



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

ECHO.A - Emergency Management  
A.4 - Civil Protection Policy

### European Civil Protection Forum 2018 "Civil Protection in a Changing Risk Landscape" Brussels | March 5-6, 2018

#### I. Concept: Taking stock of the UCPM halfway through its implementation

Civil protection continues to be a policy area where EU-level action enjoys a strong level of support from the European citizens<sup>1</sup>. The Commission has embarked on a reflection process to increase the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), all while ensuring the delivery of the highest EU added value.

The performance of the UCPM during the first half of its implementation framework (2014-2020) has recently been evaluated by a series of documents and reports<sup>2</sup>. These documents have provided the Commission with useful insights on the implementation of the Mechanism so far and on the key challenges going forward. The following recommendations have emerged and deserve further thinking and discussion with stakeholders:

1. *Strengthening Europe's collective capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters in order to match the current/emerging risk landscape;*
2. *Making EU disaster response more agile and efficient;*
3. *Scaling up UCPM prevention activities by stronger linkages with other EU financing;*
4. *Engaging with candidate and Neighbourhood countries on a more strategic dialogue for integration and resilience through civil protection.*

A [proposal](#) to strengthen the UCPM through the creation of "*rescEU*", a reserve of civil protection resources managed by the Commission, has been recently adopted by the Commission and will need to be discussed with the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

The upcoming [European Civil Protection Forum 2018](#) positions itself then as the ideal platform for reflecting on the current and future role of the UCPM. Alongside the Forum, an **exhibition** taking place in the conference venue will showcase innovative solutions and best practices in the field of **disaster risk awareness and communication**.

#### II. European Civil Protection Forum 2018: "Civil Protection in a Changing Risk Landscape"

The **6<sup>th</sup> European Civil Protection Forum** (European CP Forum 2018) will take place in **Brussels** on **5-6 March 2018**. Since its first edition in 2003 this conference has brought together, approximately every two years, the broader European civil protection community (i.e. government, academia, private sector, civil society, media, etc.) as well as representatives from Neighbourhood and other partner countries.

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<sup>1</sup> 90% of Europeans think the EU should coordinate response to disasters in any of the MS and 87% that there should be a common CP policy (Source: Eurobarometer, 2017).

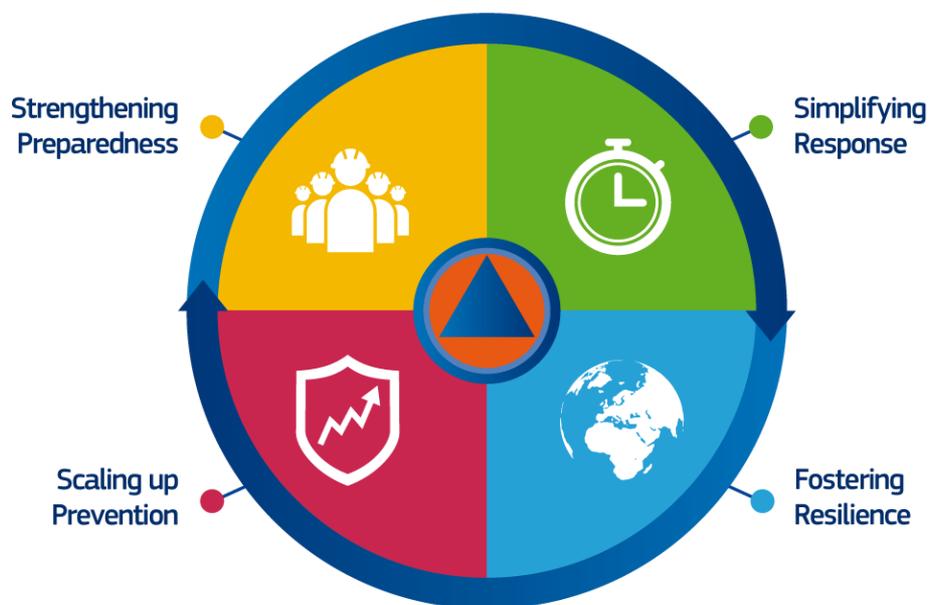
<sup>2</sup> [European Court of Auditor's Review of the UCPM](#); [Commission's Report on the Progress made and gaps remaining in the European Emergency Response Capacity](#); [Special Eurobarometer Report 2017 on Civil Protection](#); [Commission's Staff Working Document on the Overview of Risks in the EU](#); [Commission's Staff Working Document on the Interim Evaluation of the UCPM](#); [Commission's Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the Interim Evaluation of the UCPM](#).



The **objective** of the European CP Forum 2018 is threefold: a) to provide a **space for discussing** with the main UCPM stakeholders a few pressing policy questions which are likely to shape its future development; b) to serve as a **sounding board for new ideas** and developments in the sphere of civil protection and disaster risk management, including cooperation at EU level and with neighbouring countries beyond 2020; and c) to **facilitate networking, mutual learning and cooperation** within the European civil protection community.

The European CP Forum 2018 will be structured around **four policy axes**, responding to four overarching questions that try to address the issues identified above:

1. *Strengthening preparedness: How could Europe's Emergency Response Capacity become a more predictable instrument to cope with the changing risk landscape?*
2. *Simplifying response: To what extent simplification and streamlining of UCPM procedures would result in a more agile and efficient response to disasters?*
3. *Scaling up prevention: How can the UCPM prevention activities have a multiplier effect on the wider prevention financing?*
4. *Fostering resilience: How can cooperation on civil protection help increase resilience of Europe and its neighbourhood?*



These four policy axes will run in parallel, each one proposing a series of **breakout sessions** to allow for an in-depth discussion of selected key issues. The **two plenary sessions** will focus on broader, cross-cutting civil protection issues:

- *'rescEU' – solidarity with responsibility: Political leadership perspectives on the European Civil Protection*

- *Working across sectors to increase climate resilience*

This year's Forum will strive to approach the above themes in a more interactive and innovative way during the different sessions, promoting direct involvement of the audience in the discussions and providing space for insights of actors with hands-on experience in civil protection interventions.

Registration will open in early 2018. For further information, do not hesitate to contact the organizing team at the following email address: [ECHO-CP-Forum@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ECHO-CP-Forum@ec.europa.eu)

