Evolution of hazards that lead to an activation

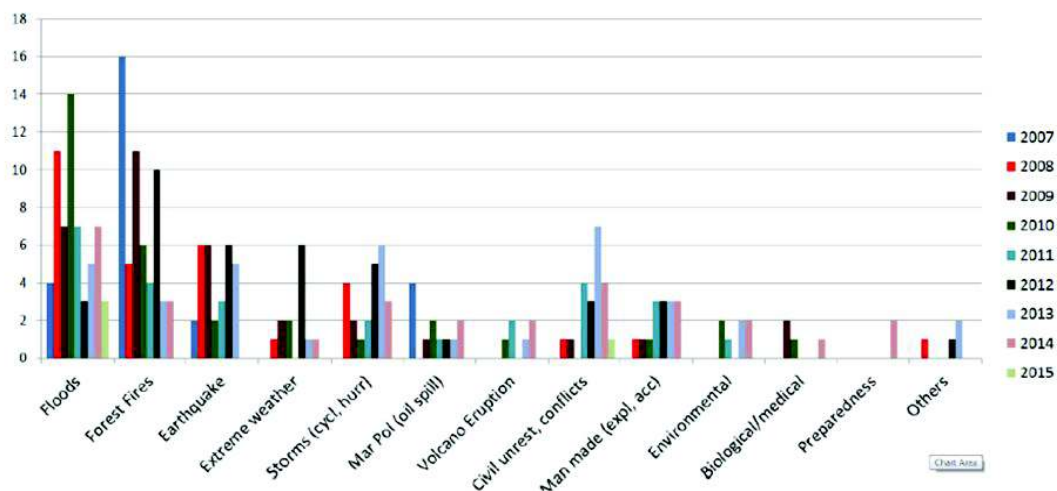


Figure 1.8 Type of hazards that caused the EU Mechanism activation 2007-2015 (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The activation of the New Mechanism (UCPM) in the 2014 are described below:

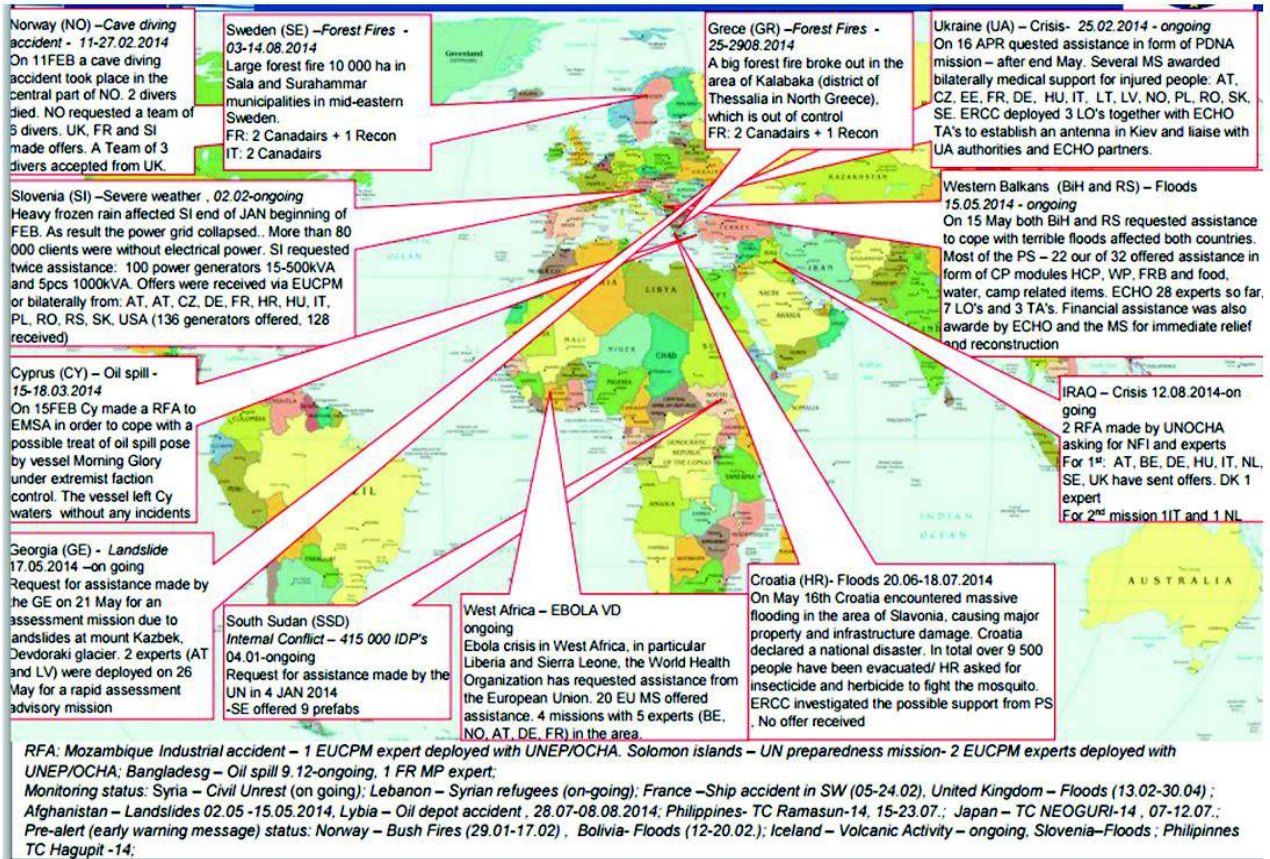


Figure 1.9 Activations of the EU Mechanism in 2014 (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

1.5 Ex-post evaluation of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and of the Civil Protection Financial Instrument (2007-2013)

The evaluation was carried out by ICF International with inputs from four external experts. The main objective of the evaluation was to assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and EU added value of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the application of the Civil Protection Financial Instrument for the period of 2007 to 2013. The intended outcomes were to:

- Learn lessons from the implementation of the Mechanism and Financial Instrument over the evaluation period; and
- Provide greater accountability of the Commission' budget in the field of civil protection.

The evaluation used a mixed-method approach to collect evidence on the performance of the Mechanism and the Financial Instrument. The methodologies used included online surveys, interviews, document reviews, observations and case studies. Findings were derived from the triangulation of the evidence obtained through the different methodologies.

The evaluation demonstrated that the Mechanism's components were designed to be cost-effective and were in most cases implemented efficiently. The mainstreaming of procedures, coordination of efforts, sharing of practices and capabilities all proved conducive to a swift and economical implementation. Overall, the implementation of the Mechanism was effective in achieving its overarching objectives as well as the objectives of specific actions.

The Mechanism actions were interconnected and complementary. The Mechanism as a whole was found to be relevant and consistent with other EU level actions and programmes in related fields. The importance of a coordinated emergency response at EU level was also recognised.

The Mechanism brought EU added value by strengthening the cooperation between Participating States; addressing gaps in national response capacities; and starting to shift the focus of the Mechanism towards a more prevention-related approach.

The EU added value of the Mechanism in responding to major disasters outside the EU was less straightforward due to the existence of bilateral support. However, the added value of the Mechanism for affected countries outside the EU was that they only had to deal with a single contact point, which coordinated the EU-level efforts, rather than rely on a multitude of bilateral contacts with different States. The coordinated EU emergency assistance also reduced the risk of duplication of efforts.

The Mechanism also brought visibility to the EU by ensuring solidarity between Participating States in the Mechanism and third countries.

However, there is room for improvement, for example by ensuring a better take up of the outcomes of the lessons-learned and by enhancing opportunities for operational and cross-sector learning.

For instance,

In relation to **Prevention-related actions**, they helped improving the connection between existing financial and legislative instruments and prevention elements in many other related EU policies (inter alia. regional, environmental, health, climate change policies). They also contributed to raising awareness and promoting EU Member States' cooperation in the field of civil protection.

The results of prevention related-actions could not have been achieved by Member States acting in isolation - indeed, most prevention actions and projects involved multiple partners from different Participating States who were not necessarily used to cooperating with one another. Most budgets of completed projects were considered as proportionate for the implemented activities

Anyway the evaluators underlined that the DG ECHO

- should consider further promoting prevention activities. For instance, the adoption of effective prevention strategies at national level could reduce the severity of some disaster types and improve the resilience of affected areas.

- should incentivize Participating States to adopt common models of preventing the occurrence or spreading of major disasters through common standards and/or operational procedures, etc. Prevention projects also could foster cooperation and share good practices, lessons learned and insights into how best to implement these at national level.

In relation to **Preparedness-related actions**, they were largely in line with the needs of Participating States and adequately addressed the needs of other relevant stakeholders, such as national civil protection authorities and professionals. The training courses involved the appropriate target groups and attracted a high numbers of civil protection actors. The simulation exercises were in line with the disaster types affecting the majority of Participating States and their associated needs. The exchange of experts programme was even slightly oversubscribed. The module exercises allowed for the identification of gaps in SOPs of modules, which were subsequently addressed in the development and implementation of guidelines for the modules. The preparedness projects, the pilot project and preparatory actions responded to important needs as identified from major disasters over time.

The coherence and relevance of preparedness-related actions was overall ensured via the lessons learned programme of the Mechanism. In terms of effectiveness, preparedness-related actions mainly contributed to a common understanding of cooperation in civil protection interventions in Europe. The training programme improved the skills, know-how and competences of experts through training courses, realistic simulation exercises and via the exchange of experts. This ultimately also contributed to strengthening and making the response capacity of Participating States more effective in case of disasters within and outside the EU. Similarly, modules and module exercises somewhat contributed to increasing the Participating States' response capacity by organising and testing the coordination of national capacities. Preparedness projects, pilot project and preparatory actions in particular contributed to raising awareness and to promoting EU Member States' cooperation in the field of civil protection. They also allowed for the testing of innovative arrangements to reinforce the EU's rapid response capacity.

The budgets of preparedness-related actions were proportionate and appropriate with respect to their scope and objectives. The competitive tendering for the organisation of elements of the training programme generally helped in controlling the costs of such actions. The efficiency of module exercises was high considering the limited time that civil protection personnel at national level could devote to such

exercises. This was strengthened by the identification of key lessons following the organisation of such exercises. The budgets for preparedness projects, pilot project and preparatory actions were adequate to implement the planned activities.

The main EU added value of preparedness related actions resided in building a community of civil protection practitioners in Europe. This community is characterised by: a common understanding of the Mechanism; a good understanding of the national civil protection systems; and a set of common and standard operating procedures. The EU added value of the training programme was found in the common body of knowledge generated through participation. The networking effects resulting from the training programme were also considered as bringing EU added value. Preparedness projects, the pilot project and preparatory actions contributed to the establishment of common procedures and standards and the development of additional response capacity.

Some improvements were anyway recommended by the evaluators, for instance,

- *Certify training course participants*: DG ECHO should introduce a systematic test at the end of each course to ensure that learning outcomes have been achieved. Passing these tests would be a condition for progressing through the training curriculum. This would ensure better coherence of the training groups and help to create trust among Participating States and Host Nations with regard to the minimum standards of assistance and the expected level of expertise.

- *Improve the effectiveness of the training courses*: DG ECHO should consider adopting a train-the-trainers approach in order to raise awareness of the Mechanism at national level. The training participants could disseminate the knowledge of the Mechanism more widely by using the training materials and the tools provided. In order to make the training programme more cost-effective basic courses may alternatively be replaced by e-learning sessions.

- *Define expert profiles*: DG ECHO should take a proactive approach in first mapping the skills and competencies required to manage emergencies in the field, in cooperation with the Participating States, followed by the development of profiles matching the needs identified. These profiles could serve both to inform the future design of the training courses, the selection of training participants and, ultimately, the selection of EU CP team members.

- *Involve general public in simulation exercises*: Simulation exercises could involve the general public and residents in risk prone areas where exercises are being run in order to raise awareness and increase the preparedness and resilience of society at large.

- *Continue improving interoperability and effectiveness of assets and procedures (SOPs)*: The interoperability of equipment and procedures should be further enhanced. Preparatory actions could focus on further developing and testing innovative arrangements. Moreover, EU financing should be made available for "creating and maintaining" a voluntary pool of assets.

Finally in relation to the **Response-related actions**, they were relevant to the needs of the stakeholders: the replacement of the MIC by the ERCC and the incorporation of early warning systems are good illustrations of how the Mechanism has evolved over time to meet the needs expressed by stakeholders. Similarly, the introduction of transport assistance into the Mechanism helped addressing the lack of available transport means to move the offers of assistance by Participating States.

Response related actions were overall internally coherent. The MIC/ERCC significantly improved the coordination and complementarity of the assistance provided by Participating States. This applied to all types of interventions, including those targeting marine pollution disasters, inside and outside the EU.

The response related actions proved effective, efficient, and flexible in delivering relief in the context of major disasters. The MIC/ERCC allowed for the rapid and effective deployment of EU CP teams and modules and facilitated the coordination of EU interventions with Participating States and International actors. The provision of transport assistance was also considered as a major step forward for the Mechanism and proved a useful, effective and efficient tool.

2. Training Activities

The training programme is an essential part of the Mechanism. It is crucial in preparing experts for international civil protection assistance interventions inside as well as outside Europe. It also provides an excellent platform for experience-sharing and networking between national experts from participating countries. The programme involves training courses, joint simulation exercises and an exchange programme, where experts can learn first-hand about similar responsibilities under different national systems.

Since it was launched in 2004, the training programme has developed and now includes 12 courses: two introductory, six operational, two management and two refresher courses.

These courses aim at enhancing the coordination of civil protection activities and enhancing the complementarity of the intervention teams. They also aim at making emergency response more effective.

In total, around 4,700 civil protection experts and specialists were trained since the Training Programme was launched

The target group is wide, which opens the training programme to many different categories of experts. These can range from assessment and coordination experts to specialists within a certain field of work, such as marine pollution experts, environmental experts (landslides waste management, dam stability etc), experts in geo-hazards or logistics in emergency operations, and medical staff.

All courses combine theory and field experience, as well as international guidelines and standard operating procedures. They all contain practical exercises (field and table-top) based on different emergency scenarios where participants get the opportunity to practise their skills in a realistic setting.

In order to benefit most, candidates are encouraged to follow courses according to a basic order.

All courses conclude with a final test in order to review the progress of the participants during the course. A certificate is handed out at the end of each course providing the participant has attended the entire course.

From the 11th cycle onward (mid 2013), candidates make use of a distance preparation tool.

For each cycle of training courses, the total number of course places is divided between the Participating States and external organisations. This quota is based on the reported training needs of the country as well as the size of the country. To administrate training-related issues, each Participating State has appointed a national training coordinator who is responsible for identifying and nominating experts to attend the training courses. To increase collaboration with other international actors and facilitate cooperation in the field, partners such as other European Commission services, the United Nations and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are invited to participate in relevant courses.

Detailed information on the training programme can also be found on the virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (V-OSOCC), which is a virtual platform developed by the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Completing the introductory course is a prerequisite for attending the next course, the Operational Management Course (OPM).

2.2 The Technical Experts Course (TEC)

Experience from previous civil protection assistance interventions, as well as training assessment and coordination experts, have shown that there is a need to train technical specialists for expert interventions. The Technical Experts Course (TEC) is a six day course designed specifically for technical experts such as marine pollution and water management experts, environmental experts (landslides, waste management, dam stability etc), geo-hazard or logistics experts, medical staff and infrastructure engineers.

The main objective is to introduce technical experts to the Mechanism and the mission cycle of operations. It also aims to increase their knowledge of international response systems and coordination mechanisms and their teamwork capability in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary team. Experiences from previous civil protection assistance interventions, particularly those where special expertise was required and/or used, are discussed. The course is composed of theory, group work sessions and a practical exercise based on disaster scenarios.

As the Technical Experts Course aims at preparing technical experts for international missions in their field of experience within the framework of the Mechanism, graduates are invited to attend other courses in the training programme on the same basis as experts who have completed the Community Mechanism Introduction course (CMI).

For technical experts, the certificate of the TEC is one of the prerequisites for attending the next course, the Operational Management course (OPM).

2.3 The Module Basic Course (MBC)

The six day Modules Basic Course (MBC) is a stand alone course within the training programme. The target group is key staff from participating countries that would be deployed with their civil protection module to an emergency within or outside the European Union. Key staff can include team leaders, deputy team leaders, liaison officers or communications officers. It is recommended (but not compulsory) that participants attend the Community Mechanism Introduction (CMI) course before going to the Modules Basic Course (MBC).

The course includes theory, group sessions and case study work, as well as an exercise. The main purpose of the course is to increase participants' capability to manage the civil protection modules in a multi-task and multi-stakeholder operation and to integrate them into existing national and international coordination arrangements in a disaster-affected country. The course focuses on the crucial issue of interoperability when teams are deployed alongside units from other countries.

For members of the target group who have not followed the CMI before, the certificate of the MBC is a prerequisite for attending the next course, the Community Mechanism Introduction course (CMI). For those who have already followed the CMI, the next course is the Operational Management course (OPM).

2.4 The Operational Management Course (OPM)

The Operational Management Course (OPM) is the first specifically aimed at future deployments inside and outside Europe. It can be regarded as the corner stone of the training programme to follow and as such it provides all the basics that make it possible for graduates to function as a full member in an On-site Operational Coordination Centre (OSOCC – outside Europe) or coordination setting (inside Europe).

It is the second course in the training programme and is open to those who are in possession of the certificate of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the OPM.

The eight-day course targets national experts and European Commission representatives who aim to be potential team members or liaison officers of a European Civil Protection team sent by the European Commission.

