



Prevention and preparedness

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

177 projects supporting prevention and preparedness measures across Europe co-financed by the EU since 2007

€75 million: EU investment in prevention and preparedness activities in more than 35 European countries



EU-funded project "Informed-Prepared-Together" implemented by EU Red Cross © Red Cross

Key messages

- Natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism, technological, radiological and environmental accidents know no borders. One country alone can be overburdened. Experience shows that cooperation in civil protection between European countries saves lives.
- The EU facilitates cooperation between the 28 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey towards a common goal: to protect people, the environment and property against disasters.
- The EU's financial support enables these countries to work together effectively in the event of major disasters and to respond to emergencies quickly and efficiently.
- The Civil Protection legislation adopted in December 2013 enables further enhancement of EU preparedness and prevention. It envisages more training for civil protection personnel operating outside their home countries, more exercises for civil protection response capacities, and more exchanges of civil protection and prevention experts.

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Background

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism covers the three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. It finances training activities, exercises; studies and projects on prevention and preparedness; as well as transport of in-kind assistance to the country affected by a disaster.

A call for proposals for prevention and preparedness is published once per year and available on the website of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (ECHO). Projects are co-financed up to a maximum of 75%. Public and private entities as well as international organisations are eligible to submit proposals.

Examples of how prevention and preparedness work in practice

PREVENTING AND PREPARING FOR MARINE POLLUTION

A project run jointly by Italy, Belgium and France is working towards to the harmonisation of procedures when responding to shoreline pollution following a spill at sea. A training package and guidelines have been delivered for the preparation of NGOs and volunteers to be able to work promptly and safely to support authorities in charge of the response operations in case of a spill.

AWARENESS-RAISING

The aim of the [Aware and Resilient project](#), by Austrian Red Cross, is to raise the awareness of citizens, particularly younger people, of the value and benefits of disaster prevention and preparedness. The main objectives are to inform citizens of the main pillars of disaster preparedness and the role they can play to protect themselves and others; to improve the link between relevant stakeholders at community level; and to share, translate and adapt awareness raising tools that have been developed by individual Red Cross Societies for use in other European countries. The project is carried out in Austria, Bulgaria, France, Latvia and Romania using innovative e-learning applications.

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

In 2012, the humanitarian organisation Johanniter launched in co-operation with the Government of Styria, Austria the project EURACARE to develop a multinational assistance team to take care of European and non-European citizens on evacuation spots in crises areas world-wide. This team can respond flexibly in the area of evacuation standby by providing basic medical and psychosocial and logistical support. The team is also trained to provide specific information management and assist to solve consular issues. The EURACARE team will be immediately deployable and self-sufficient.

EARLY WARNING

Near-Field Tsunami Early Warning and Emergency Planning

The EU co-financed a project to provide early warning for near-field tsunamis in the very short time span between an earthquake and the arrival of the first tsunami wave on shore. There is an urgent need to investigate technologically advanced ways for such a near-field tsunami warning in the North East Atlantic and the Mediterranean (NEAM) region. Calculating wave travel times can save lives. The project will map all potential zones and will act in synergy with the NEAMT warning system by UNESCO.

A complete list of the co-funded prevention and preparedness projects can be found [here](#).

