

INTERREG-IPA CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
PROGRAMME  
ROMANIA-SERBIA

UNION CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM  
AND MODULES

7 Septembrie 2023

---

### Objectives

- To understand the context and the operational cycle of the Mechanism missions
- To identify the resources it relies on
- Identify the basic principles of the CP Modules

## What is civil protection?

### ➤ Various definitions

- ... set of diverse activities used to protect the population from incidents and accidents, both technical and natural (*David Alexander 2002*).

### ➤ Various names:

- Europe - the civil protection;
- Anglo-Saxon - emergency preparedness (USA)
  - emergency management (New Zealand, Australia),
  - civil contingency (UK)

## Humanitarian aid and civil protection

### Humanitarian aid

- In addition to first hand relief, delivers medium/long term assistance
- Works through implementing partners/contractors (ex: NGOs)
- Has experts pre-located in sensitive parts of the world
- Does not require a request for assistance
- Most vulnerable population(s) in third countries, mainly in developing countries

### Civil protection

- Delivers first-hand relief
- Intervenes in the acute stage, max 2-3 weeks
- Works through Participating States' willingness and resources
- Acts upon an official request for assistance issued by Government Authorities
- Inside and outside EU

## Union Civil Protection Mechanism

- When the scale of a disaster overwhelms national response capabilities, the Mechanism enables its participating states to **offer coordinated and needs-driven assistance**.
- Before disaster strikes the Mechanism offers **advice** on Civil Protection **prevention and preparedness**

## Union Civil Protection Mechanism

- 34 participating countries:
  - 28 EU member states
  - Iceland, Norway, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Since its creation in 2001, it has been activated for more than 600 emergencies
- In 2021, the Mechanism was activated 114 times.
  - the coronavirus pandemic in Europe and worldwide
  - floods in Belgium
  - forest fires in the Mediterranean, the Western Balkans and Austria
  - repatriations from Afghanistan
  - the earthquake and a hurricane in Haiti
- The war in Ukraine has triggered the largest emergency operation since the creation of the Mechanism.



## Union Civil Protection Mechanism

- UCPM is used both inside and outside the EU.
- Supports Participating States during the whole disaster management cycle:
  - **Prevention:** Support MS in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies.
  - **Preparedness:** Training, exercises, exchange of experts, modules.
  - **Response:** Facilitates cooperation in civil protection assistance in the event of major disasters inside and outside EU



## UCPM – aims

- **Article 196 of the Lisbon Treaty**
  - “The Union shall **encourage cooperation** between Member States in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing and protecting against natural or man-made disasters.”
  - “...**support and complement** Member States’ action at national, regional and local level”
  - “**promote** swift, effective **operational cooperation** within the Union between national civil protection services;”
  - “**promote consistency** in international civil-protection work”

## UCPM – aims

### ➤ Article 222 of the Lisbon Treaty

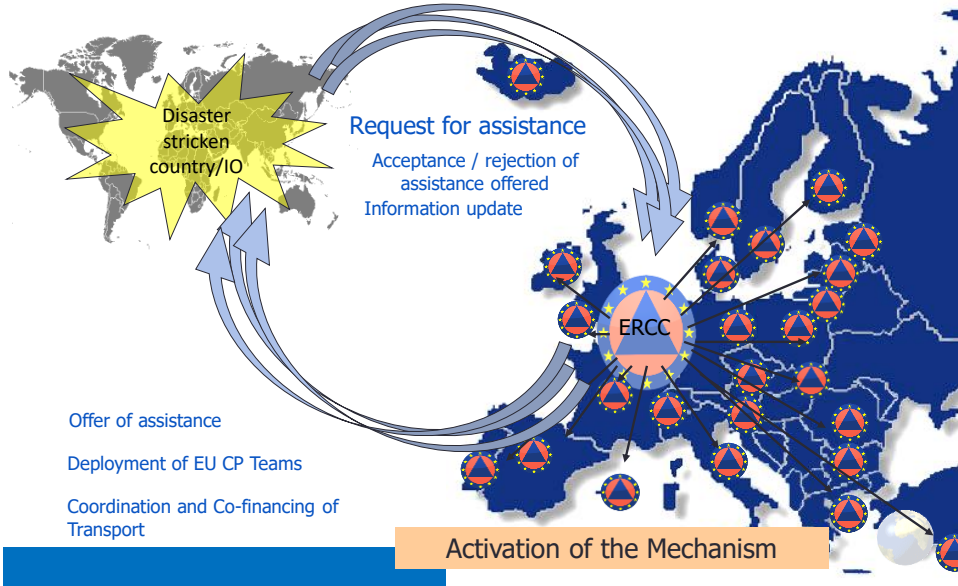
- “The Union and its Member States shall act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster. The Union shall mobilize all the instruments at its disposal, including the military resources made available by the Member States.”