As inside Europe deployments also have their specifics, attention for this subject is on the agenda as well. The main tasks of an EUCP team consist of facilitating the coordination in the field, assessing needs of the affected country and providing expertise, based on the request of the affected country, whether it be inside or outside Europe. The focus of this course is on coordination and course topics include internationally agreed guidelines and procedures, planning, information management and how key partners work on an operational level, as well as ethics, code of conduct and basics on Safety and Security.

The core objective of the course is not only to improve the individual capabilities of experts and teams, but also to enhance their ability to function within a wider framework of international partners.

Training is carried out within the context of emergency situation scenarios, enabling participants to practice the above described topics in a realistic setting.

2.5 The Security Course (SEC)

The four day Security Course (SEC) is one of the specialised courses and is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the SEC.

The core objective of the Security Course is to enhance participants' understanding, knowledge and skills in terms of security management at operational and strategic levels. Team security is increasingly an essential element of field work during a civil protection assistance intervention. Interventions often encompass the

element of providing security advice and services to team members and partners, within the framework of the security regulations that apply.

The SEC intends to provide competences to act as security advisors within the team as well as knowledge and skills to act appropriately according to the safety regulations.

The course is composed of theory and group work sessions, where participants learn about different aspects of security management (international security systems, security assessments, security planning and training). The course also includes a field exercise providing participants with an opportunity to put this into practice in an emergency setting.

2.6 The Information management Course (IMC)

The ability to provide accurate information in a timely and effective manner to the appropriate stakeholders is of utmost importance during disaster response interventions. It can even be described as the most important critical success factor.

As the process of information management is seen as key for functioning successfully in operational coordination, the four day Information Management Course focuses solely on this topic. It aims to facilitate assessment, coordination and decision-making during expert interventions through strengthened information management processes. Specifically, the course objectives are to improve the participants' understanding of how sound information management practices can facilitate the mission, increase and broaden their understanding and ability to apply standard information tools used in emergencies and identify best practices and share experiences in terms of information management.

The IMC is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the IMC.

The course is formed around the information management cycle and is composed of theory, group work sessions and practical exercises based on realistic disaster scenarios.

2.7 The International Coordination Course (ICC)

The four day International Coordination Course (ICC) is one of the specialised courses of the training programme and is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the ICC.

However, according to the basic order of courses, having graduated from the Security Course (SEC or MSC as equivalent) and the Information Management Course (IMC) before the ICC is preferred.

Even though all courses in the training programme contain elements of international coordination mechanisms and procedures, the growing complexity of disaster response requires experts to have in-depth knowledge of these mechanisms and procedures. This is particularly necessary in large-scale emergencies where many organisations, also from the European institutions, as well as military components are involved or in situations with additional challenges, such as a difficult political environment.

The overall objective of the course is to increase participants' knowledge of, and ability to work with or under the overall coordination of other international response systems like the United Nations. International coordination mechanisms, civil military coordination and the approach of other organisations in the field of disaster management are covered by the course, which is composed of theory, case study-based group work sessions and practical exercises.

2.8 The Assessment Mission Course (AMC)

The Assessment Mission Course (AMC) is a six day specialised course for national experts and managers in the field of emergency management, European Commission officials and experts from partner organisations likely to be involved in international civil protection interventions where assessment activities are to be expected.

The AMC is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the AMC. Having followed the other courses according to the basic order of courses is preferred (SEC – or MSC as equivalent –, IMC and ICC).

While on mission, experts are engaged by the European Commission to carry out their tasks by assisting local authorities in close cooperation with the UN and other international organisations on site.

The experts attending the Assessment Mission Course are trained to carry out assessment in a wide array of needs (humanitarian and civil protection), related to the specific mandate of an EU Civil Protection team.

The core objective of the course is not only to improve the individual capabilities of experts and teams, but also to enhance their ability to function within a wider international framework. The course includes sessions on how to prepare and perform a field assessment, negotiation skills and information management. The main focus of the course is a long field exercise, where participants get to test their new skills performing needs assessments on a wide variety of location settings and meeting local officials who are experienced in managing real emergency situations.

2.9 The High Level Coordination Course (HLC)

The High Level Coordination course (HLC) is the third general course in the training programme and is the end-course for all team members (if graduated). It aims at experts who could be selected as members of a team that can be deployed by the European Commission to facilitate coordination assistance in emergencies. The course takes 4½ days.

The HLC is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the HLC. Having followed the other courses according to the basic order of courses is preferred. In specific cases candidates (like from other organisations or with extensive field-experience) can be admitted directly after permission of the European Commission.

The course focuses on emergencies outside the Mechanism's geographical area and how to work within a wider international framework. The course contains strategic and political aspects of international disaster management and humanitarian assistance, such as mission management, negotiation, international coordination policy, staff management, the legal framework of international disaster management operations and media relations.

Group work, based on case studies, is an important part of the course where the participants can discuss experiences, alternatives and best practice for managing the mission itself during complicated situations.

The course concludes with a two day field exercise where participants can practice the different team roles in a realistic setting.

The certificate of the HLC is one of the prerequisites for attending the next course, the Head of Team course (HOT).

2.10 The Head of Team Course (HOT)

Being a Head of Team during civil protection interventions puts a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the selected person. That is why national experts graduated from the High Level Coordination course and selected to potentially become a Head of Team, are offered an additional training of 4½ days.

The HOT is open to those who have acquired the certificate for the High Level Coordination course and were selected as a candidate for the Head of Team course.

Diplomatic behaviour, political dynamics in disaster affected regions, relations with and between European institutions, relevant international agreements as well as Council and Commission Decisions and their impact on coordination during interventions inside and outside the European Union, the ability to interact effectively with the media in stressful situations as well as internal team management and -psychology and leadership are addressed in the course. These are subjects that demand the full commitment of the participants and extensive preparation.

2.11 The Operational Management Refresher Courses (OPM-R) and The High Level Coordination Refresher Courses (HLC-R)

The field of emergency response is a constantly changing environment. No two emergencies are exactly the same. New actors enter the field or existing ones have their mandate changed. Changing situations, also inside the European Commission and the development of new techniques and equipment mean that experts need to learn about the latest developments, as well as refresh knowledge gained on earlier courses.

The OPM-R and HLC-R can be regarded as “consolidation courses”. By following them, candidates show their interest to remain active within the Mechanism. As individual candidates know best in which field they need to be updated, these courses are organised in a two day conference/workshop on different topics.

The OPM-R is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI) and the Operational Management Course (OPM) and achieved the Distance Preparation Certificate for the OPM-R. The HLC-R is open to those who are in possession of the certificates of the Community Mechanism Introduction Course (CMI), the Operational Management Course (OPM) and the High Level Coordination course (HLC). In specific cases candidates that graduated from the HLC directly (because of their previous experience) can be admitted after permission of the European Commission.

The Operational Management Refresher course makes use of operational lessons learned from recent deployments of expert teams. The participants can meet with experienced trainers on different subjects. The High Level Coordination Refresher course focuses more on the strategic and political dimensions of international disaster management and humanitarian assistance, in relation with recent emergencies

3. Modules, exercises and exchange of experts

The European Commission organises a programme based on modules, exercises and exchanges of experts, as well as actions in areas where a common European approach is more effective than separate national approaches. Improving the quality of and accessibility to disaster information, implementing prevention measures, raising public awareness on disaster management, developing guidelines on risk assessment and hazard mapping, encouraging research to promote disaster resilience, and reinforcing early warning tools are some of the EU-level disaster prevention activities being developed and constantly upgraded.

3.1 Modules

The idea of establishing civil protection modules to strengthen the European response to natural and man-made disasters was launched by Member States in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami in South-Asia. In June 2005, the European Council endorsed the general concept, calling for the establishment of a EU rapid response capability based upon Member States' civil protection modules.

Consequently the Council Decision establishing a Civil Protection Mechanism (Recast) emphasises the importance of developing a European rapid response capability based on the civil protection modules of the Member States. The Council Decision defines the civil protection modules and provides that Member States are required to identify modules within six months of the adoption of the Mechanism recast – meaning until 16 May 2008.

The European Commission and Member States have worked closely together to develop the implementing rules for Civil Protection Modules. The implementing rules provide the technical framework for a total of 17 modules covering pumping and purification of water, aerial fire fighting (planes and helicopters), urban search and rescue (heavy and medium), medical assistance including medical evacuation (advanced medical posts, field hospital, aerial evacuation), emergency shelter, CBRN detection and sampling, and search and rescue in CBRN conditions. Tasks, capacities, main components and deployment times are defined and the provisions give more details about the notions of self-sufficiency and interoperability. The rules also provide for a Technical Assistance Support Team (TAST) for the support and/or coordination of the teams and, under specified conditions, TAST is incorporated in specific modules to fulfil support functions.

The modules concept

Modules are task and needs driven pre-defined arrangements of resources. They are assembled and made available to respond more quickly to emergencies both within and outside the EU. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are defined and they contain all the predictable procedures during the deployment cycle.

The modules:

- are composed of mobile/moveable resources from Member States which can be deployed abroad;

- are able to work independently as well as together with other modules and provide assistance inside and/or outside the EU to other EU bodies and international institutions, especially the UN;
- can be made up of resources from one or more Member States of the Community Mechanism on a voluntary basis;
- are self-sufficient, interoperable and can be dispatched at very short notice (generally within 12 hours following a request of assistance);
- are equipped, trained and operate in accordance with acknowledged international guidelines.



Figure 3.1 Example of SOPs application (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The types of EU CP modules are the following:

- 1) High Capacity Pumping
- 2) Flood Containment Module
- 3) Flood Rescue Module using boats
- 4) Water Purification
- 5) Medium USAR
- 6) Heavy USAR

- 7) Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting using helicopters
- 8) Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting using airplanes
- 9) Ground Forest Fire Fighting
- 10) Ground Forest Fire Fighting using vehicles
- 11) Advanced medical post
- 12) Advanced medical post with surgery
- 13) Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims
- 14) Emergency temporary shelter
- 15) CBRN detection and sampling
- 16) SAR in CBRN conditions
- 17) Field hospital and Technical assistance support team (TAST)

3.2 Exercises

The EU and EU member states invest significant resources into Civil Protection exercises. Civil Protection exercises organised at EU level are designed primarily as field tests aiming to establish a common understanding of cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions and to accelerate the response to major emergencies.

The objectives of the exercises are “to improve civil protection preparedness and response to all kinds of emergencies, including marine pollution, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear emergencies, as well as combined emergencies and emergencies simultaneously affecting a number of countries (inside or outside the EU) by providing a testing environment of established and/or new operational concepts and procedures of the Mechanism and a learning opportunity for all actors involved in civil protection assistance interventions under the Civil Protection Mechanism”.

For this reason, these exercises provide a learning opportunity for all actors involved in operations under the Mechanism and enhance operational co-operation between them. One of the main objectives of these Civil Protection exercises is to enhance international cooperation. Contingency planning, decision-making procedures, provision of information to the public and the media can also be tested and rehearsed during these events, so as to be better prepared for similar real-life situations.

Moreover, exercises can help supervisors identify further training needs for their staff involved in operations, while lessons-learned workshops organised in parallel can serve as a forum to identify operational gaps to be improved.

The Commission Decision 2004/277/EC, Euratom of 29 December 2003 defines the **target group** of the exercises (Article 22) and the **Exercise aims** (Article 24).

The *exercise aims* (Article 24) are reproduced below:

"The **exercises** shall, in particular with regard to the target group set out in Article 22(a), **aim** at :

- (a) Improving the response capacity and providing the necessary practice of the teams meeting the criteria for participation in civil protection assistance interventions;
- (b) Improving and verifying the procedures and establishing a common language for the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions and reducing the response time in major emergencies;
- (c) Enhancing operational cooperation between the civil protection services of the participating States;
- (d) Sharing lessons learned.

As defined in the article 22 of Commission Decision 2004/277/EC, Euratom, the target groups of the exercises are:

- Participating States' intervention teams
- Participating States' intervention team leaders, their deputies and liaison officers
- experts of the Participating States as set out in article 15 of the same decision (technical experts, assessment experts, coordination team member, coordination head)
- national key contact point staff
- officials of the European institutions



Figure 3.2 Example of exercises (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The expected results of the exercises are:

- The existing procedures for the various elements of the Civil Protection Mechanism are improved and new procedures, where needed, are established.
- The interoperability of intervention teams is improved as the result of the exercise; in particular this will mean quicker dispatch time, improved cooperation arrangements, better communication between headquarters and field, identification of shortcomings in the existing structures.

- Participating States are aware and prepared to receive and to provide assistance through the Mechanism.

Types of exercises

Eligible projects to be co-financed under this call for proposals will comprise one of the following types of civil protection exercises:

Full Scale Exercises (FSE), involving a sufficient number of the various categories of the training programme target group, necessarily including deployment of intervention teams. A FSE is designed to replicate one or several phases of an emergency with the commitment of all the public bodies and authorities that would be committed in a real situation. All the functions (operation, command, logistics, communication, public information, etc...) of a real operation are replicated and played in a coordinated way. It is expected that the exercise is preceded by a tabletop exercise (TTE), and includes a command post exercise part. About 40 full scale exercises over the last 13 years were organized.

Command Post Exercises (CPE), with a minimum and focused deployment in the field of a number of the categories comprising the target group of the training programme. It should be noted that the requirement of a minimum deployment in the field distinguishes the above command post exercises from the ones organised by the Commission as part of the CECIS training, the latter being "pure" command post exercises with no deployment in the field. A CPE is designed to put command structures in a real situation, requesting the deployment of an EUCP Team and possibly key staff of operational assets together with command and communication staff and tools.

Table top exercises or other type of discussion based exercises (TTE) as deemed suitable to achieve the set objectives. A TTE is designed to put real crisis managers in a situation to use existing plans and procedures to take decisions according to a proposed scenario. Being a discussion mode exercise, it does not require any deployment but gathers the players in one single location under the guidance and control of experienced staff.

In all types of the above exercises, at least two coordination levels should be exercised.

The scenario of the exercises takes into account one, several or all of the following phases: alert and request of assistance, deployment, operational engagement, operational disengagement.

The scenario is related to any type of disaster that overwhelms the response capacity of the affected State. Pre-deployment is acceptable when realistic or when the objective of the exercise is more focused on operation and disengagement than on deployment. Natural and technological disasters (including CBRN events) are typically in the scope of Mechanism exercises, being at land or at sea.

It is mandatory that also the operational structure of the national civil protection authority of each exercise player takes part in the exercise as player.

In addition to the above categories, exercise players could also come from "other intervention support, which might be available from the competent services, such as specialised personnel and equipment to deal with a particular emergency, and resources which may be provided by non-governmental organisations and other relevant entities." [Article 4(4) of Council Decision 2007/779/EC, Euratom].

There are no specific restrictions in either the total number of exercise players or the number of the members of each team. Particular thought should be given to this issue in order to ensure that the number of exercise players allows proper play and testing of the exercise objectives.

Experts and teams from third countries, with the appropriate qualifications, can participate as exercise players (article 7 of Council Decision 2007/162/EC, Euratom). Personnel of International Organisations and agencies, in particular those that form part of the United Nations system, can also participate as exercise players when relevant (see article 9 of Council Decision 2007/162/EC, Euratom).

The exercise duration is a minimum of two days and two nights, except for TTE that can be limited to one full day.



Figure 3.3 Example of exercises (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

A team has to be dedicated to control the exercise, i.e. providing injects, information and reactions to the players through the channels set up in accordance with the local, national and international rules. This control team is not allowed to guide directly the decision making process of the players by imposing actions and a timeline, which should remain indicative in the planning of the exercise. Besides provision of injects, the role of the control team is to ensure that the activities of the players stay within the limits permitted by the resources dedicated to the exercise.

Finally, concerning the geographical areas, there are no restrictions on the scenario is supposed to take place at. The scenario can evolve inside or outside the EU. Particular attention should be given to scenarios that take place in disaster prone areas. Anyway, the exercise location has to be in the territory of a Participating State of the Mechanism.

One of the main principles during the exercise, which should be taken into account during the planning phase, is: "let the player play".

3.3 Exchange of experts

The Exchange of Experts Programme was established to complement training and exercises. The exchange system allows for the secondment of civil protection experts to participating states. This exchange of experts provides participants with knowledge and experience on all aspects of emergency intervention and the different approaches of national systems.

Experts can either apply to go on a mission, or civil protection organisations can invite expert(s).

The duration of the exchange can vary in length from a few days to two weeks. Typically, the length is five working days.

The system allows for experts from national systems to be temporarily loaned to the administration bodies of other participating countries, in order to gain direct experience and more in-depth knowledge of how the civil protection system works in a country other than their own.



Figure 3.4 Example of exchange of experts (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

The exchange can be organized in two ways:

1) Civil protection experts can visit one or more organisations in one or more countries. They can, for example, observe operational structures in the country and learn new techniques. In addition, they can also, for example, attend workshops or conferences or participate in training courses or simulation exercises.

2) Expert(s) from a different state are invited by a hosting organisation to, for example: observe operational structures in the country; learn new techniques; attend workshops or conferences; participate in training courses or simulation exercises. It's also possible to invite experts as trainers.

The Exchange of Experts Programme thereby makes a significant contribution to the ongoing development of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and builds capacity in the field of civil protection

Applications are open for a new cycle of the EU Exchange of Experts programme, running until October 2016.

In these last years the Exchange of experts Programme has allowed for the secondment of around 900 national civil protection experts to administrations in other Participating States. These exchanges covered all aspects of emergency interventions.

