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Welcome

Dear Experts,

The Commission agreed on the proposal for new EU Civil Protection legislation in December 2011. The negotiation process has now started in the Council and the European Parliament. The result of the negotiations is of great importance for the Experts' role.

Detailed information can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/COM_2011_proposal-decision-CPMechanism_en.pdf

Our world is vulnerable: for the second time a significant volcanic ash eruption disrupted international air traffic, there were major floods with repercussions for industry and Europe suffered from severe weather conditions. All this requires a global approach to disaster management, from prevention to recovery, from local to international. We need to work together, share knowledge, spread information.

Stay tuned and keep sending us your feedback and suggestions to echo-next@ec.europa.eu

Juha Auvinen and Hans Das
Head of Units,
DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
European Commission



Latest Emergencies



Commissioner Georgieva with victims of the Bulgarian dam break

In the past months the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) focussed mainly on earthquake stricken Turkey, the dam break in Bulgaria and severe weather conditions in several European countries.

Following the 7.3 magnitude earthquake on 23 October 2012, Turkey requested assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In total 17 Participating States responded with in-kind (winterised tents for about 32,000) or financial assistance.

The MIC deployed a six person EU Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) to facilitate the delivery of assistance from the Participating States.

A dam break on 6 February 2012 led to severe flooding in Bulgaria. Participating States offered sandbags in response to the request for assistance.

For more details on recent emergencies, see <http://mic-echo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Home/tabid/61/Default.aspx>



EXPERTS' EXPERIENCES

Report from Costa Concordia observation mission

Frédéric MONARD, Head of logistics department, Paris Fire Brigade & EUCP
Expert recently deployed to Italy

On Wednesday 25 January, I was asked by the French emergency coordination centre (COGIC) to take part in an observer's mission regarding the Costa Concordia shipwreck. On arrival in Porto Santo Stephano we were met by the Department of Civil Protection (IT) correspondent and briefed on the latest details of the disaster before being transferred to Giglio Island on a coast guard vessel.

The qualifications for the EU civil protection expertise consisted of marine rescue, environment and maritime pollution and information management. Referring to my Operational Management Course (OPM) training and my professional experience as the Head of rescue operations following the collapse of Charles de Gaulle airport in 2005, I already knew the complexity of search and rescue (SAR) operations. However, I could not figure out how complex the situation could become when a collapsed floating city is lying half-sunken on two rocky bars in the Tyrrhenian Sea close to the Giglio Island's shore. This slow-evolving emergency ended up not only in a humanitarian drama but also encompassed a maritime disaster liable to jeopardise seriously the environment.

I focused my observations on the information management process. It relied on a situation- tailored on site operation and coordination centre (OSOCC) which provided locally crisis management coordination with two committees in charge of advising the commissioner and preparing his decision taking. This intensive four day observer's mission proved to be a very rich experience and the lessons learnt from the report will certainly be useful for the participating states of the Mechanism.



Frédéric Monard close up to the Costa Concordia

Training News

As was promised in Next 3, hereby some additional information on the new EUCP training programme, which starts in May 2012. A new brochure on the training programme will soon be available on the DG ECHO website.

The Italian Civil Protection Department will organise the **CMI courses** (focussing on Host Nation Support) which will take place in Rome IT, Easingwold UK and Split HR.

TEC and MBC courses will take place in Revinge SE, Moreton-in-Marsh UK and Ig SI by a partnership led by the Sweden Civil Contingencies Agency.

The German Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk will organise the **OPM** and **OPMR** in Neuhausen DE and Copenhagen DK.

The **Security course (SEC)**, the **IMC** and the **ICC** will be organised under the lead of the Danish Emergency Management Agency and will take place in Snekkersten DK, Neuhausen DE and Hamburg DE.

The **AMC** will be organised under the lead of Cyprus Civil Defence and will take place in Bulgaria and Cyprus.

The courses on a strategic level (**HLC, HLCR and the new Head of Team course/HOT**) will be organised by the Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning & Civil Protection of Germany and will take place in Ahrweiler DE, Warsaw PL, Arnhem NL and Vienna AT.

Last but definitely not least: the distance preparation and testing tool will be developed and implemented by **BIT (Best in Training)**, an experienced e-learning firm from Austria.

In order to benefit most from the courses offered, candidates are encouraged to follow the "preferred order of courses" as explained in the brochure. The content of different topics is aligned according to this order. By following the order participants are gradually introduced to an increasingly complex and challenging setting in which the topic is presented.