## Types of disasters covered by UCPM

- Natural disasters
  - Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones/ storms, landslides
- Manmade disasters
  - Environmental disasters (HU alkali sludge accident 2010)
  - Complex emergencies (Iraq, Syria, Yemen)
  - Refugee flow (EU countries+ W Balkans)
  - Explosions/ accidents
- Health emergencies
  - Ebola epidemic
- Assistance to consular support
  - Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation Mumbai)
  - Evacuation of EU citizens from Libya and TCN from Tunisia/Egypt, Yemen (2015)



## UCPM – how does it work?



## UCPM – how does it work?



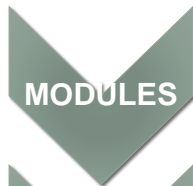
- **Emergency Response Coordination Center**
- The operational heart of CPM
- Facilitates mobilization, deployment and coordination of resources



- **Common Emergency Communication and Information System**
- Managed by ERCC and PS
- Manage requests and offers
- Updates on operations



- Transport EU co-financing
- Identification of transport solutions
- Pooling of transport



- **Pre-defined and registered teams** (human and technical means)
- Modules registered under the Voluntary pool: EERC European Emergency Response Capacity



- EU assistance for training will be provided to allow for improved inter- operability of the Member States' teams on the ground.
- A cycle of 12 courses



- Full-scale exercises, organised by civil protection authorities of countries and co-financed by the EU
- Modules field and table-top exercises organised under the supervision of the European Commission

- Assistance can be provided **ONLY** if there is a specific request
- Bilateral versus multilateral

- What factors motivate or constrain some countries to request for international assistance?
- What factors motivate or constrain international donor community/countries to deploy international assistance?



## Requests for assistance

### Motivations

- Disaster beyond coping capacity
- Lack special expertise
- Better and faster response
- Improve skills/knowledge
- Desire to be seen as competent and internationally connected
- Replenish stockpiles
- Clarity of needs and resources gap
- Unknown secondary hazards
- Good experience of international assistance

### Constraints

- Sovereignty
- Negative past experiences
- Pride/image
- Fear for donor fatigue
- Fear for chaos
- Security/fear for exposure
- Insufficient information
- Political concerns
- Secondary effects (i.e. impact on tourism)