4. Response

Response means facilitating the cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major disasters inside and outside the EU. It deals with International collaboration and it embeds any action taken upon request for assistance under the Union Mechanism in the event of an imminent disaster, or during or after a disaster, to address its immediate adverse consequences.

The new actions in disaster Response are related to

- the Establishment of **Emergency Response Coordination Centre** (ERCC) with 24/7 operational capacity
- the establishment of a European Emergency Response Capacity consisting of a **voluntary pool**
- the co-financing of **buffer capacities** to address temporary shortcomings
- the seed-funding for **new response capacities** in very specific situations, where a potentially **significant gap** has been identified

4.1 The strategic Operational centre – The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

ERCC is the operational hub of the Mechanism for facilitating a coherent European response during emergencies inside and outside Europe.

It was established on the basis of over 10 years of experience of coordinating European disaster response. In 2001, its predecessor, the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) was created as the main operational tool of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

ERCC is the new "heart" of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. It replaces and upgrades the functions of the previous Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC). Beyond that it plays a key role as a coordination of the response of the participating countries in case of a crisis, thus planning a better joint European assistance in advance, i.e. to move away from an ad-hoc response to a pre-planned response.

When a disaster strikes, every minute counts. An immediate, coordinated and pre-planned response saves lives. The ERCC has been established exactly for this reason: to enable the EU and its Member States to respond to overwhelming natural and man-made disasters in a timely and efficient manner.

The ERCC collects and analyses real-time information on disasters, monitors hazards, prepares plans for the deployment of experts, teams and equipment, works with Member States to map available assets and coordinate the EU's disaster response efforts.



Figure 4.1 The ERCC (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

It monitors emergencies around the globe 24/7 and is able to deal with several simultaneous emergencies in different time zones

Thanks to its pre-positioned and self-sufficient civil protection modules, the ERCC teams are ready to intervene at short notice both within and outside the EU. They undertake specialised tasks such as search and rescue, aerial forest fire fighting, advanced medical posts and more.

The EU's disaster response coordination has evolved throughout the years, following a continuous increase in requests for assistance from all over the world. The ERCC therefore gives countries access to a one-stop-shop of civil protection means available amongst the all the participating states. It acts as a communication hub at headquarters level between participating states, the affected country and dispatched field experts. Any country inside or outside the EU affected by a major disaster can make an appeal for assistance through the ERCC. In response, the ERCC matches offers of assistance to the needs of the disaster-stricken country.



Figure 4.2 The ERCC (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Until now the EU civil protection response has been based purely on voluntary and ad-hoc offers of Member States' assistance. Such assistance can encompass in-kind assets (e.g. shelter, water tanks, blankets), trained expert teams (e.g. medical staff, search and rescue teams), or both. In the past, the ad-hoc character of the assistance sometimes made it difficult to predict and plan relief operations and has therefore led to avoidable delays. The ERCC, on the other side, manages a pre-identified pool of Member States' response assets - "civil protection intervention modules" - that can immediately be deployed to any large scale emergency.

The countries participating in the Mechanism can commit some of their core resources on standby in a voluntary pool – ready to be instantly set in motion as part of a coherent European response when the need arises. Better planning and the preparation of a set of typical disaster scenarios can further enhance the ERCC's capacity for rapid response.

To ensure highest quality standards, this emergency response capacity will include a certification process for the resources made available to the pool. The ERCC will initiate a process of identification of eventual gaps in the panoply of European assistance and of proposals on how these gaps can be covered, through financial support from the EU or other means.

By merging the current Crisis Room for humanitarian crises and the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) for civil protection, the ERCC fosters increased cooperation between the civil protection and humanitarian aid operations. The ERCC keeps direct links to the civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities in Member States which enables a smooth and real-time exchange of information.

4.2 European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC) consisting of a *voluntary pool*

A European Emergency Response Capacity is established and the Member States shall on a voluntary basis identify and register the response capacities. The EERC consists of a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and include modules, other response capacities and experts.

On the basis of identified risks, the Commission defines the types and the number of key response capacities required for the EERC ("capacity goals") and defines quality requirements for the response capacities that Member States which are based on established international standards.

Response capacities that Member States make available for the EERC are available for response operations under the Union Mechanism following a request for assistance through the ERCC. When domestic emergencies, force majeure or, in exceptional cases, serious reasons prevent a Member State from making those response capacities available in a specific disaster, that Member State shall inform the Commission as soon as possible.

The Voluntary Pool' cycle is described below:

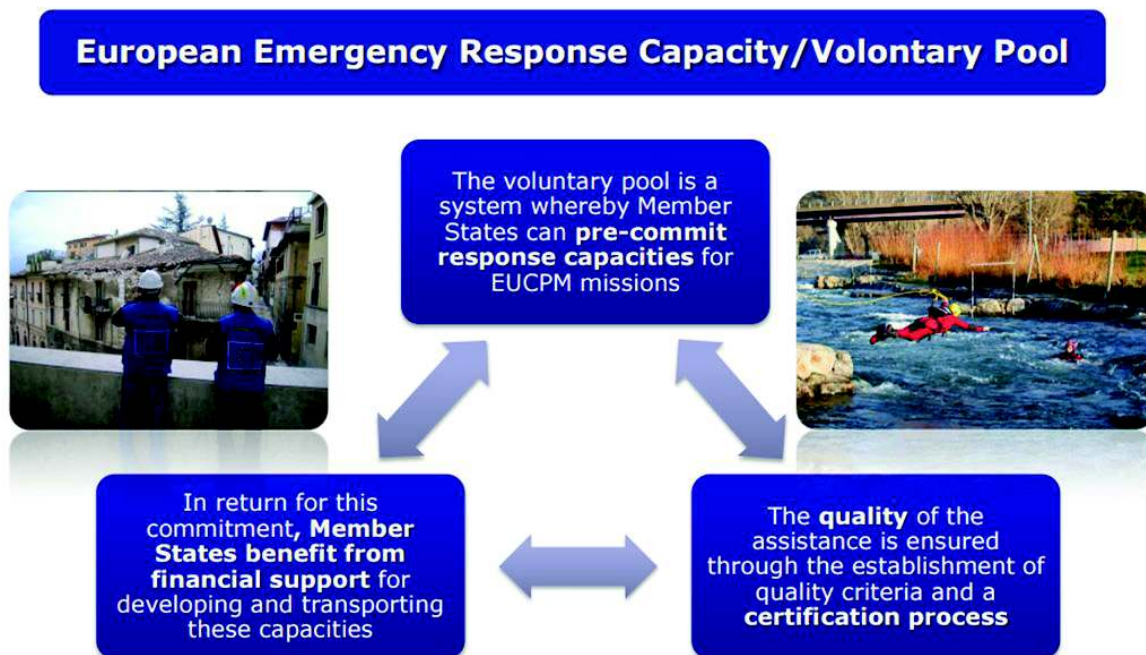


Figure 4.3 The Voluntary Pool's Cycle (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

In the Response Actions can be also included the co-financing of **buffer capacities** to address temporary shortcomings (see below)



Figure 4.4 The co-financing of buffer capacities (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Finally the Commission monitors the progress towards the capacity goals and identifies potentially significant response capacity gaps in the EERC.

Where potentially significant gaps have been identified, the Commission shall examine whether the necessary capacities are available to the Member States outside the EERC and it will encourage Member States to address, either individually or through a consortium of Member States cooperating together on common risks, any strategic capacity gaps that have been identified. The Commission may support Member States in those activities also through the seed-funding for new response capacities in very specific situations, where a potentially significant gap has been identified, following the process described below.

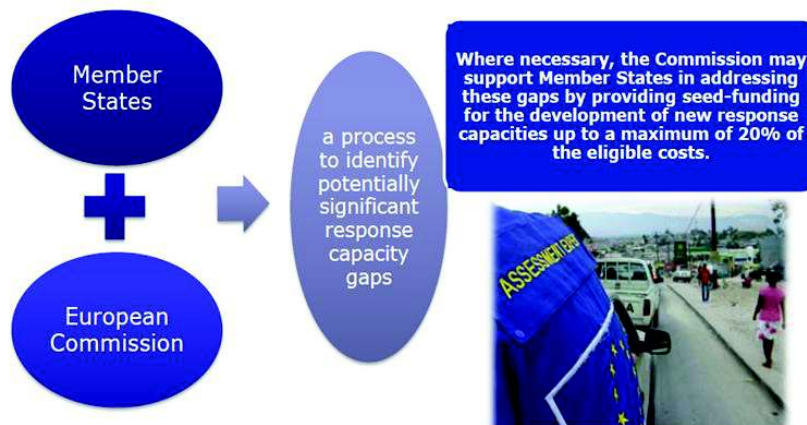


Figure 4.5 The Process for identifying the response capacity gaps (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

5. Best Practices

FLOODS IN SERBIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 2014

Introduction

Due to continuous rainfall that started on 13 May 2014, extreme floods hit Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, affecting and displacing thousands of people. It is estimated that over 3 million people in both BiH and Serbia were directly or indirectly affected by the floods, mudslides and landslides. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their livelihoods and were evacuated from their homes. Provision of clean water, health and sanitation was one of the main concerns. Across the region, key infrastructure, including bridges and roads as well as health and educational facilities, were damaged in many affected areas.

This practice is related to the UPCM activation in the field of preparedness and effective coordinated response to disasters.

It's a practice presented by Yves Dussart (DG ECHO Civil Protection Policy Unit) during the conference titled *"Conference on natural disasters and 'one health', are we prepared?" held in Brussels on 16 and 17th April 2015. The title of the intervention was "Member states collaboration, the role of the European Union through the EU civil protection mechanism".*

The Floods in Serbia: Situation overview

Serbia experienced the most catastrophic floods unprecedented in its history. A State of Emergency was declared for the whole Republic from 15 – 23 May.

- 40 municipalities and 1.6 million people were affected.

The Municipality of Obrenovac (near Belgrade) was mostly affected (**90% flooded**).

- 485 housing units have been completely destroyed by the floods and landslides. 16.200 houses were damaged.
- Infrastructure, Health Sector, Environment and Education sector heavy affected. Losses amount to € 1.5 billion.
- **60 casualties** have been reported during the emergency – 26 as a result of drowning.
- **31.879** people were **rescued** and **evacuated**, **180.000** were in **need of assistance**.

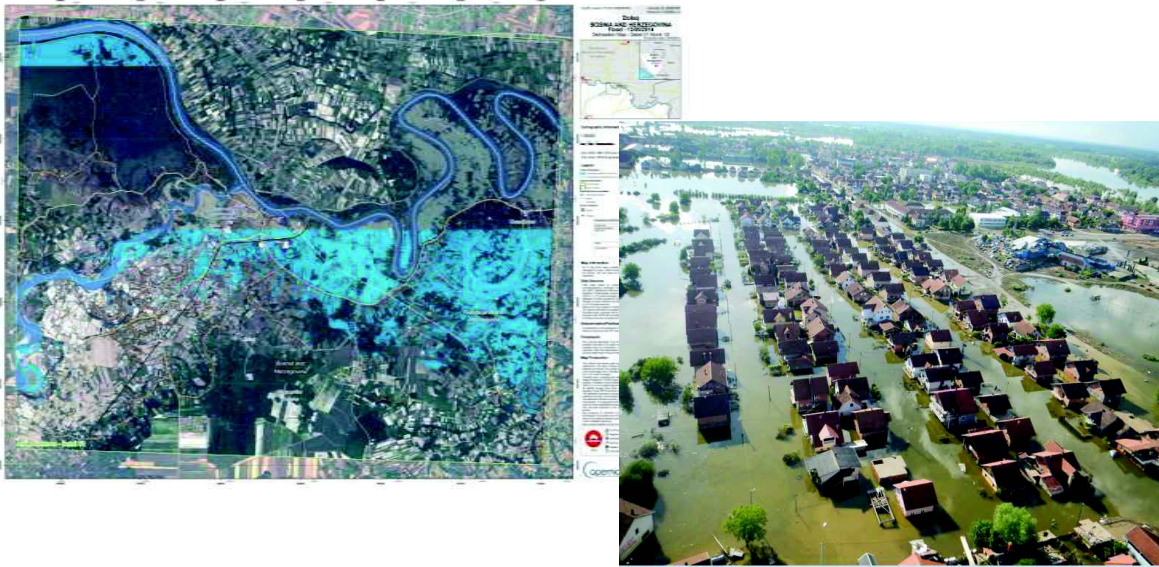


Figure 5.1 Floods in Serbia (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

Request for assistance through the UCPM

On **15 May** Serbia has requested assistance through the UCPM in form of High Capacity Water Pumping (HCP) modules.

- Due to worsening of the situation, on **16 May 2014** a **second request** for HCP modules, flood rescue teams with boats and helicopters for rescue and evacuation operations of the affected people; chemicals for suppression of larvae and adult forms of mosquitoes,
- On **23 May**, a **third request** for assistance followed for Water Purification Teams.
- Assistance was provided by **9 Participating States** (22 teams, with 563 members):
 - Flood Rescue Teams
 - Helicopters
 - High Capacity Water Pumping
 - Water Purification Teams

The Floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Situation overview

Continuous rainfall (4 months of rain fell in just three days) started on 13 May and led to exceptional flooding in many parts of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

- Over **3.000 landslides** were triggered, **landmines** were uncovered - boats or helicopters provided the only possible evacuation methods.
- **300.000** inhabitants were **directly affected**. More than **1 million** of people were hit by the flood **indirectly**.
- Roads, infrastructure houses and entire villages were swept away.
- In Posavina Canton, floods killed number of Poultry Cattle and other animals. **Serious epidemiological situation as dead animals still in the water.**

Needs boats and personal equipped with sanitary and hygienic items to pick up dead animals and move them to incinerators.



Figure 5.2 Floods in Serbia (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

ERCC/ UCPM response for both countries

23 EU Member States provided in-kind assistance, such as rescue boats, helicopters, high-capacity pumping modules and water purification units (in detail the Member States offering assistance have provided via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism: 2 helicopters, 22 high capacity pumping modules -12 to BiH and 10 to Serbia-, 111 pumps -85 to BiH and 26 to Serbia-, 39 rescue boats -25 to BiH and 14 to Serbia- and 15 water purification modules -14 to BiH and 1 to Serbia-).

In addition, 11 000 water purification tablets, 14 000 blankets and more than 1 000 tents have been channelled through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to the flood victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All this equipment has been deployed with and operated by more than 800 relief workers from EU Member States who have been working on the ground in the two countries.

The teams deployed through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism directly rescued over 1700 people in BiH alone.

The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) has been in constant contact with the relevant authorities in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to match the incoming offers for assistance with needs on the ground.

EU Civil Protection Teams were deployed to Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina in order to assist the national authorities in their response to the wide scale flooding and to support the coordination of the incoming EU assistance.

This assistance has helped save lives, pump out water from flooded buildings, maintain electricity access, deliver supplies to affected areas and predict water flow evolution and assess the damage through satellite images. Providing clean drinking water including water purification tablets and the repair of wells, food, hygiene and household kits, blankets and mattresses.

The European Commission co-financed the transportation of relief material and personnel costs to deliver aid to the affected areas.

In addition,

- More than **800 relief workers** with their equipment deployed through the UCPM.
- ERCC deployed **4 EUCP coordination and assessment teams** to support coordination on site. In total **26 experts** and **6 ERCC LO's**.
- **€ 430 000** has been requested by the Participating States of the Mechanism to co-finance transportation costs of Assistance. Over 40 grant requests were processed.
- **80 Satellite maps** of the flooded areas via the Copernicus Emergency Management Service were produced by the Commission to support both the affected countries and those providing assistance
- 4 experts deployed through UCPM for **Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)** .

On top of the in-kind assistance provided by the EU Member States via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU also released **€ 3 million in humanitarian aid** to address the most immediate needs and to help the most vulnerable population in the two affected countries.

The funding, channeled through the Red Cross/Red Crescent and other partner organisations on the ground, fills some of the most critical gaps and immediate needs in the two countries.

Based on the findings of the needs assessments, the € 3 million funding is used mainly for the provision of clean drinking water including water purification tablets and repair of wells, provision of food, hygiene and household kits, blankets and mattresses. It also ensures access to assistance for all vulnerable groups and minorities. It is estimated that the funding provided humanitarian assistance to some half a million people.



Figure 5.3 Floods in Serbia (Source European Commission – EU Civil Protection Mechanism)

As the situation evolved, the EU mobilized to support the recovery and reconstruction of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For this purpose €62 million was allocated by the European Commission to respond to short to medium term needs in the affected areas.

This funding was re-allocated from previous programmes under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The money included support for public infrastructure such as schools and social care services as well as basic equipment for enterprises and farms to restart their activities.

The EU is committed to continue its support also in the medium to long term with new IPA money that are allocated for the period 2014-2020 in order to address reconstruction needs and improve river and flood risk management.

The European Commission is working with the affected countries and in close coordination with the International Financing Institutions (IFIs) to assess the needs.

The exact scope will have to be developed on the basis of complete needs assessments. The followings actions are examples of what further EU support could cover:

- grants, together with IFIs loans, to reconstruct infrastructure: priority will be given to transport infrastructure, public buildings, schools, social services, etc.;
- reconstruction of damaged coal mines and power plants which are crucial for energy supply;
- grants to NGOs, international organisations and other relevant partners for the provision of services, supplies, and works to support reconstruction and relief efforts;
- technical assistance for the assessment of damages, recovery needs and project preparation;
- technical assistance to develop flood risk maps, improve flood risk management and civil protection mechanisms.