For the general overview please see:

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/prevention_preparedness/preparedness_en.htm#training

Lessons Learnt Workshop Copenhagen 16-18 January 2012

eu2012.dk

DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2012

Strengthening the Lessons Learnt programme of the European Civil Protection Mechanism forms one of the priorities of the **Danish Presidency of the Council**, and it is equally called for in the 2011 Commission proposal for a revision of the European civil protection legislation. Drawing on past experience is crucial for an effective, efficient and coherent disaster management.

28 participating states gathered to discuss the need for a coherent, systematic and focussed approach to lessons learnt. The MIC needs to receive feedback from all Participating States involved in an operation. It should involve them in analysing and validating any lessons, ensure that contact points at national level know with whom to share the lessons and draw up implementation plans which might involve the level of the Director-General.

In addition, better links need to be created between the lessons learnt in response operations and those drawn from exercises. The agenda, presentations, results of working group discussions and the workshop summary including the **"Copenhagen framework on lessons learnt"** are available on the MIC Portal, at:

<http://mic-echo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/LessonsLearntLibrary/2012/1618012012DanishPresidencyWorkshop/tabid/448/Default.aspx>.

Exercises

Report from cold conditions training Finland Ionut Homeag, Romanian National expert seconded to DG ECHO / Emergency Response (MIC)

This training took place within the framework of the EU co-funded Preparatory Action Project Cold Conditions Module (CCM) developed by the Crisis Management Centre of Finland (CMC) and FinnRescue together with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The need for a CCM rose from the limited experience of civil protection personnel to operate in arctic weather conditions, which require special equipment and knowledge of the impact of cold on human beings and rescue abilities.

Experience plays a crucial role in adapting to extremely cold conditions, as the human body needs at least 10 days to adapt to cold. Training and exercising combined with thorough planning are essential for operating in arctic conditions.

The activity was designed as a training of trainers for several members of the CCM and was conducted by the experienced military personnel of the Finnish Jaeger Brigade, the northernmost unit of the Finnish Defence Forces (at Sodankyla, 150 km N of the Arctic Circle).

The training culminated with a 24 hour cold conditions survival exercise at temperatures below -30°C. This included building a temporary snow shelter (igloo), setting up an electrical grid for the camp, victim rescue techniques and endurance snow marching. It was an extreme physical test and showed the importance of having the correct mindset for working in such extreme conditions.



Ionut Homeag during the cold conditions survival exercise

Exercises

Full scale exercises 2012

EU BALEX DELTA 27-31 August 2012 is the first marine pollution full scale exercise. SYKE (Finnish Environment Institute) is the lead exercise planner. Exercise participants include from Finland : SYKE, several regional rescue services, the border guard and WWF Finland, as well as other HELCOM countries, EMSA and the Commission. The exercise will take place in the Gulf of Finland, an area with heavy sea traffic. It will test the actions personnel, vessels and other means have to perform to address the consequences of a marine pollution accident at sea and on the shoreline, including wild life. Procedures will be tested and an EUCP Team appropriate for the scenario will be deployed. After the end of the exercise an international seminar will take place.

EU COMMAND POST November 2012. The French General Directorate for Civil Protection and Crisis Management together with the Civil Protection Authorities in Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Luxemburg will organise the exercise. The scenario pictures a number of fictitious EU member states being stricken by overwhelming natural and technological disasters simultaneously. The exercise will focus on the cooperation between the MIC and the command structure in each country and will give the opportunity to a large number of EU experts to participate. It will take place in the south of France.

Should you be interested to participate in either of these exercises, contact your national training coordinator.

A list of full scale exercises in 2012 with information about scenario, location and participating organisations can be found on our [website http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/exercises.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/exercises.htm).

Modules exercises

Up until May 2011 17 civil protection modules and 4 technical assistance and support teams (TAST) took part in six modules field exercises. The exercises focussed on the specific training needs for modules being deployed through the Mechanism. The task was among others to test procedures, cooperation with the European Civil Protection team (EUCPT), improve interoperability and to offer a platform for networking and to exchange information about the different modules. The feedback from the 500 participants was very positive.

A new cycle of modules exercises will start with the first two in the Netherlands at the end of 2012. Four exercises will follow in the first half of 2013. The organisers are currently looking for participating modules. Nominations of experts for the EUCPT will follow via the national training coordinators once the dates for the exercises are finalised.



Modules Field Exercise Advanced Medical Post with Surgery 2011

Useful contact details and links

- List of national training coordinators: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/prevention_preparedness/preparedness_en.htm#training
- European Commission civil protection training contact: echo-B1@ec.europa.eu
- European Commission civil protection website, including latest emergencies and training programme: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm
- EUCP Mechanism training programme brochure: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/pdfdocs/Training%20brochure.pdf
- MIC Portal, including lessons learnt documents and details on emergencies: <http://mic-echo.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Please keep us informed of any changes in your contact details by emailing echo-next@ec.europa.eu.

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