## Deliver international assistance

### Motivations

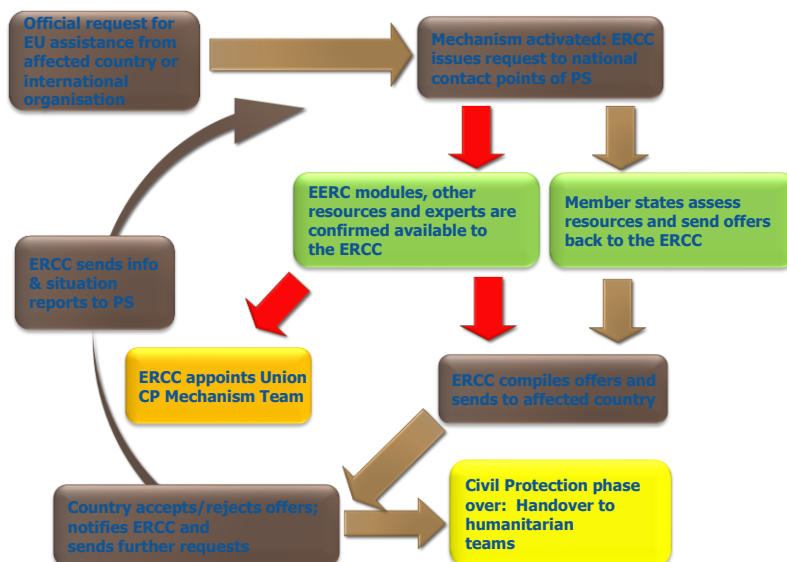
- Government request
- Previous disasters with high humanitarian impact
- May become regional multi-country event
- Country perceived to be unprepared
- Lack of capacity for response
- Competition to be present
- Political pressure
- Media pressure
- Public clamor
- The right thing to do

### Constraints

- Lack of information on which to base decision
- No government request
- Security
- Logistics inadequate to support international responders
- Wait for further information/evolving situation
- Sufficient national capacity  
Perceived as "small disaster"  
Financial/economic crisis

## Union CP Mechanism Emergency Response

### The Operational Loop





## European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC)

- Moves the current ad hoc arrangement to a more predictable and reliable system that allows for better planning.
- A **voluntary pool** of response **capacities** and **experts** will be established and available for immediate deployment as part of a collective European intervention.
- The Member States are asked to **voluntarily commit** to the pool core resources (including experts) for standby following a certification procedure.
- The voluntary pool will enable a faster and more coherent disaster response. It will also allow for better **coordinated** disaster response planning at European level and in all Member States.



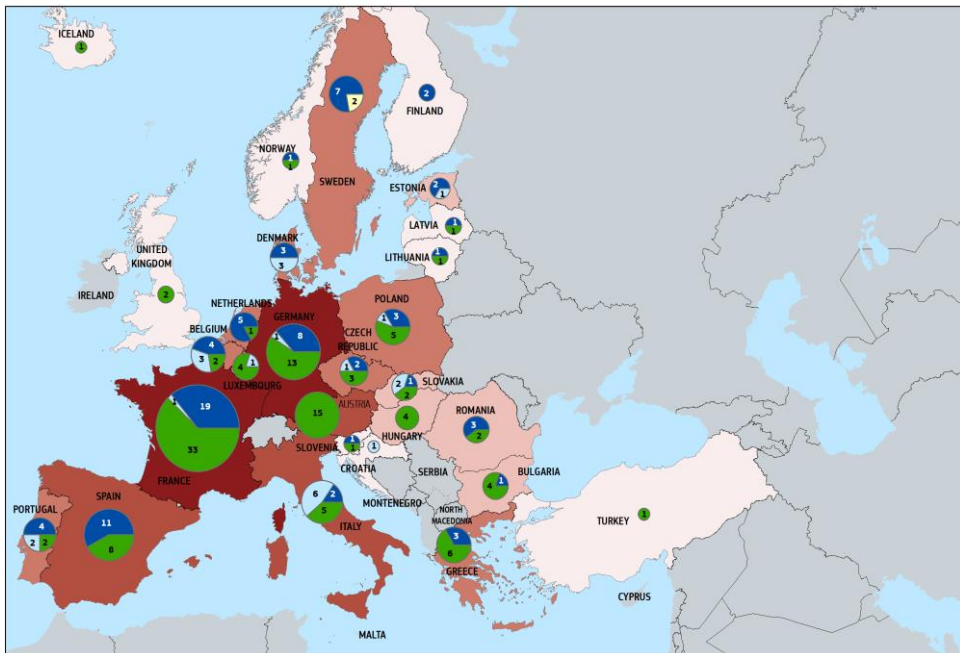
## Modules

- [Commission Decision 2008/73](#) lays down rules for the implementation of the modules concept under the Mechanism.
- 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 an EU **rapid response capability** based upon Member States' civil protection modules.