6. Links to training materials and European initiatives

Mapping Innovation in Humanitarian Action - Overview of ongoing initiatives and strategies by some of ECHO's partners

This mapping reviews how humanitarian actors understand and implement “innovation.” It summarises how ten different ECHO-funded agencies place and explain innovative practices within their vision, goals and policies and which formal institutions or strategies they have established to support and implement new ideas and projects. The focus is on organizations that work on more short-term innovations for immediate relief as well as longer-term adaptations and innovation leading to change

https://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/system/files/file/08/04/2016_-_1109/inspire_innovation_mapping_feb2016.pdf.

Towards an EU Policy on Disaster Management

Ian CLARK - European Commission

Tips about Disaster management at national and European level and about the new EU Mechanism, underlying the need to modernise and enhance policies covering the whole disaster cycle

http://www.unisdr.org/files/25027_20mar2012clarkppt.pdf

EVCPF – European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum

In several countries of the EU non-governmental organisations are operating which, in collaboration with governmental organisations, play an important role in the field of the preparation and information of the population and the youth and of disaster management, too.

The “European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum of the Voluntary Organisations involved in Civil Protection” brings together the experiences and practices of the European volunteers

<http://www.evcpf.eu/index.php>

TNCEIP – Thematic Network on Critical Energy Infrastructure

Information about the Thematic Network on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (TNCEIP) for the energy sector which allows operators to exchange information on threat assessment, risk management, cyber security, etc.

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/protection-critical-infrastructure>

Funding opportunities to support disaster risk prevention in the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

EU cohesion policy is key to disaster prevention and management. It provides more than €350 billion over the 2014-2020 period to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth and sustainable development. It comprises the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Social Fund (ESF).

This paper is focused on the supports related to the risk prevention (both climate and non-climate-related risks)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/factsheet_disaster_risk_prevention_03.pdf

Disaster Risk Reduction - Increasing resilience by reducing disaster risk in humanitarian action

The purpose of this document is to present DG ECHO's current policy, priorities, approach and practice on DRR (applied to all disaster contexts, including those in conflict).

The document is divided into three sections:

- The first section presents the policy framework guiding DG ECHO's support for DRR in all its interventions.
- The second section explains how DG ECHO programmes its support for DRR, following the main elements of the programme cycle: assessment, analysis, design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- The third section provides operational considerations for those most directly involved in DG ECHO funding for the implementation of DRR.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/prevention_preparedness/DRR_thematic_policy_doc.pdf

EPISECC - Information space in future integrated pan-European crisis and disaster response capacity

EPISECC is aiming at developing a concept of a common "European Information Space". This information space is dedicated to become the key element in a future integrated pan-European crisis and disaster response capacity. Besides the development of a common Taxonomy and an ontology model, aimed at addressing the Semantic Interoperability issue, EPISECC will focus on the establishment of Interoperability at Physical (i.e. network) and Syntactical (i.e. automated information exchange) levels. One of the main purposes of the EPISECC approach, is to allow analysis of interoperability at all levels.

<https://www.episecc.eu>

Adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and management in the 2014 - 2020 Regional

Policy - Mathieu Fichter - European Commission, DG Regio

This paper gives an overview on adaptation to climate change and risk prevention & management

It also gives information on how adaptation and risk prevention can fit in the Regional policy, putting in evidence the climate change adaptation and risk prevention in the 2014-2020 Regional policy

<http://www.jaspersnetwork.org/download/attachments/13991981/Adaptation%20to%20climate%20change%20DG%20REGIO.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1405323246000&api=v2>

ESReDA - European Safety, Reliability and Data Association

ESReDA provides a forum for the exchange of information, data and current research in Safety and Reliability and a focus for specialist expertise. The Safety and Reliability of processes and products are topics which are the focus of increasing interest Europe wide. Safety and Reliability Engineering is viewed as being an important component in the design of a system. However the discipline and its tools and methods are still evolving and expertise and knowledge dispersed throughout Europe. There is a need to pool the resources and knowledge within Europe and ESReDA provides the means to achieve this.

ESReDA organises regular conferences and workshops gathering European experts and networks on Critical Infrastructures Protection (CIP).

<http://www.esreda.org>

INFRARISK

The INFRARISK vision is to develop reliable stress tests to establish the resilience of European CI to rare low frequency extreme events and to aid decision making in the long term regarding robust infrastructure development and protection of existing infrastructure.

<http://www.infrarisk-fp7.eu/project-at-a-glance>

Echoes of EU Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

The EU, as the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid, is committed to supporting people in emergencies and providing humanitarian aid according to needs with the aim of preserving life, alleviating suffering and maintaining people's dignity.

The EU also coordinates and plans civil protection activities and works to improve disaster prevention and preparedness in Europe and beyond. This on line book gives information about the EU role in the humanitarian aid and in the crisis response

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/Echoes_Photoalbum/index.html

CIWIN – Critical Infrastructure Warning And Information Network

The Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN) has been developed as a Commission owned protected public internet based information and communication system, offering recognised members of the EU's CIP community the opportunity to exchange and discuss CIP-related information, studies and/or good practices across all EU Member States and in all relevant sectors of economic activity. DG HOME coordinates all activities relating to CIWIN. A Library of documents and a Calendar of events allow for all EU projects to disseminate information.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/critical_infrastructure_warning_information_network/index_en.htm

An innovative approach for tool-based field exercise – support to gain improved preparedness in emergency response - Holger Bracker; Bernhard Schneider; Christian Rinner; Friederike Schneider; Johannes Sautter; Martin Scholl and Maria Egly

In order to maintain a high level of preparedness, rescue operations need to be trained regularly. This article presents a tool which is to support rescue organisations in the execution and analysis of such exercises

An IT based gathering and exploitation of data describing relevant aspects of the exercise is well suited for this task, in particular with respect to data preparation and visualisation. A reasonable presentation of the exercise results allows to identify deficiencies and thus to identify measures for improvement. Hence, the article presents how the tool may be deployed in an

exercise, which data is handled by the system and how the corresponding user interfaces are designed.

http://www.crismaproject.eu/docs/FuSec2014_v13.pdf

Proceeding of the II International Conference on Fire Behaviour and Risk - 2015

The II International Conference on Fire Behaviour and Risk (Alghero - May 26th to 29th, 2015) involved scientists, researchers and policy makers whose activities are focused on different aspects of fires and their impacts.

The main topics: Advance knowledge on interactions, relationships, feedbacks, and cascading effects of fire on environment and society; Modeling and monitoring, adaptation and mitigation strategies, and sustainable management.

http://www.cmcc.it/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Book_Abstract_ICFBR_2015_FINALE_19.05.2015.pdf

ERN-CIP – European Reference Network on Critical Infrastructure Protection

The European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERNCIP) aims at providing a framework within which experimental facilities and laboratories will share knowledge and expertise in order to harmonise test protocols throughout Europe, leading to better protection of critical infrastructures against all types of threats and hazards and to the creation of a single market for security solutions. The EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) set up and manages this network.

<https://erncip-project.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

TNCEIP – Thematic Network on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection

The Thematic Network on Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection (TNCEIP) for the energy sector allows operators to exchange information on threat assessment, risk management, cyber security, etc.

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure/protection-critical-infrastructure>

CIPRNet – The Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Resilience Research Network

The Critical Infrastructure Preparedness and Resilience Research Network or CIPRNet establishes a Network of Excellence in Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP). By integrating resources of the CIPRNet partners acquired in more than 60 EU co-funded research projects, CIPRNet will create new advanced capabilities for its stakeholders. CIPRNet builds a long-lasting virtual centre of shared and integrated knowledge and expertise in CIP.

<https://www.ciprnet.eu/summary.html>

Exchange of Experts in Civil Protection Programme

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism's Exchange of Experts Programme allows for the secondment of civil protection experts covering a geographical area that encompasses 52 states. The Programme provides participants with knowledge and experience on all aspects of emergency intervention and the different approaches of national systems.

https://www.exchangeofexperts.eu/EN/Home/home_node.html

Civil Protection Guidance for National Societies and Federation Secretariat relations with European Union actors

This guide for National Societies (NS) and the Federation Secretariat supports a principled and constructive engagement with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, and European Union Member States and their civil protection (CP) actors.

The guide is structured in three parts. The first part is an introduction, which outlines the main issues and the particular context of the European Union. The second part presents general guidance that National Societies should apply in their relations with Civil Protection actors. The third part considers specific

features of the European Union context and highlights specific considerations for National Societies and the Federation Secretariat.

[http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/140838/\[EN\]%20Guidance%20for%20NS%20and%20IFRC_LR.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/140838/[EN]%20Guidance%20for%20NS%20and%20IFRC_LR.pdf)

Civil protection and humanitarian aid in the Ebola response: lessons for the humanitarian system from the EU experience

The Ebola crisis both revealed major weaknesses and inefficiencies in global humanitarian health governance, and prompted the development of new and more efficient ways of responding to the crisis through improving how we manage humanitarian and civil protection resources together. This article is an initial attempt to draw out some lessons for the health sector.

<http://odihpn.org/magazine/civil-protection-and-humanitarian-aid-in-the-ebola-response-lessons-for-the-humanitarian-system-from-the-eu-experience/>

7. Glossary

Disaster: any situation which has or may have a severe impact on people, the environment, or property, including cultural heritage;

Response: any action taken upon request for assistance under the Union Mechanism in the event of an imminent disaster, or during or after a disaster, to address its immediate adverse consequences;

Preparedness: a state of readiness and capability of human and material means, structures, communities and organisations enabling them to ensure an effective rapid response to a disaster, obtained as a result of action taken in advance;

Prevention: any action aimed at reducing risks or mitigating adverse consequences of a disaster for people, the environment and property, including cultural heritage;

Early warning: the timely and effective provision of information that allows action to be taken to avoid or reduce risks and the adverse impacts of a disaster, and to facilitate preparedness for an effective response;

Module: a self-sufficient and autonomous predefined task- and needs-driven arrangement of Member States' capabilities or a mobile operational team of the Member States, representing a combination of human and material means that can be described in terms of its capacity for intervention or by the task(s) it is able to undertake;

Risk assessment: the overall cross-sectoral process of risk identification, risk analysis, and risk evaluation undertaken at national or appropriate sub-national level;

Risk management capability: the ability of a Member State or its regions to reduce, adapt to or mitigate risks (impacts and likelihood of a disaster), identified in its risk assessments to levels that are acceptable in that Member State. Risk management capability is assessed in terms of the technical, financial and administrative capacity to carry out adequate:

- (a) risk assessments;
- (b) risk management planning for prevention and preparedness;
- (c) risk prevention and preparedness measures.

Host nation support: any action undertaken in the preparedness and response phases by the country receiving or sending assistance, or by the Commission, to remove foreseeable obstacles to international assistance offered through the Union Mechanism. It includes support from Member States to facilitate the transiting of this assistance through their territory;

Response capacity: means assistance that may be provided through the Union Mechanism upon request;

Logistical support: the essential equipment or services required for expert teams referred to in Article 17(1) to perform their tasks, inter alia communication, temporary accommodation, food or in-country transport.

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8. Annex: Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Greece, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy

8.1 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Greece

8.1.1. General Secretariat for Civil Protection

The Greek Civil Protection is based on the General Secretariat for Civil Protection (<http://civilprotection.gr/en>) that is under the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection.

G.S.C.P. is established in 1995, and is responsible to plan and set-up the national policy and actions in matters of natural hazards, technological accidents and emergencies (Fig. 8.1.1).

Legal Framework

The existing Civil Protection framework for earthquakes that applies in Greece is based on:

- Civil Protection Law and the Revised National Emergency Plan under the code name “Xenokratis”.
- a series of GSCP circulars titled “Planning and civil protection actions addressed on earthquake management issues” (last one 2450/9-4-2012) concerning the responsibilities of the public bodies, the local and regional administration, the volunteers etc., before, during and after an earthquake.

National Representation

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection is representing Greece in the European Union on Civil Protection issues and is, therefore, participating with representatives in the Civil Protection Committee, in Committees aiming at supporting the work of the European Commission as well as in the working group of the EU Council entitled “Civil Protection”.

Furthermore, the General Secretariat for Civil Protection is the agency through which international assistance is asked for or offered.

The Process of offering and Receiving International Assistance in Civil Protection Emergencies

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection has the exclusive competence for international assistance call submission in Greece according to Article 27, paragraph 2 of Law 3536/2007.

The GSCP’s policy in the management either of the calls of Greek Authorities to the EU or of other European member states for aid offered by means and human resources for the response to major natural and technological disasters is the immediate response and the coordination of the involved agencies to the maximum extent; the ultimate goal is the effective management of international assistance.

The GSCP is coordinating the process of offering and receiving assistance calls through International Organizations (EU, NATO, BSEC etc.) and activates the state agreements by means of its special information system and on the basis of the procedures of the “European Civil Protection Mechanism Activation Policy” (Decision N.121, GSCP).

Organization Chart of GSCP

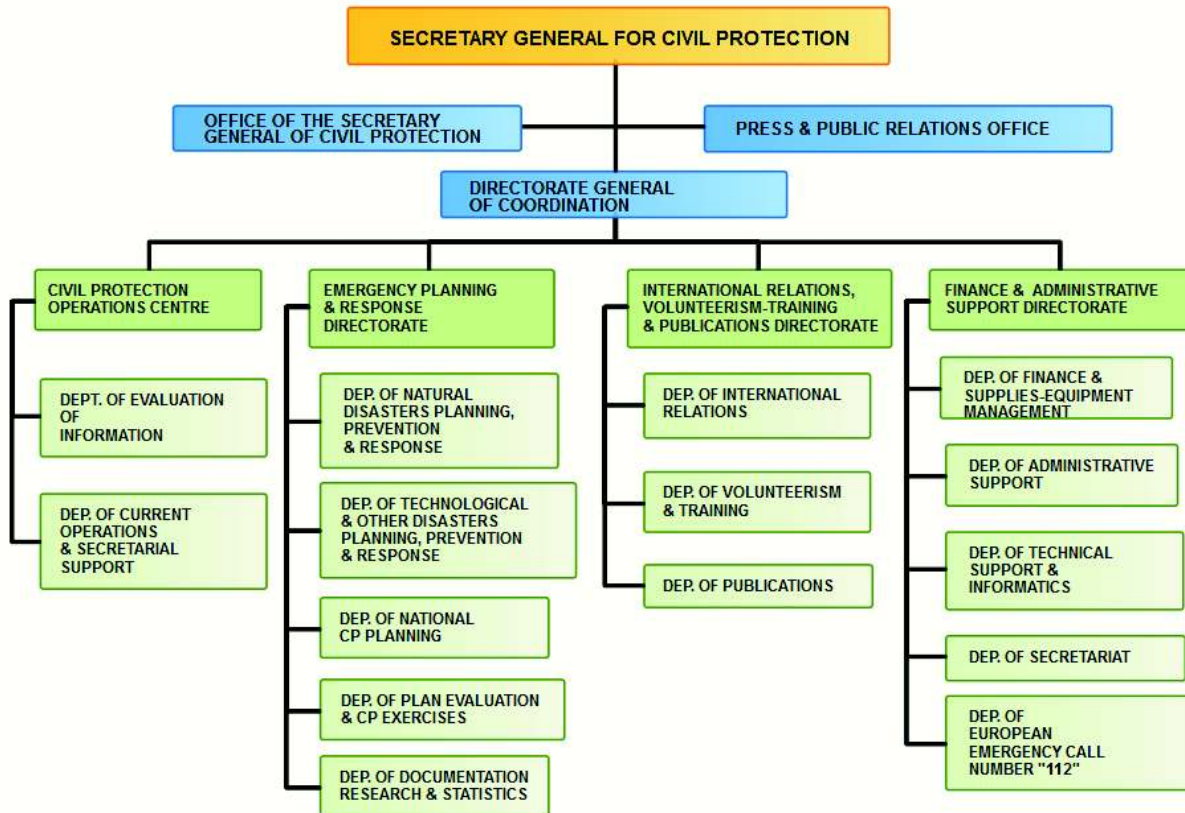


Figure 8.1.1 Organization chart of General Secretariat for Civil Protection in Greece (from <http://civilprotection.gr/en>)

At Operational Level activities of Civil Protection are undertaken through the implementation of General Civil Protection Plan “Xenokratis” applied by the Law YA 1299/2003, ΦΕΚ 423/τΒ’/10-4-2003. Implementation of Plan is the duty both of Central and Local authorities. It is thus implemented by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, the engaged Sections and Divisions of various Ministries, and the Regional Authorities.

Following the Greek Administration Changes implied by the “Kallikratis Plan” Law N. 3852/2010, the Regional authorities were rearranged into the Decentralized Regional Authorities (Secretary General placed by Central Government), the elected Regional Authorities and the Municipalities. The former “Xenokratis” Plan had to readjust and new Guidelines have been developed.

For the case of Earthquakes a central and crucial role plays the Earthquake Planning and Protection organization (EPPO- <http://www.oasp.gr/>) which has developed the central Action Plan for the case of Earthquakes.

8.1.2 Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation (E.P.P.O.)

E.P.P.O. is the competent authority in Greece to process, plan and implement national policy against earthquake risks, strengthening public resilience in terms of preparedness, sufficiency of means and forces, coordination of involved parties and effectiveness of actions in case of earthquake crisis. E.P.P.O. was established in 1983, is a Legal Entity of Public Law and operates under the supervision of the Hellenic Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Shipping and Tourism.

EPPO has recently merged with the Institute of Engineering Seismology & Earthquake Engineering (ITSAK). ITSAK constitutes one of the few multidisciplinary European research centers in the field of Engineering Seismology, Soil Dynamics and Structural Earthquake Engineering.

E.P.P.O. as the competent authority for designing the seismic policy in national level participates in the planning of the State earthquake preparedness measures, and monitoring its implementation. Also contributes to the composition of the General Contingency Plan “Xenokratis-Earthquakes” for Greece (national level).

E.P.P.O. makes up all the necessary programs, leads and coordinates the earthquake protection policy of the country during the pre-seismic period while the G.S.C.P. is responsible for the co and post-seismic period, in close cooperation with other public and private organizations.

E.P.P.O.’s Actions focus on the following subjects:

- Providing knowledge of the earthquake risk** (development of the National Network of Seismographs, publication of the Neotectonic Maps etc.)
- Strengthening seismic capacity of structures** through seismic design codes
- Planning preparedness measures** (participates in the planning of the State readiness measures, and collaborates with the involved parts)
- Supporting applied research** (funding scientific projects with subjects relevant to the earthquake risk, participating in projects, etc)
- Educating the public** (holds lectures and seminars for different target groups, composes and publishes informative material, etc).
- Contributing in case of destructive earthquake** (activated immediately after the seismic event and collaborates with other involved parts).

One of the main targets of earthquake policy in Greece is to build up a culture of safety and resilience at all levels, using knowledge, innovation and education. The aim of public awareness and the relative education projects is to promote informed, alert and self-reliant citizens and communities. E.P.P.O. develops practices, procedures and tools utilizing the lessons learned from past earthquakes in order to:

- inform, familiarize the population with earthquakes
- help the citizens to update their relative knowledge and to develop skills in order to protect themselves in case of a strong earthquake
- train specific target groups responsible for emergency management.

Furthermore, EPPO works also in education and training of officials and civil protection operators. The education of the officials and the population is mainly based on:

- implementation of seminars for officials and implementation of lectures for other target groups

- publication of books, handbooks, brochures and pamphlets. These are distributed for free through newspapers, the electricity company, etc.
- publication of leaflets with advices and measures for people that their houses have been damaged. These are usually edited after strong earthquakes
- website: www.oasp.gr
- “Seismopolis” Center.
- Due to the changes that “Kallikratis” has brought in the landscape of Local authorities the Department of Emergency Plans - Prevention of EPPO developed an action program aiming to achieve interoperability in the field of Emergency Management in case of an earthquake, as follows:
 - A. Workshops with relevant officers (Civil Protection, Construction, Public Health and Social Welfare, Welfare, Planning, etc.) of the Local Government (Regions / Regional Units, Municipalities) on Monitoring and Implementation of Earthquake Planning at local level.
 - B. Laboratories for Earthquake Operational Planning at the municipal level, implemented by the EPPO in cooperation with the Civil Protection Departments of the Decentralized Administrations. Staff from municipalities and Regional Sections and Regions participated in these laboratories. Such action was piloted in November 2012 by the Decentralized Administration of Crete which in September 2013 triggered substantial, action to all municipalities in the country.
 - C. Exercises on Operational Planning for Earthquake at municipal or regional level. Organized and coordinated by the EPPO, in cooperation with the Decentralized Administration, the municipalities and / or the Regional Section, and local stakeholders.

8.1.3 Hellenic Civil Protection Volunteerism System

Volunteerism is a means of social integration and fulfillment achievement that contributes to the social cohesion by creating bonds of trust and solidarity while investing in the social capital. It is one of the ways with which people coming from all the socio-economic classes and ages can contribute to the positive development and change, it can be used as a tool promoting active and responsible social participation and the individual’s social networks, while it comprises a major power able to reinforce the local development and Civil Society.

Thus, in an era of ever increasing natural and technological disasters, it is volunteerism that acquires significant value by underlying the need for social solidarity and unselfish offer in the field of civil protection, where the immediate aid offer during the occurrence of such phenomena is extremely urgent.

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP) is the national integration agency of Voluntary Organizations (VOs) and Expert Volunteers (EVs) to keep a register for the implementation of the above – mentioned purpose. The VOs and EVs are included in the human resources of civil protection to be in charge of supporting disaster prevention, response and recovery actions.

In the VOs Register there can be integrated non-profit legal entities or unions of persons as well as group of volunteers who offer their services in the Local Administration, on condition that their constitution or proven action clearly suggests that they have been recently taking action in the field of civil protection.

In the EVs Register there can be integrated natural persons, which due to the nature of their professional or scientific employment or proven experience can fully respond to the duty of prevention, response and recovery of natural and technological disasters.

It is underlined that the VOs and EVs also include volunteers being active in the context of the mission of the Hellenic Fire Service, with the exception of those defined by Act 1951/1991.

The Act 3013/2002, which concerns the upgrade of the role of civil protection in Greece, institutionalized the Civil Protection Volunteerism System for the response to natural and technological disasters, whose pilot implementation had already started since 2001.

More specifically, Article 14 of the Act 3013/2002 as in compliance with paragraph 3 of Article 27 of the Act 3536/2007 and modified with the provision of paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Act 3613/2007 regulates the following issues:

- The VOs and EVs Register of civil protection
- The general prerequisites to be met for enrollment in the above-mentioned registers
- The operational integration of the VOs in the Coordinative Civil Protection Bodies (CCPBs)
- The reinforcement of the VOs' actions and the provision of equipment and means
- The future issuing of Administrative Regulations aiming at the integration of the legal framework of volunteerism in matters relating: 1) the enrollment, rating, evaluation of the VOs, 2) the training and accreditation of the volunteers, 3) their insurance coverage and allowances.

In case of a natural disaster local volunteers can provide important services to affected families and first responders providing them with emergency food, clothing, lifesaving supplies and shelter, according to the State emergency plan.

8.1.4 “Xenokratis” plan

The General Operational Plan of Greece, “Xenokratis” aims in the development of an effective system for facing catastrophic phenomena in order to protect life, health, and natural environment. This plan defines the various disasters and the terms for the civil protection; the roles and the guidelines for planning of the various ministries, regions, and municipalities; that all plans for civil protection should be approved by the GSCP.

The identified disasters are:

- Earthquakes
- Volcanic eruptions
- Floods
- Landslides-Land movements
- Wild fires
- Extreme weather events
- Technological accidents
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear accidents
- Anthrax incidents

The plan describes also which services and organizations are engaged in civil protection as well as the bodies which manage and coordinate operations in all levels. Furthermore, the plan defines for each disaster the various terms to be used, offers information for the assessment of risks; the identification of vulnerabilities and the development of special plans for each disaster. It presents guidelines for the development of strategies and practices, and the proper organization and necessary equipment of each service; it sets the structures for the on time alarming, activation, management and coordination of human resources and means; and the development of capacities for the logistics of the operating teams and affected citizens.

The plan foresees the establishment of a communication system and an information share among all engaged services and organizations in management of the crisis; and the development by each organization of special action plans according to the various disasters and operational levels. These Special plans give more specific guidance and information for operation activities in regional and municipal levels and have to be approved by the General Secretariat for CP.

The “Xenokratis” applies thus in three operational levels:

- Central administration (including ministries, and central public services),
- Decentralised regional administrations, and
- Local authorities, shared into the A’ level that includes municipalities and B’ level that includes Regional Authorities.

Following these changes it appears that operational level the implementation of “Xenokratis” is the responsibility of Local Authorities.

The plan foresees a four-step system for the activation of Civil protection:

- A. Phase 1. Normal condition/preparedness: This includes actions and plans of central administration and ministries for the better preparedness and preparations due to the next steps. It is the phase for the evaluation of information related to a forthcoming danger and the preparations to face it. It activates also the communication and information sharing system and all available means and resources for civil protection are recorded and are activated too.
- B. Phase 2. Increased preparedness: In case of increased possibility for a forthcoming catastrophic event the civil protection mechanism is activated in total and in all levels. The decision making and management bodies are taking place and remain active all time during this phase. Precautionary measures are also considered.
- C. Phase 3. Immediate activation-Operation: Following former actions during this phase all civil protection mechanism is activated and is operating according to existing plans. Civil protection operators are in full action and when necessary civilians are informed for self protection measures. In certain cases civilians can support activities of civil protection operators. Communications systems are fully operating as well as logistics are at the services of the victims of the catastrophe.
- D. Phase 4. Resilience: Damages and victims are assessed and the necessary support is provided. Decisions are taken in order to support and recover from the catastrophe. Simultaneously, measures are undertaken to avoid similar disasters in future.

The “Xenokratis” Plan has been revised several times, mainly after facing serious disasters such as big earthquakes, or forest fires. A question in present day is the adaptation of “Xenokratis” philosophy in the new Administrative structure of Greece, following “Kallikratis” changes. Existing municipalities have been created from the merging of several older municipalities and communities. The “Xenokratis”, based on the former administrative distinction was attributing duties and operations to certain bodies, public servants and means of the old municipalities and communities, which now have been rearranged into the larger services of the new municipalities. Still there exists the necessity for the adaptation of all former individual plans into the new structure.

8.1.5 Role of GSCP

For the implementation of “Xenokratis” Plan all ministries should be engaged by developing Special Plans, providing necessary information to GSCP and Local Authorities, assessing the risks at their area of interference and develop strategies and policies for the successful implementation. The ministries of Economy, of National Defense, External and Internal Affairs and Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection are those that have the greatest role.

More Specific the GSCP undertakes the greatest responsibility and role. It is responsible for:

- The development and implementation of “Xenokratis” Plan and inform governmental and local authorities.
- It plans, organizes and coordinates actions for prevention and preparedness of natural, technological or other disasters or emergency situations.
- It prepares the human and other resources to come up against disasters implementing the various plans developed.
- It uses all available scientific knowledge and methodologies for the activation of resources and means of civil protection.
- It coordinates all activities during a disaster as well as during the resilience phase.
- It elaborates plans and oversees the implementation of civil protection policies and governmental operation.
- It keeps records for all past disasters with full information about the type of disaster, activities undertaken, and results of operations as well as recovery conditions.
- It organizes and operates on 24 hours and 7 days base an Operation Centre fully equipped.
- In collaboration with other governmental authorities it develops and disseminate information and awareness raising activities
- It records and coordinates the Voluntary groups on Civil protection.
- In collaboration with other organization it contacts special regulations and guidelines for disaster prevention.
- It coordinates and funds special research projects and educational projects for training of civil protection operators in central and regional level.
- It develops collaborations with international organizations and authorities on civil protection and coordinates the incoming and outcoming support in case of a disaster.
- It characterizes the extent and importance of each disaster and takes the necessary decision for operation.
- It announces the various Emergency situations and steps for the Civil protection defense.
- It keeps records of all available means for Civil Protection and works for its proper use.
- During summer periods it announces the daily Report for fire risks.

8.1.6 Role of Decentralized Administrations

The Decentralized Regional Authorities undertake similar responsibilities with GSCP but in a regional level implementing the provisions of the “Xenokratis” Plan. The General Secretary is placed by the government, but at its council all Local Authorities chiefs (Majors, Secretary Generals) participate too. More specific, the Decentralized Administrations:

- Contact for their regions the Special Plans for Risk mitigations applying the philosophy of “Xenokratis”.
- Analyse and specialize the special provisions of “Xenokratis” for their responsibility areas and announce guidelines for the Local and Regional Authorities.
- Submit plans and decisions to GSCP for approval.
- Coordinate and oversee the civil protection operation at regional level in respect to prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery of a disaster, as well as the proper exploitation of civil protection means.
- Are responsible in their regions for the implementation of the Annual National Civil Protection Planning.
- Keep records for the available means and resources in their regions.
- Collaborate with the regional services of the various ministries and national organizations to synchronize plans and activities.
- Establish at regional level operation centers.
- Plan and request the necessary funds for the implementation of their plans.
- In case of a disaster they activate the governmental service and authorities at regional and local level, and provide all available means and resources. In case of extended disasters they can transfer civil protection resources and means from one municipality to another.
- Continuously report to the GSCP in case of a disaster for the development of the event the actions taken.
- Establish if necessary Special Committees for the evaluation of damages caused by the catastrophic events.
- Cooperate with other national or international Civil Protection organizations.
- Develop and implement special national or international funded, projects on Civil Protection.

A strong Civil Protection Directorate occurs in the Decentralized Administration of Crete with great experience in organizing civil protection defense, as well as design, implement and promotes several international and national projects and research activities (like “Poseison” project focused on tsunamis, “Nereides” project focused on marine pollution etc.) Furthermore it coordinates all regional governmental authorities, local civil protection operators and means in case of a disaster and refers directly to GSCP and International bodies (Fig. 8.1.2). It is supported by four permanent staff (three civil engineers and one geologist).

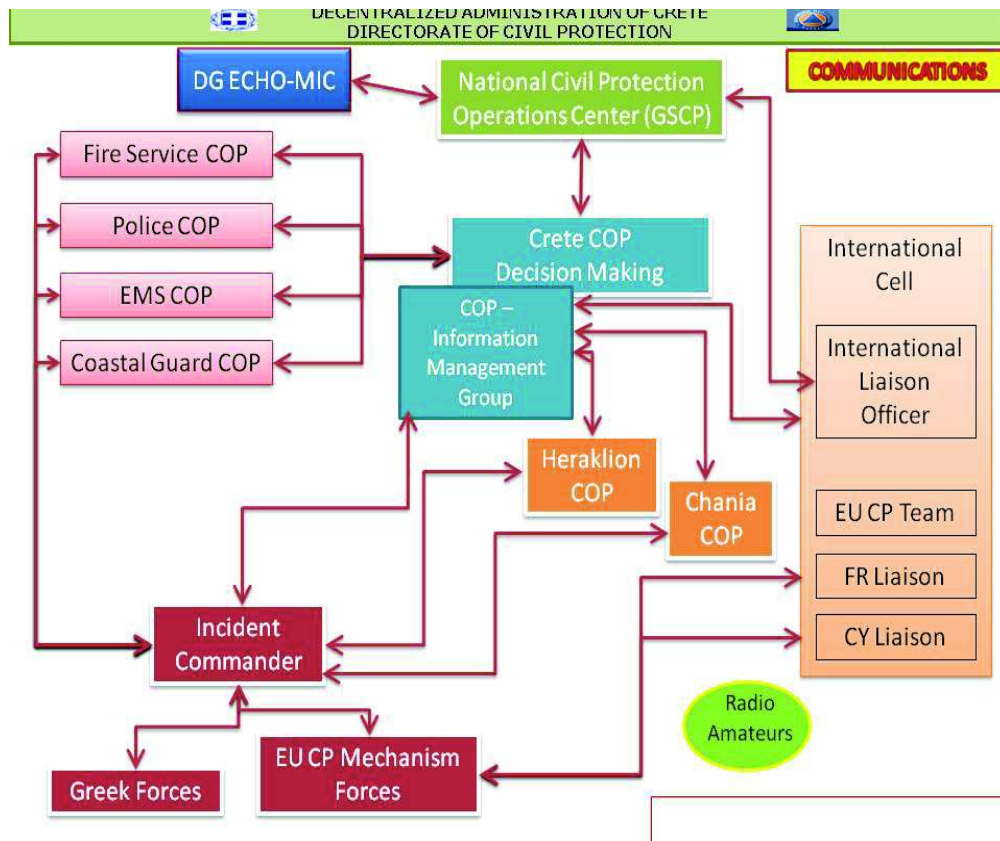


Figure 8.1.2 Operation Raw chart for the Civil Protection directorate of Decentralized Administration of Crete (from Decentralized Administration of Crete)

8.1.7 The role of Regional Authorities

Regional Authorities are after “Kallikratis” implementation the Second degree of Local Authorities directly elected by the citizens every five years. According to the plan a Vice Secretary General is responsible for the Civil Protection in Regional Level. In each region Independent Civil Protection Secretariats are established which act as the first civil protection, regional operational level. In addition in each Regional Unit (former prefectures) a Coordination Civil Protection Body is established chaired by the elected Vice Secretary General of the Unit. In this body the Head of Civil Protection Directorate of the Regional, the Head of the similar directorate of the Decentralized Administration as well as members of other related organization and authorities can participate (Fig. 8.1.2). According to “Kallikratis” the role of Regional Authorities is to:

- Coordinate and oversee the civil protection operation in respect to prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery from disasters in regional level.
- Implement the Annual National Civil Protection Policies.
- Development of proposals for the regional scale for the annual civil protection national planning.
- Provide suggestions to the Civil Protection Secretary General for the announcement of Emergency Situation Cases for regional disasters.
- For Regional disaster, announcement of local Emergency Situation.
- Planning and coordination of prevention and information activities, as well as the offer of all available resources for these purposes.

- Coordination of all public and private resources and means for the preparedness to face potential disasters.
- Announcement of decisions for requisition of human and other resources in case of emergency.
- Participation in the development of plans for the mitigation of Forest fires, as well as for their prevention and fight.
- Collaboration with other regional authorities to fight forest fires.

8.1.8 The Role of Municipalities

The role of Municipalities hasn't been changed by the implementation of "Kallikratis" plans. It is very crucial especially at the operation level. According to "Xenokratis" provisions Municipalities:

- Take care for the safeguarding of the necessary organization and infrastructure of their organizations to be ready to act in case of an emergency.
- Coordinate and oversee the actions for prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery in case of a disaster.
- Provide the necessary staff and means for the fight against a disaster and coordinate their activities.
- Establish a Local Coordination Civil Protection Body.
- Set the hosting places for refuges or victims of disasters and take care about infrastructure and necessary aid.
- Act according to their responsibilities in any mean that support the role and operation of regional civil protection.