## Modules

- **Pre-defined and registered (CECIS) teams** (human and technical means)
- **Self-sufficient and autonomous**
- Resources of one or more PS, on a voluntary basis
- Perform tasks according to **international guidelines**
- Can be dispatched in very **short notice** within and outside the EU (generally within 12 h of a request for assistance)
- **Interoperable**
- **Trained and exercised** (financed by EU on a certain degree)
- **Following international guidelines**



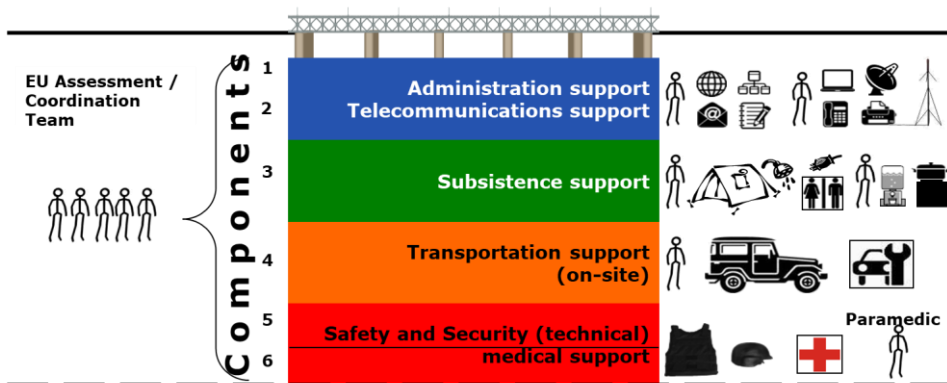


## Modules

- **224 Modules and 10 TAST registered**
- Floods: High capacity pumping; Flood containment; Flood rescue using boats;
- Fires: Ground and Aerial forest fire fighting modules;
- Search and Rescue: Medium and Heavy urban search and rescue **MUSAR**, **HUSAR**; Search and rescue in CBRN conditions
- Medical: Advanced medical post with or without surgery; Field hospital; **EMT 1** fixed or mobile, **EMT2**, EMT3, Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims;
- CBRN: Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection and sampling;
- Emergency temporary shelter;
- Water purification.

Interreg - IPA CBC  
Romania - Serbia

## TAST – Technical Assistance Support Team



Accompany Union CP teams

- increase the effectiveness of the Union CP experts

## Modules

### ➤ Certification aim

- Ensures compliance with the minimum requirements.
- Reveals positive actions/practices.
- Identifies potential adaptation needs and makes recommendations for improvement.

*Certification aim is not to criticise different working methods, techniques or equipment neither to bring out negative actions!!!*

## Modules

Generic  
functions = self  
sufficiency

Specific/technical  
functions -  
depending on it's  
tasks

## Modules

- ANNEXES to the Commission Implementing Decision

laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism and repealing Commission Decisions 2004/277/EC, Euratom and 2007/606/EC, Euratom

- Annex II – General requirements for modules and technical assistance and support teams

## - Modules – GROUP WORK 3

- In the group take 10 minutes to identify
  - ✓ The elements of self sufficiency for the modules
  - ✓ General requirements for a field hospital (specific functions)



## Modules – elements of self sufficiency

### ➤ Article 3b (Commission Decision 20th Dec 2007)

- Appropriate shelter ...
- Power generation and lighting ...
- Sanitation and hygiene facilities ...
- Availability of food and water ...
- Medical or paramedical staff, facilities and supplies ...
- Equipment storage and maintenance of the equipment...
- Equipment for communication ...
- Local transportation ...
- Logistics, equipment and staff enabling the setting-up of a base of operations and the beginning of the mission immediately upon arrival on site.

Thank you!