Both Regional Coordination Civil Protection and Local Coordination Civil protection bodies are operating in 24 hours base; meet at least once per year to coordinate activities related to earthquake prevention, or to organize the forest fire prevention, or after a serious disaster.

8.2 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Bulgaria

8.2.1 History

In 2005 the Ministry of Emergency Situations was established. It brings together the institutions involved in prevention, response, and recovery management. National Agency "Civil Protection" becomes part of its structure. After accession to the EU the development of Bulgarian services for reaction in crisis situations it takes a course of synchronization and integration into common European system for dealing with emergencies. With this in mind in 2009 the Ministry was closed and its powers and duties have been reallocated to other bodies of executive authority.

The main legal document which regulates matters concerning the response to any disaster is Disaster Protection Act adopted in 2006, supplemented and amended several times afterwards.

8.2.2 The current situation

The current structure of Civil Protection Authorities in Bulgaria was reorganized 5 years ago in 2010. Till then we had two Chief Directorates – “Fire Safety and Rescue” and “Civil protection”.

In November 2010, Chief Directorate “Fire safety and rescue” was re-named “Fire safety and Civil Protection”, and entrusted with the functions and responsibilities of the shut down Chief Directorate „Civil Protection”. It is subject to the Ministry of Interior.

The Chief Directorate employs 1768 employees, 1579 of whom are distributed between 28 regional civil protection directorates. The others work at the Department for Operational Activities, the Department for Prevention and the Department of Administrative Affairs.

Each squad’s responsibilities are prescribed and regulated by the Ministry of Interior. There are clearly defined obligations and procedures. Each Department at the Chief Directorate as well as the subordinated regional directorates have clearly established obligations and procedures.

Prevention is the main task of Chief Directorate “Fire Safety and Civil Protection” at the Ministry of Interior (CDFSCP – MI). It complies with article 52, §2 of the Ministry of Interior Act and article 5, §1 of the Disaster Protection Act. Prevention is defined in article 6 of the Disaster Prevention Act and includes:

- analysis and assessment of disaster risks; mapping disaster risks; classification of settlements depending on the risks; planning of disasters protection; implementation of measures to prevent or reduce disaster consequences; adoption and implementation of National Disaster Protection Programme; preventive control.

Ways and methods to implement preventive measures according to article 127, §1 of Ministry of Interior Act Application Statute are listed in 127, §2, according to which specialized squads of the CDFSCP – MI have to:

- inform, coordinate and interact with the state authorities, local authorities, legal entities and citizens to prepare the population on how to act and react in case of fires and disasters, as well as to implement preventive measures;

- organize and conduct trainings for early warning and announcement through the National system for early warning and announcement in case of disaster (NSEWAD) for government executive officers;
- take part in the development of educational programs, learning materials and textbooks for kindergartens and schools, and plans for disaster protection training and preparation of leading personnel and teachers from the educational system;
- support the development of the National Disaster Protection Plan;

8.2.3 Activities

The main activity is **the fire suppression**. It involves itself:

- determine the methods, ways and means of fire-fighting;
- developing plans for liquidation of accidents;
- immediate sending of forces and means at release to fire;
- rescuing people and property;
- mitigation and liquidation of fires;
- provide first aid to the victims;
- Organization of transportation of the victims to hospitals ect.

In fulfilling of its obligations firefighters can be supported by central and local authorities, the army and legal entities, municipal and other volunteer formations.

Another activity is **the rescue**. It includes:

- Immediate sending of forces and resources in case of disasters, accidents and catastrophes;
- Mitigate the consequences of disasters, accidents and catastrophes;
- Rescuing people and property;
- Rendering first aid to the victims;
- Organization of transportation of the victims to hospitals.

The next is the **preventive** activity which carried out in implement the provisions of The Ministry of Interior Act and of the Disaster Protection Act. In preventive work is particularly important interaction with the local authorities. The prevention activities include:

- Research, analysis and assessment of disaster risks;
- Categorization of the territory of the country to the risk of occurrence of disasters;
- The application of preventive measures to prevent the occurrence of disasters - territorial, structural and building plans that are implemented jointly with municipalities;
- Installation of monitoring and early warning systems of the population, as well as providing individual and collective protection.

Important activities aimed at the reducing future incidents and the number of injured people and destruction is **research and development**. It is realized in the department "Center for research and expertise" within the Chief Directorate "Fire Safety and Civil Protection". The organizational structure of the department consists of three sectors:

- "Fire technical expertise";
- "Test Center for Fire and Emergency Safety";
- "Technical evaluation of products"

8.2.4 Other specialized agencies working in disaster protection

- **Centers for Emergency Medical Aid**

Their main task is the provision of first and emergency medical assistance to victims on the scene and during their transportation. Cars, and those of the police and fire brigade have a special traffic privileges. Centers for emergency medical assistance are governed by the Ministry of Health.

- **Bulgarian Red Cross**

An important element of national and international agencies working in disaster protection is the Red Cross. It carries out activities such as - support services in disaster response, mountain rescue, water rescue courses, training, recruiting blood ect.

- **Military forces**

They perform various support functions, provide life force, machinery, equipment and other

- **Regional and local authorities**

On a district level the governor organize the development of a regional plan for disaster protection together with the executive authorities and the mayors of municipalities. The plan need to be approved by the Minister of Interior Affaires. In case of disaster the governor:

- issue an order for the implementation of the regional plan for disaster protection;
- declares a state of emergency in the region;
- organizes, coordinates and controls the process of support and disaster recovery;
- coordinate rescue and emergency restoration works;
- creates headquarter to implement the regional plan for disaster protection and for interaction with the national headquarter.

- **Common emergency telephone number 112**

Serious positive effect has occurred since the introduction of the common emergency number 112, and the creation of the Unified Rescue System.

8.3 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Spain

The Spanish Civil Protection system is based legally in the Constitution, not to mention the Statute of Autonomy, the model of territorial organization of the State

- Ley 2/1985
- Basic rules of civil protection:
 - Real decreto 1378/1985, 1 August. Interim measures for action in emergencies in cases of serious risk, disaster or public calamity.
 - Real decreto 407/1992, 24 April, by which approves the Basic Rule of Civil Protection
 - Real decreto 393/2007, 23 March, by which approves the basic rule of self-protection centers, offices and branches dedicated to activities that may origin emergencies.
 - Real decreto 1468/2008, 5 September, by which modifies the Real decreto 393/2007, 23 March, by which approves the basic rule of self-protection centers, offices and branches dedicated to activities that may origin emergencies.
- Ley 17/2015 el National System of Civil Protection (Enter into force January de 2016)

The provisions adopted and published, currently in force, that. They contain Basic Guidelines are:

- Order of 2 April 1993 approving the Agreement is published Cabinet approving the Basic Directive on Planning Civil Protection of Forest Fire Emergency (BOE SPANISH CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEM NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CIVIL PROTECTION 15/04/93).
- Resolution of January 1995, the Ministry of Interior, 31 the publication of the Cabinet Agreement on the Basic Guideline of Civil Protection Planning approved before the Flood Risk (BOE available 02/14/95).
- Resolution of May 5, 1995, the Ministry of Interior, for the publication of the Agreement of the Council of Ministers on the Basic Guideline of Civil Protection Planning approved before the Seismic Risk (BOE available 25/05/95). Amended by resolution of September 7, 2004, the Undersecretary of Interior (BOE of 10/02/04).
- Resolution of 21 February 1996, the Ministry of Interior, by the publication of the Cabinet Agreement on the Basic Guideline of Civil Protection Planning approved before Volcanic Risk (BOE available 03/04/96).
- Royal Decree 387/1996, of March 1, on the Basic Guideline of Civil Protection Planning approved at the risk of accidents on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (BOE of 22/03/96).
- Royal Decree 1196/2003, of 19 September, by the Basic Civil Protection Guidelines for approving planning and control of the risk of major accidents involving dangerous substances (BOE of 09/10/03).
- Royal Decree 1546/2004, of 25 June, approving the Basic Nuclear Emergency Plan (BOE of 14/07/04) is approved. Amended by Royal Decree 1428/2009 of 11 September (BOE of 09/12/09).

8.3.1 Civil Protection Authorities

The hierarchical structure of the Spanish Civil Protection system is made by three levels of public administration:

- National
- Regional
- Local

Each of these intervention levels corresponds its own structure of civil protection for the development of the functions within its competence.

8.3.2 Authorities at National level

General Directorate of Civil Protection and Emergencies

According to the provisions set out in Royal Decree 1181/2008, of 11 July, which modifies and develops the basic organic structure of the Ministry of the Interior. It is the responsibility of the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Emergencies to carry out the competencies attributed to the Ministry of the Interior in this issue by Law 2/1985, of 21 January, and its regulations on development.

In order to perform the aforementioned functions, the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Emergencies is organised into the following units:

- *The Sub-Directorate of Planning, Operations and Emergencies*
- *The General Sub- Directorate of Resources and Subsidies*
- *The Training and Institutional Relations Division.*

National Civil Protection Commission

The National Commission for Civil Protection is an interministerial body under the Ministry of Interior, which aims at coordination among the organs of the General State Administration and the administrations of the Spanish regions, civil protection responsibility, for the effective action by the public authorities in order to study and prevention of situations of serious collective risk, catastrophe or public calamity; and to the protection and rescue of people and goods in cases where such situations occur. (Article 17 of Law 2/1985).

Government delegations and sub-delegations

In the peripheral area, the delegations and sub-government, as representatives of the General Administration of the state, exercising the direction of civil protection for the development of skills that correspond to the state of matter in each regional or provincial territory.

Military Emergency Unit

The National Civil Protection System, statewide, plays an important role the Military Emergency Unit (UME), created in 2005 as a joint force, organized on a permanent basis, whose mission intervention anywhere in the national territory in the event of serious risk, catastrophe or public calamity.

Forces of State Security

By that are deployed throughout the Spanish territory and given the permanent nature of their services, the Forces of State Security, which according to the Organic Law 2/1986, of March 13, have as one of its the functions of "collaborating with the Civil Protection Services in cases of serious risk, catastrophe or public calamity."

8.3.3 Regional level

The Regions, within their framework of powers attributed to the specific direction and coordination of civil protection emergencies that occur in their territorial areas, in developing their respective Plans of Emergency Action, once they are approved.

All Regional Plans establish the mechanisms and procedures for coordination with state level plans. Therefore, and prior to their implementation and enforcement, the National Civil Protection Commission must approve the plans. All regions have approved their respective regional territorial plan of implementation to address those risks that are not subject to special plan.

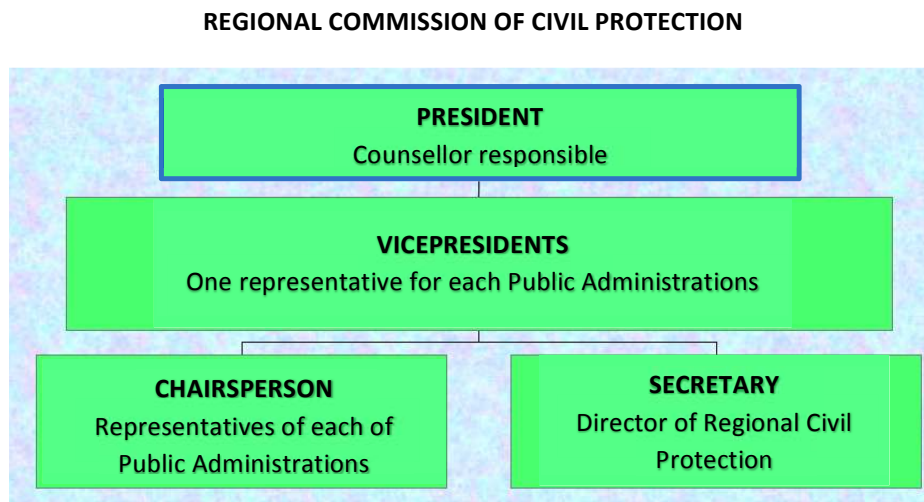


Figure 8.3.1 Organization chart of the Regional Commission of Civil Protection in Spain

Local level:

The Spanish local entities (provinces, islands, municipalities, counties, etc.) have to deal with emergencies that occur on its corresponding territory. Hence, the need for each one of them has organized their own civil protection service. The local authorities large is the municipality, which we will refer to in paragraphs following as the primary basis of the Spanish civil protection system.

The Mayor is the local head of Civil Protection.

It is advisable to have a Local Civil Protection Committee, whose composition would be indicative:

- President: Mayor
- Vicepresident: Councillor for Civil Protection
- Chairs persons:
 - City officials who are heads of services: Fire Chief, Local Police Chief.

- Municipal technicians (engineers, architects, etc.).
- Representatives of entities located in the municipality: Civil Guard, Forest Rangers, Clinic, Red Cross, Neighborhood associations, Mountain Groups, Social care, Radio amateur, Head of the Association of Civil Protection Volunteers

LINKS

Dirección General de Protección Civil y Emergencias: <http://www.proteccioncivil.org>

Agencia Gallega de Emergencias:

http://www.112asturias.es/v_portal/apartados/apartado.asp

Agencia Navarra de Emergencias:

http://www.navarra.es/home_es/Gobierno+de+Navarra/Organigrama/Los+departamentos/Presidencia+justicia+e+interior/Organigrama/Estructura+Organica/ANE/

Arce Protección Civil Ceuta:

<http://www.ceuta.es/arce/>

112 Asturias:

http://www.112asturias.es/v_portal/apartados/apartado.asp

112 Cantabria:

<http://112.cantabria.es/>

Consejería Seguridad Ciudadana Melilla:

http://www.melilla.es/melillaportal/lacc_d3_v1.jsp?codMenu=10&language=es

Dirección de Atención de Emergencias y Meteorología Gobierno Vasco:

<http://www.interior.ejgv.euskadi.net/r42-455/es/>

Dirección General de Protección Ciudadana de la Comunidad de Madrid:

http://www.madrid.org/cs/Satellite?c=CM_InfPractica_FA&cid=1142525747276&idConsejeria=1109266187224&idListConsj=1109265444710&idOrganismo=1109266227811&language=es&pagename=ComunidadMadrid%2FEstructura&sm=1109266100977

Dirección General de Seguridad y Emergencia Canarias:

<http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/dgse/index.html>

Emergencias 112 Andalucía:

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/temas/seguridad/emergencias.html>

Emergencias 112 Castilla y León:

<http://www.112.jcyl.es/>

Emergencias 112 Comunitat Valenciana:

<http://www.112cv.com/ilive/srv.InformacionAlCiudadano.LaProteccionCivil>

Emergencias 112 Extremadura:

<http://112.gobex.es/>

Protección civil – 112 Aragón:

<http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/PoliticaTerritorialInterior/AreasTematicas/Interior/ProteccionCivil112S>

OSAragon

Protección Civil Cataluña:

<http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/interior/menuitem.c8dca3082ff3fddf65d789a2b0c0e1a0/?vgnextoid=4c3f35354ced4210VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=4c3f35354ced4210VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&vgnnextfmt=default>

Protección Civil Región de Murcia:

[http://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=476&RASTRO=c76\\$m&IDTIPO=140](http://www.carm.es/web/pagina?IDCONTENIDO=476&RASTRO=c76$m&IDTIPO=140)

Seguridad y Protección Ciudadana Castilla La Mancha:

<http://www.castillalamancha.es/tema/seguridad-y-protección-ciudadana>

Servicio de Emergencias de las Islas Baleares – SEIB 112:

<http://www.caib.es/sacmicrofront/contenido.do?cont=8673&campa=yes&idsite=264&&lang=es>

SOS Rioja: <http://www.larioja.org/npRioja/default/defaultpage.jsp?idtab=24828>

8.4 Legal framework and Civil Protection Authorities in Italy

8.4.1 Origin of the Italian Civil Protection System

The concept of civil protection in Italy first emerged as a form of spontaneous voluntary aid provided by religious orders, fire brigades and voluntary organizations involved in emergency situations. Since the middle age, in Florence and in the Alpine Valleys the so-called “*Misericordie*” societies and the fire brigades contributed to the development of the civil protection culture centered on principles of solidarity, participation and mutual aid.

The present civil protection system, however, is the result of a process initiated only in the course of the last century following the major calamities, which have hit the country.

The tremendous magnitude, devastation and human, infrastructural and economic losses of the 1908 Messina earthquake, which killed over 110,000 people gave the initial impetus to thinking about prevention (Moiraghi 2007: 16). In 1909, a royal Decree was adopted to provide the first anti-seismic classification of the national territory areas according to seismic risk features, and the adoption of specific standards for building in the classified areas. This regulation was the basis of the legislation concerning house building up until the early 1970s (Bellicoso 2011). These efforts, nonetheless, were too much limited and circumscribed. The Italian governments largely ignored the compelling need to frame laws and programs within an appropriate scheme to better prevent and cope with emergencies (Pepe 2009). Consequently, Italy was completely unprepared when, in 1966, a flood inundated the province of Florence and, in 1968, an earthquake destroyed the valley of Belice in Sicily causing 236 deaths. In both cases, the fragility of the response came to the surface. Indeed, the government was unable to set up a network of organized relief between the different state’ administrations and actors operating on site. Voluntary organizations, participating in relief operations mobilized without receiving specific instructions. The overlap between the central and local authorities, the lack of a central agency coordinating relief operations as well as the absence of monitoring centers capable to alert the population and give information and instructions amplified the dramatic effects of the catastrophic events (Pepe 2009). Against these circumstances, the Italian Parliament acknowledged the compelling need to meet with the concept of civil protection. To this goal, Law 996 (10.12.1970) was enacted as the first real effort to outline an embryonic framework of the national civil protection system organized around the National Fire and Rescue Service. It stated the notion of natural calamity and catastrophe, and how organizing relief intervention. It conferred to the Minister of Interior the leading role in the management of civil protection, created an Inter-ministerial Committee of Civil Protection to improve the management of civil protection activities, as well the Officer (*Commissario*) for emergencies to direct and coordinate relief on the site, and the Emergencies Assistance centers. Significantly, it also outlined the role of civil society organizations in relief operations. “Prevention” and “preparedness”, however, were largely ignored by the law.

Once again, and before law 996 was fully implemented, two tremendous earthquakes in Friuli (1976) and Irpinia (1980) caused a large number of victims, respectively 976 and 2570, and massive destruction. Delays in relief operations, no on site coordination between volunteers and regional and local authorities, which mobilized with no due directions and precise operative objectives, and inefficiency in the reconstruction phase highlighted all the limitations of the civil protection system. Giuseppe Zamberletti was appointed as the extraordinary Officer for emergencies, the position created by the Law 996 and never put on place (Alexander, 2010). It took ten years to establish the legal framework of the national civil protection organization, which finally emerged with the approval of the Constitutional law no. 225 (24.02.1992) marking the birth of the modern Italian Civil Protection system.

8.4.2 Legal framework

Twenty years after its creation, the National Service of Civil Protection has been reformed. Decree-Law n. 59 on 15 May 2012 converted into Law n. 100 of July 12, 2012 amends and integrates Law no. 225 of 1992, which established the Service. The Civil Protection activities are brought back to the original core competencies defined by Law 225/1992, intended principally to cope with disasters and increasing the effectiveness of interventions in emergency management. It reaffirms the guidance and coordination role of the Department of Civil Protection for the activities of the various components and operational structures of the National Service.

The law 100/2012 is in contact with - among others - some key issues for the whole system: the classification of disasters, the civil protection activities, the declaration of a state of emergency and the power of an ordinance. In this sense, the law redefines the first emergency phase, with emphasis on the "time factor". It is specified that the means and extraordinary powers to deal with disasters (events of type "c") should be used for time-limited and pre-defined interventions: the duration of the state of emergency rule cannot exceed 90 days, with the possibility of extension for further 60 days. The state of emergency may be declared as "imminent" and not just "at the occurrence" of the adverse event and provides immediately - another important passage of the law - the identification of the competent authority in the ordinary way that carries on the activities, after the expiration of a state of emergency.

The civil protection orders necessary for the implementation of interventions to tackle and overcome the emergency are normally issued by the Head of the Civil Protection Department and not by the President of the Council of Ministers and their "spheres of interest" for the first time, are defined by law. The orders issued within thirty days of the declaration of a state of emergency are immediately effective, while the later ones require the agreement of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Therefore, the rule of law no. 10 of 26 February 2011 gets canceled, which introduced the preventive control of the Ministry of Economy to those ordinances providing for the allocation or the use of money, thus slowing the entry into force of the measures considered urgent and making the coordination of interventions more intricate, at the cost of emptying the "operational side" of the whole system of civil protection.

The Law 10/2011 introduced other important changes to the law 225/1992 relating to locating the resources necessary to deal with the emergency. Among these, the one that has been defined by the media the "disgrace t". It was in fact determined that the Regions were the ones to identify in their budgets, the necessary resources, also recurring to additional taxation, up to the rise of the regional tax on petrol. A subsequent ruling by the Constitutional Court (no. 22 of 16 February 2012) had already declared illegal this passage of Law 10/2011. The law 100/2012 has finally declared that a state of emergency is funded by the National Civil Protection Fund, whose endowment gets annually determined by the law of stability. The Fund may also be reintegrated with revenue coming from the increase in excise tax on petrol.

Other significant passages of law 100/2012 cover the activities of civil protection. Alongside the activities of "risk prediction and prevention" and "relief to the population", the concept of "overcoming the emergency" is better specified, and associated with any other necessary activity that cannot be postponed to "tackle the emergency" and "mitigate the risk" associated with natural disasters. Prevention activities are spelled out and for the first time early warning, emergency planning, training, dissemination of knowledge of civil protection, information for the public, enforcement and technical exercises are unraveled. The national alert system for weather and hydrological and hydraulic risk is framed in an organic manner, thus resuming the various measures that over the years have regulated alert activities with civil protection purposes.

8.4.3 Hierarchical structure of the Italian Civil Protection System

Unlike in most European countries, in Italy civil protection is not assigned to one institution but involve the entire state organization: Municipalities, Provinces, Regions and the State, whose tasks are implemented by the CPD. In general, when a disastrous event occurs, the CPD is able to define in a very short time the event's significance and assess whether local resources are sufficient to face up the event.

The hierarchical structure of the Italian Civil Protection system is made by four levels of public administration:

- National
- Regional
- Provincial
- Local

Each of these intervention levels corresponds its own structure of civil protection for the development of the functions within its competence.

The first emergency response, regardless of the nature, scale and effects of the event, is provided by the local structure through the activation of the Municipal Operation Centres (C.O.C). The Mayor is the first civil protection authority and has the duty of assuring first emergency relief, and coordinating the local operative structures including the civil protection volunteers. In case of need, the action of the Provinces and Regions and the assistance of peripheral state administrations will be guaranteed and coordinated by the Prefects, who activate all the available resources (National Fire Brigades Forces, Police, etc.) in the areas affected by the calamity. In the most serious situations, the national authority takes charge of the operation. This role rests on the CPD, which takes on the overall coordination of the operations, while regional, provincial and municipal levels perform their specific roles.

The CPD is the operative arm of the President of the Council, when it comes to coping with the protection of the country's people and goods, and overcoming the state of emergency. It is managed by the Head of the Department and is today organized in 6 main offices and 34 "Services" carrying out specific tasks like prevention, forecast and monitoring of risks; drafting of legislation on the prevention of risks and regulatory measures needed to cope with disasters and minimize damage to people and property; promotion of drills, national and international training projects; activities that contribute to the dissemination of civil protection culture as well as information activities for national scenarios, in collaboration with other institutions and associations.

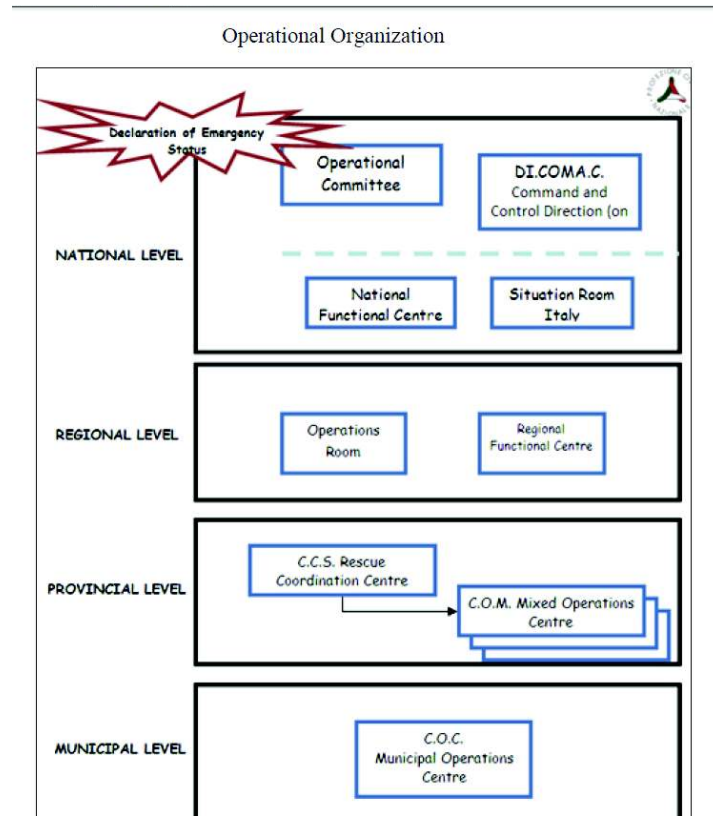


Figure 8.4.1 Operational organization of the Italian Civil Protection System (from the site <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>)

Within the CPD, an Operational Committee of Civil Protection, chaired by the CPD Head, and including the administrations and institutions involved at the national and local level, has been created by law 225 to ensure the joint management and coordination of the emergency activities. The Operational Committee assesses the news, the data and the requests coming from the affected areas and coordinates the interventions and operational activities between the central and peripheral level. In emergency events, coordination and operational activities are organized through a multi-level hierarchical organisation comprising the Municipal Operational Centres (C.O.C.) at the municipal level, the Mixed Operational Centres (C.O.M.) and Rescue Coordination Centres (C.C.S.) at the provincial level, the Regional Operations Centres at the regional level, and the Command and Control Direction (DI.COMA.C.) at the national level. In the most severe types of emergency, type “c” events, the Head of the CPD convenes the Civil Protection Committee, which defines intervention strategies and guarantees a coordinated deployment of national resources and a unified direction of emergency activities (OECD Review 2010: 37).

The National Situation Room ensuring 24 our presence has also been created to monitor and control accidents occurring throughout the country, collect information about on-going events, determine risks situations and alert the various components of the National Civil Protection Service participating in the emergency management. Furthermore, a network of Functional Centres has been set up at the central and local level to collect, process and share meteorological, seismic, volcanic and hydrogeological data

8.4.4 The Italian Civil Protection Department

The Italian Civil Protection Department has been grounded in the offices of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers since 1982. It has a guiding role, in agreement with regional and local governments, of projects and activities for the prevention, forecast and monitoring of risks and intervention procedures that are common to the whole system.

The Department coordinates the response to natural disasters, catastrophes or other events - events of C type - that intensity and extent, should be faced with extraordinary powers and means.

Moreover, also in agreement with the regional governments and local authorities, working in the drafting of legislation on the prevention of risks and regulatory measures needed to cope with disasters and minimize damage to people and property.

It promotes drills, national and international training projects and activities that contribute to spreading the culture of civil protection.



Figure 8.4.2 Italian Civil Protection headquarter (from the site <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>)

Through the various bodies of the National Service - Joint Committee on State-Regions-Local Authorities, the National Commission for major risks prediction and prevention, Operational Committee of civil protection - the Department has an ongoing relationship with all the national components and the operating structures to ensure the various activities as provided for by law n. 225 of 1992.

The Department is divided in six offices and 34 services. The following directly report to the Head of Department: Vice Head of Department, Legal Advisor, Press Office, Secretary of the Head of Department and Institutional Relations Office and a manager of first category with consultancy tasks of study and research.

Besides the personnel structures, the Department is composed of further six offices, divided into services: Office I - Voluntary work, Training and Communication, Office II - Hydrogeological and Anthropic Risks, Office III - Hydrogeological and Anthropic Risks, Office IV - Emergency Management, Office V - Administration and Budget, Office VI - Human and Instrumental Resources.

The National Civil Protection service is organised as a complex system. Within the system, the responsibility in the activities of forecasting, prevention, relief and overcoming emergency situations are assigned to several Bodies and operative structures, due to the complexity of the domestic situation of risks actually requires the coordinated and synergic use of all the skills and resources available.

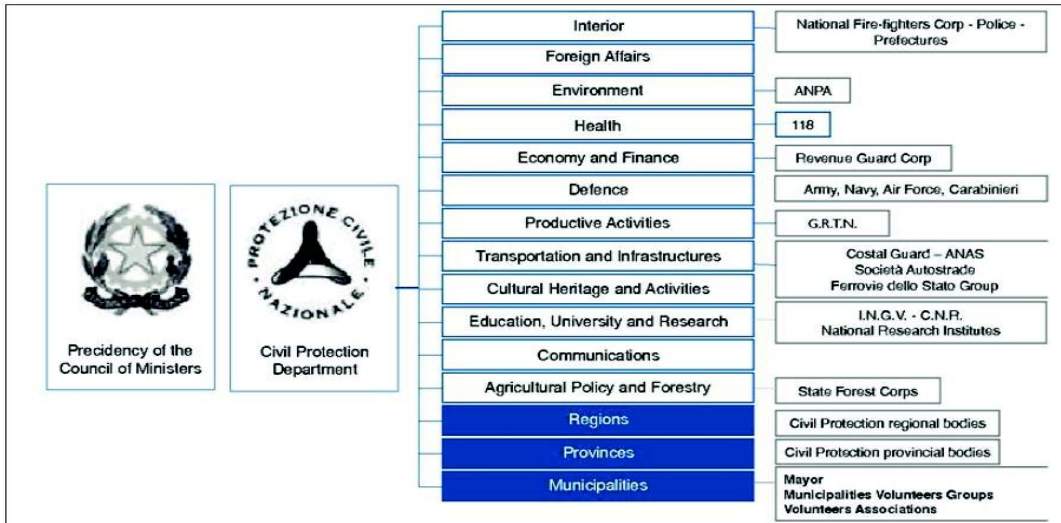


Figure 8.4.3 The structure of the National Service of Civil Protection (from the site <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>)

With its technical offices - working in close collaboration with the civil protection structures of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces - and with the support of the Centres of Competence, the Department is in charge of daily prediction and prevention of natural and man-made risks. In particular, it guarantees the operation of the national early warning system through the network of Functional Centres and promotes and carries out programmes and projects for risk reduction and mitigation.

The Department plays also an important role in addressing and coordinating emergency planning carried out by local institutions and in promoting and organizing civil protection drills, useful to test organizational and operational procedures.

The Central Functional Centre operates within the Department too: it is a strategic hub of the Functional Centres network - that deals with predicting, monitoring and real-time surveillance of natural phenomena - and the coordinating centre Sistema, at the Sala Situazione Italia, that monitors emergency situations throughout the national territory.



Figure 8.4.4 The Central Functional Centre (from the site <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>)

Among its powers, the Department supports the civil protection voluntary work - as specifically provided for by Presidential Decree no. 194 of 2001 - training activities for the various players in the system, the

promotion of initiatives for the dissemination of knowledge of civil protection and information to the public.

The Department has also the duty of coordinating the activities of first response to natural disasters, catastrophes or other events that, due to their intensity and extent, must be dealt with immediate intervention and with extraordinary powers and means. With the declaration of a state of national emergency by the Council of Ministers, it is up to the Head of the Department of Civil Protection to issue ordinances that will regulate the carrying out of the first interventions.



Figure 8.4.5 The Central Functional Centre (from the site <http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/>)

In ordinary situations

The operative structures with the Department perform the monitoring, forecasting and risk prevention activities as well as the operative interventions, each with its own specific technical skills and its means and its skilled personnel. The domestic technical services and the national research groups participate above all in forecasting and prevention. In order to test the validity and the efficiency of the intervention, research and relief in difficult situations and the capacity for the national civil protection system to respond, the operative structures are periodically used in exercises and simulations of natural calamities, organised on a local, domestic and international level.

In situations of national emergency

In the event of natural calamities, catastrophes or other events which must be tackled with extraordinary means and powers, after the declaration of the state of emergency by the council of Ministers, the Prime Minister may avail of delegated commissioners and domestic operative structures for the necessary interventions. The management of the operative structures is assigned to the Head of the Civil Protection Department, as established by decree law no. 245 dated November 4 2002, converted into law no. 286 dated December 27, 2002.

By so doing, the civil protection became a field of mixed competence. More specifically, national tasks are (1) directing, promoting and coordinating the activities of the state administrations and of any other organization on the national territory in matters of civil protection; (2) deliberating and revoking – in agreement with the interested regions – the state of emergency following type “c” events; (3) issuing orders for the activation of the state of emergency; (4) establishing criteria for forecasting and prevention programs, emergency plans and relief operations following type “c” events and organizing drills.

8.4.5 The role of Regional Authorities

The Regions have responsibilities in (1) making regional programs for forecasting and risk prevention, on the basis of national directives; (2) launching interventions when type “b” events occur; and (3) formulating the guidelines for the drafting of emergency provincial plans.

This gradual process of decentralization culminated in the adoption of the Title V of the constitution, notably with the constitutional law 18.10.2001 no.3, which by adding civil protection amongst the subjects of concurrent legislation has granted Regions exclusive legislative power with respect to any matter not expressly reserved to the state law. Significantly, the regional governments are entitled to building up their own civil protection structures matching the specificity of the territory and risk characteristics. Of no less importance, the reform has established the principle of horizontal subsidiarity within the public and private sectors, thus increasing the role of individuals, associations and business enterprises (OECD Review 2010: 25).

8.4.6 The role of Provincial Authorities

At the provincial level, the Province authorities (1) carry out activities of forecasting and risk prevention through the adoption of necessary administrative acts; (2) draft provincial emergency plans on the basis of national guidelines; (3) ensure that emergency services are set up by civil Protection.

8.4.7 The Role of the Municipalities

Last, at the municipal level, the town authorities have the duty of (1) forecasting and risk prevention activities; (2) drafting municipal emergency plans; (3) ensuring the first relief operations following type “a” events; and (4) organizing the use of volunteers and municipal Civil Protection

8.4.8 Fields of Actions of the Italian Civil Protection System

Article 3 of the law 225/1992 divided Civil Protection actions and tasks in three basic categories:

1. *Forecasting and prevention.* These actions are aimed at promoting analyses and processing data on different types of risks, develop innovative strategies to contain possible hazards and provide the competent authorities with the necessary information about possible risk situations. Within this field, the main role of the CPD, which operates in close collaboration with scientific research bodies and institutes, is to lay down the guidelines for preparing forecasting and prevention programs. Local authorities, particularly the Provinces and the Municipalities, are responsible for implementing these programs;

2. *Relief and assistance.* This action requires fast and immediate intervention and response following an emergency;

3. *Overcoming the state of emergency and the recovery of the socio-economic system.* These actions span from providing structures and assistance to the affected population to the phase of reconstruction.

Italy’s national territory is highly exposed to a broad range of natural disasters: like earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions and fires. Thus, civil protection activities cover all the spectrum of natural risks as well as man-made disasters including seismic, volcanic, hydro-meteorological, tsunami, fire, health, environmental, nuclear, and industrial risks. According to Alexander (2010), unlike in other European countries, in Italy there is a clear-cut divide between the country’s civil defense and civil protection. However, in recent years, Civil Protection has been increasingly involved in dealing with new risks, such as for example terrorism and epidemics.

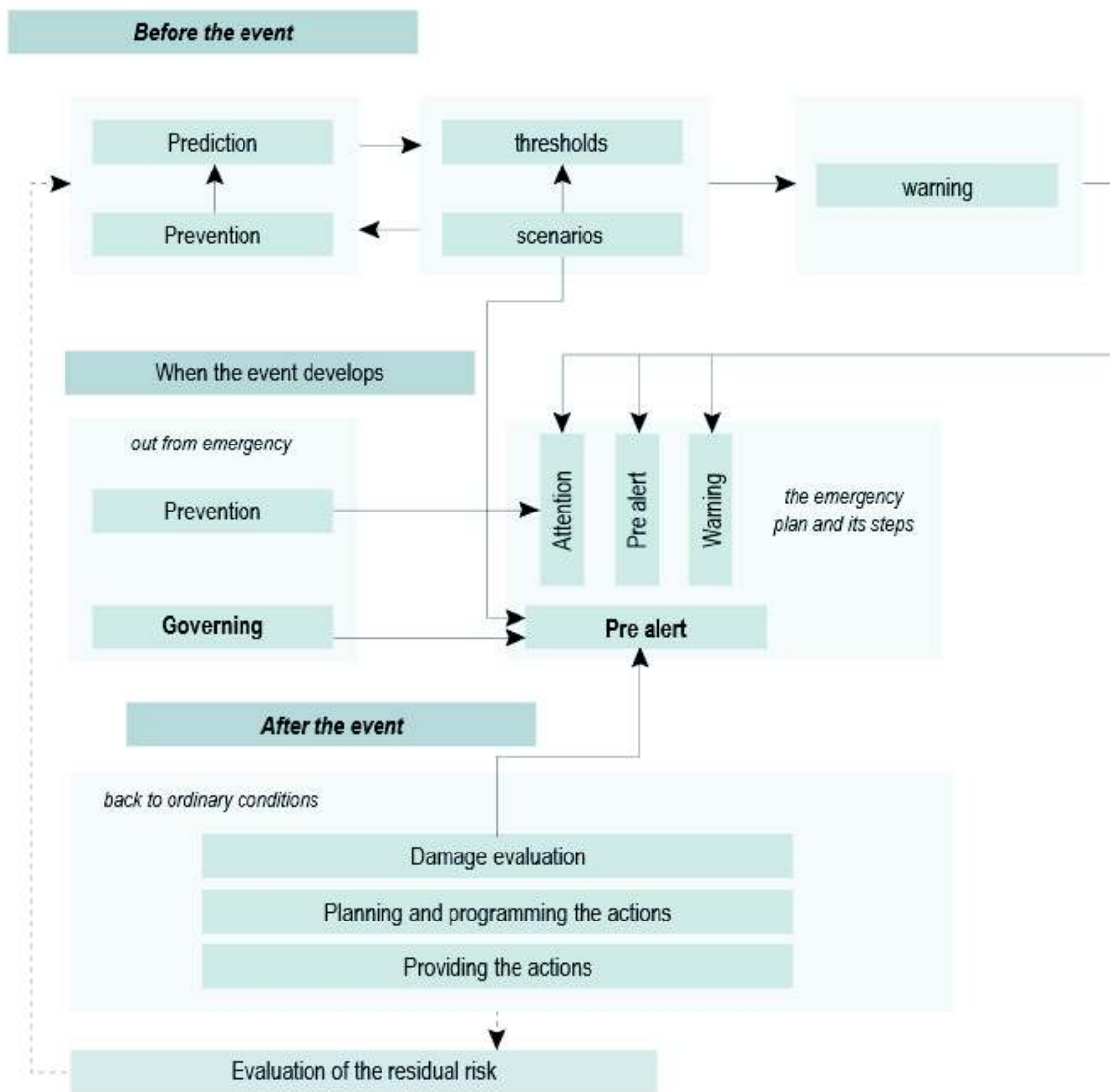


Figure 8.4.6 Fields of Actions before and after the event

8.4.9 The Voluntary work

The voluntary work of Civil Protection was established as a consequence of the great emergencies that have hit Italy in the last 50 years: the floods of Florence in 1966 and the Friuli and Irpinia earthquakes above all. A great spontaneous mobilisation of citizens made it clear that the solidarity of the people was by no means lacking, but an organised public system which knew how to employ them and get the best out of them was required. Since then the voluntary organisation of the Civil Protection Department has blended religious and non-religious bodies and guarantees the right to receive professional relief.

With law no. 225 dated February 24 1992, establishing the National Service of Civil Protection, the voluntary organisations took on the role of “national operative structure” and became an integral part of the public system.

The Civil Protection Department – following administrative decentralisation – stimulates and creates, also in the local authorities, a strong sense of national identity by the Civil Protection volunteers to promote a

quick response throughout the territory. The volunteers also integrate with the other territorial levels of intervention envisaged in the organisation of the national system of Civil Protection, on the basis of the principle of vertical subsidiarity. Another actor of the system and of the local territory is: protecting the community in collaboration with the institutions, on the basis of the horizontal subsidiarity principle.

In order to check and test the emergency intervention organisation models, the Department and the Regions promote drills which simulate real risk situations.

The organisations of volunteers participate in the drills promoted by the competent authorities as regards Civil Protection and, as operative structures of the national system of Civil Protection, can also promote and organise relief trials which test the research and intervention capacity.

National Council of volunteers

With decree of January 25 2008 published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic no. 61 dated March 12 2008, the Prime Minister established the National Council of Volunteers of Civil Protection at the Department of Civil Protection of the Prime Minister's Office. This collegial body with consulting functions has the job of discussing the problems regarding promoting, training and developing the volunteers of the Civil Protection system. The Council also has the job of coordinating the volunteer organisations with the other members and operative structures of the National Service.

The Council is made up of a representative for each national volunteer organisation, with offices in at least six regions, registered in the national list established at the department of Civil Protection. The Chairman, in harmony with the Department, convenes the Council each time he or she feels the need and in any case, at least three times a year. Apart from the members, the Head of the Civil Protection Department, the manager of the institutional and international relations of the volunteers office, the coordinator of the voluntary service and a representative of the national association of voluntary firemen, a representative of the Italian Red Cross, a representative of the National Mountain and Speleological Rescue Corps as well as the directors of the Civil Protection department, who are called upon in relation to the items on the agenda, participate in the Council meetings. The voluntary service of the volunteers office, institutional and international relations of the Department is taken care of by the secretary.

The Chairman of the Council, in specific cases, may proceed with the sittings, inviting people to offer their contribution to the knowledge of the items discussed. Furthermore, to examine particular questions of a technical-specialist nature, the Council may establish specific workgroups.

8.4.10 Other supporting organizations

A) The National Fire Department

It is involved in protection of human life, safeguarding property and the environment from damage or danger of fire damage from accidental situations and industrial risks, including those arising from the use of nuclear energy.

Natural disasters - In the event of natural disasters, the Fire Department can be immediately activated as the operational structure of the National System of Civil Protection and provides technical assistance and immediate relief to their respective powers and respecting the level of coordination envisaged by the legislation of Civil Protection. To cope better with disasters, fire fighters work through the mobile columns of regional aid, consisting of an even number of employed men and means.

The National Fire Department, as well as ensuring urgent technical assistance in the area, provides information on the consequences of the event, to determine a first estimate of fatalities, injuries and people who need assistance. In addition, the Department provides its mobile operative centres, activate stability checks of the buildings in order to house operative centres and coordination of the system of

relief, provide operational support and logistical assistance for emergency lodgings of people involved and to secure facilities, infrastructure and cultural heritage

Forest fires - In case of forest fires, the Fire Department makes available resources, equipment and personnel necessary to the regions to carry out active fight and promote the study and testing of measures and standards to prevent fires or limit their impact.

In addition, the Fire Department personnel and special equipment to compete with the forest fire prevention campaigns through specific agreements with the regions. In addition to the active struggle also engage with prevention patrols in the area. It also promotes studies and tests of measures and standards to prevent fires or limit their consequences.

B) The Armed Forces

They participate in the National Service of Civil Protection, contributing to the protection of the national community and intervening in case of serious damage or danger to persons or properties. In the presence of emergency events, Italian Army, Navy, Air Force and Carabinieri provide logistical and operational support, qualified staff, means and tools. Armed Force's support is guaranteed by operating units located throughout the country. The managed area is divided into zones of responsibilities and regions of intervention. The connection to the National Service of Civil Protection is secured nationwide by the Army Staff and locally by the Command of Military Region.

Natural Calamities - In case of natural disaster Armed Forces promptly activate personnel and equipment for search and rescue activities, debris removal, setting up rescuers' base camps and recovery areas for the population, providing land, air and sea resources for the transfer of wounded people. Armed Forces govern flight operations in areas at risk, send their mobile structures for the coordination of aeronautical activities, activate the aerial photography means, even in infrared. They also set up an internal communication network, indicate logistic facilities to be used as gathering areas of rescuers and means, offer their resources to ensure emergency housing assistance.

Forest fires - In case of forest fires, Armed Forces provide personnel and aircraft for extinguishing activities, coordinated nationwide by the Department of Civil Protection through the Joint Air Operations Centre (Coau)

Humanitarian missions - Together with the Department, the Armed Forces are engaged in civil protection activities through humanitarian missions in Italy and abroad. They provide care and aid to refugees and displaced people, carry out projects in health, education, water and energy, as well as the reconstruction of essential infrastructure and collaborate with government agencies and non-governmental organizations working in the area.

C) Italian Forestry Corps

It's a civil police force, specialized in natural heritage and landscape protection. The Corps assist and provide first aid to population of rural and mountain areas, intervening against forest fires. Thanks to its organizational structure, widespread diffused in the whole country, to the vast knowledge of landscape, to its ability to move through arduous areas, the Corps cooperate to search activities for missing people, utilities recovery in emergency conditions, food and drinking water transport.

Natural disasters - In case of natural disasters, the Italian Forestry Corps cooperate with the National Service of Civil Protection, ensuring the implementation of evacuation orders, the mobility priority to the rescue system, bordering areas with ongoing search and rescue activities, patrolling evacuated areas. The Corps also give information about the event's aftermaths, in order to determine an initial estimate of victims, injured and people in need, activates technical and scientific skills for remains identification. Corps' staff also cooperate to secure rescuers' base camps, recovery areas for the population, operational and coordinating centres activated in the country.

Forest fires - The Italian Forestry Corps is specialized in forest conservation, raising awareness, information, prevention and first response against fire, according to Italian laws.

The Corps provide in particular:

- patrolling, intervening and coordinating ground operations for extinguishing forest fires
- radio linking coordination with aircrafts
- investigating into the causes of fire, thanks to the specific expertise and instruments of the Investigative Unit forest fire - NIAB
- awareness and information campaigns
- research and statistics about the economic assessment of the damage from forest fire and the detection of forest areas affected by fire
- identification of areas and periods at risk of forest fires
- activities to fight crimes related to forest fires.

D) Police Corps (State Police, Carabinieri, Finance Police, Coast Guard, Prison Service, Local Police)

They participate in civil protection interventions in any situation regarding people safety, on the basis of their respective logistic, instrumental skills and staff availability.

Natural disasters - In case of natural disasters, Police Corps provide personnel and equipment to guarantee the flow of rescue and evacuation activities, wounded people transport to safe areas or hospitals, public order, traffic management, rescuers' safety, recovery areas of the population, and operating and coordination centres. They ensure the implementation of evacuation orders, the mobility necessary to the rescue system, the patrol of evacuated areas or of the ones involved in search and rescue activities.

Police Corps ensure the activities to identify of remains, the presence of its staff to the operation and coordination centers activated in the area, canine units, staff for custom controls at ports and airports and provide the infrastructure that can be used as gathering areas of the rescuers and storage areas for vehicles, equipment and goods.

E) Italian Red Cross (CRI)

It is Italy's national company of the international movement of Red Cross and Red Half Moon and is an association of voluntary rescue operating in health and social assistance, during peace and war time.

The Central Crisis Unit is the department of Italian Red Cross that manages national and international emergencies of civil protection and defence, whereas the operating room is the area from which all the interventional, rescue and assistance operations are delivered. The National President or his civil protection Deputy plan civil protection operations, ensuring central management and joint direction and coordination of all central, local and support structures. They also promote the training of voluntary employees and personnel.

Natural disasters - In case of natural disasters, Red Cross employees units of evaluation composed by voluntary employees and personnel with health, technical and logistic, social and psychological competences.

Italian Red Cross provides with personnel and means to evacuate, to rescue and to assist wounded people by setting up military field hospitals, E.R. units and ambulances. Moreover the Red Cross is in charge of health defence, participates to search and reunification of missing people, guarantees the activation of devices to make water drinkable to be used by health structures and local distribution services.

F) The National Health Service - SSN

It is the combination of duties and charitable activities that carry out the regional health services, the State, Entities and institutions nationwide to ensure the protection of health. The health is a fundamental right of each individual and a collective interest, while respecting the dignity and freedom of the human person

(Article 1 of Legislative Decree of 30 December 1992, n. 502). The term was introduced in the health reform (Law No. 833 of 23 December 1978).

The SSN is not a sole administration, but it is a public system that consists of: Ministry of Health, Government institutions at national level (National Health Council, National Institute of Health, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention, Agency for Regional Health Services, Institute for Hospitalization and Care Scientific Institute Experimental Zooprophyllactic, Italian Medicines Agency) and regional health services (including the regions and autonomous provinces, local health care and hospitals).

8.4.11. Cooperation of the Italian Civil Protection System at European and International level

Since the 80s the CPD has carried out international missions in developing countries, as of Law no. 49/1987. Few years later, another Act no. 152 (of 26.07.2005) attributed to CPD the power to operate in international crises in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has also stated that the President of the Council or the Head of the CPD can issue emergency orders to avoid dangerous situations of damage to people abroad.

At present, the CPD operates at the European and international level in agreement with similar institutions of other countries. It promotes international relations, agreements and technical scientific programs to improve the prevention of natural risks and risks caused by man. In particular the Department participates in technical-scientific knowledge exchange and in sharing projects and interventions in Europe and on an international scale; maintains permanent relations with research centers, specialists and structures organized by the civil protection department of foreign countries; promotes, coordinates and participates in international drills; shares its own organizational model with foreign countries; participates in meetings and events whose objective is to improve coordination and promote civil protection culture at the international level.

At the European level, the CPD is the Italian Focal Point of the European Community Mechanism for Civil Protection, the instrument of the European Union to facilitate cooperation in civil protection assistance in the event of major emergencies that may require urgent response action inside and outside the Union. In these events, the CPD may make its own resources and technical competences available, in accordance with the local authorities, either in the emergency phase or in the recovery and reconstruction phase. Similarly as in cases of national emergencies, the CPD declares the state of emergency and outlines the interventions to face up with the emergency and overcome the situation. All interventions are based on the principle of subsidiarity, according to which the actions of the Union must always be undertaken on request of and in coordination with the authorities of the affected state.

There are also a large number of international agreements and technical cooperation pacts signed by the CPD with similar institutions in foreign countries and international organizations. These agreements promote the development of joint programs and projects to forecast, prevent and mitigate natural and man-made disasters, and the manage emergency situations through mutual aid and assistance.

The DPC has also set up a national platform for disaster risk reduction to achieve the objectives set-out in the “Hyogo declaration” which is part of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR), and maintains a role within the NATO initiative for civil protection. Of no less importance, the CPD has signed a number of regional agreements of cooperation like PPRD-South (EUROMED: Southern Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East); FIRE 5 (Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece) and AII (Adriatic-Ionic Initiative: The Balkans and Southern Europe).

It is also worth noting that in the past years the Italian CPD provided assistance to several international emergencies including

- Earthquake in Algeria (May 2003)

- Earthquake in Iran (December 2003) (Coordination role)
- Earthquake in Morocco (February 2004)
- The Tsunami in Southeast Asia (December 2004) (Coordination role in Thailand)
- Forest fires in Portugal (2003/2004/2005)
- Hurricane Katrina in the USA (August 2005)
- Earthquake in Pakistan (October 2005)
- Volcano eruption, Merapi Indonesia (Spring 2006) (Technical support)
- Lebanon crisis (Summer 2006) (MIC correspondent)
- Mediterranean forest fires (Summer 2007)
- Earthquake in China (May 2008)
- Earthquake in Haiti (January 2010)
- Earthquake in Chile (March 2010)
- Libya crisis (March 2011)
- Earthquake, tsunami, radiological emergency in Japan (March 2011)
- Floods and Heavy meteorological situation in Bulgaria (February 2012)
- Ammunition depot explosion in Brazzaville, Congo (March 2012)
- Forest fires in Greece (June 2012)
- Forest fires in Albania (September 2012)
- Typhoon Hayan in the Philippines (November 2013)

Source:<http://www.prometheus2014.gr/content/eu-prometheus-2014/the-project/1-prometheus>

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