COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.4.2019

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism¹, and in particular Article 25(3) thereof,


Whereas:

(1) The Union Civil Protection Mechanism established by Decision No 1313/2013/EU aims to strengthen cooperation between the Union and Member States and facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters.


(3) Decision No 1313/2013/EU was amended by Decision (EU) 2019/420³. In order to include additional actions identified following the amendment of Decision No 1313/2013/EU it is necessary to amend Decision C(2018)7559.

(4) In order to ensure smooth implementation of the 2019 budget of the Union, some of the activities and the amounts for 2019 have to be adjusted.

(5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Civil Protection Committee established by Article 33 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole Article*

Decision C(2018)7559 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"**Article 2**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 105 002 000 and shall be financed from contributions from other donors to the general budget of the Union and from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2019:

(a) budget line 23 03 01 01 - Disaster prevention and preparedness within the Union: EUR 99 156 000;

(b) budget line 23 03 01 02 - Disaster prevention and preparedness in third countries: EUR 5 846 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget of the Union for 2019, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths."

(2) The Annex I to Decision C(2018)7559 is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 9.4.2019

For the Commission
Christos STYLIANIDES
Member of the Commission
1. **INTRODUCTION**

Based on the objectives given in the Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, this work programme sets out the following actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2019:

a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (section 2)

b) for prizes (implemented under direct management) (section 3) – Not applicable

c) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (section 4)

d) for actions implemented under indirect management (section 5) – Not applicable

e) for contributions to trust funds (section 6) – Not applicable

f) for financial instruments (section 7) – Not applicable

g) for contributions to blending facilities (section 8) – Not applicable

h) for other actions or expenditure (section 9) – Not applicable

**Legal basis**


**Budget line(s)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 03 01 01</td>
<td>Disaster prevention and preparedness within the Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 03 01 02</td>
<td>Disaster prevention and preparedness in third countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives pursued

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('Mechanism' or ‘UCPM’) shall protect primarily people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, from all kinds of natural and man-made disasters, including the consequences of acts of terrorism, technological, radiological or environmental disasters, marine pollution and acute health emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union (Article 1(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU). This work programme covers actions that are eligible for financial assistance under the Mechanism in the field of prevention and preparedness in 2019.

In compliance with Article 26 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, synergies and complementarity with other instruments of the Union will be sought as these actions are implemented.

Expected results

1. Progress in implementing the disaster prevention framework: measured by the number of Member States that have made available to the Commission a summary of their risk assessments and a summary of the assessment of their risk management capability as referred to in Article 6.

2. Progress in increasing the level of readiness for disasters: measured by the quantity of response capacities included in the European Civil Protection Pool and additional capacities developed as rescEU capacities, in relation to the capacity goals referred to in Article 11 and the number of modules registered in the CECIS.

3. Progress in improving the response to disasters: measured by the speed of interventions under the Union Mechanism and the extent to which the assistance contributes to the needs on the ground; and

4. Progress in increasing public awareness and preparedness for disasters: measured by the level of awareness of Union citizens and private sector of the risks in their region.

The indicated budget amounts, as earmarked for 2019, are for EU Member States and/or for countries eligible for funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession ('IPA countries')\(^7\) and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries\(^8\) and may, as indicated in Article 2 of the Financing Decision, be supplemented by contributions from the

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\(^7\) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence). Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

\(^8\) Eastern Neighbourhood countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. The participation of Syria is currently suspended.
EEA countries and future acceding, candidate or potential candidate countries which have signed the appropriate agreement with the EU.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 70 656 000.

2.1 Prevention Projects

**Objectives**

- To achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their potential effects, by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services (Article 3(1)(a) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- In close consultation with Member States, take additional necessary supporting and complementary prevention action in order to achieve the objective specified in point (a) of Article 3(1).
- To improve the knowledge base on disaster risks and facilitate the sharing of good practices in prevention and preparedness planning.
- To promote the use of various Union funds which may support sustainable disaster prevention and encourage the MS and regions to exploit these funding opportunities. (Article 5).
- To co-finance projects, studies, workshops, surveys aiming to support Member States’ efforts in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness (Article 21(1)).

**Type of applicants targeted by the grants to be awarded without a call for proposals (hereinafter: ‘direct grants’)**

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

a) **Track 1 - single country grants**: national civil protection authorities (or relevant competent authorities) of Member States, i.e. bodies having a *de jure or de facto* monopoly on the type of action, due to its nature or for activities with specific

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9 As of 1 September 2018 Participating States of the UCPM include all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey. The terms and conditions applicable to the submission, assessment and selection of applications under the Annual Work Programme by eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of third countries participating in the Union Mechanism in accordance with Article 28(1) shall be the same as those applicable to eligible institutions, organisations and individuals of the Member States of the European Union.

10 Pursuant to Article 28 of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU, financial assistance referred to in Article 20 of the Decision and points (a), (b), (f) and (h) of Article 21(1) may also be granted to candidate countries and potential candidates not participating in the Union Mechanism, as well as to countries that are part of the ENP, to the extent that that financial assistance complements funding available under a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of a European Neighbourhood Instrument.
characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers.  

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

b) *Track II - cross-border grants:* public and/or private entities from Member States and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national level civil protection or marine pollution authorities of all countries benefitting from the projects is required.

Budget line 23 03 01 02:

c) Public and/or private entities from Member and non-Member States (IPA beneficiary not participating in the Mechanism and/or European Neighbourhood Policy country) and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national civil protection or marine pollution authorities of all countries benefitting from the projects is required.

Description of the activities to be funded by direct grants

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

- *Track I – single country grants:* Supporting Member States with activities aiming to improve disaster risk management at national/sub-national level while promoting coherence between national and European programmes, with due consideration of climate change impacts. This may include, *inter alia:* multi-risk or risk-specific disaster risk management plans including investment plans, feasibility studies and assessments preliminary to financing of structural prevention and preparedness measures (including from EU Structural Investment Funds, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, EU LIFE Programme, European Investment Bank, World Bank and other International Financing Institutions).

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

- *Track II – cross-border grants:* developing tools to assess and/or communicate on EU key risks (e.g. forest fires, floods, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) which are relevant to the needs of national/regional civil protection or marine pollution authorities of Member States. This includes data collection/analysis, support tools for decision-makers, feasibility studies, risk maps and other science-based communication tools.

Budget line 23 03 01 02:

- Projects aiming at developing tools to assess and/or communicate on key risks (e.g. forest fires, floods, CBRN, earthquakes) which are based on the needs of national/regional civil protection or marine pollution authorities of third countries that are not Member States. This includes data collection/analysis.

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11 Article 195(c) and (f) of Financial Regulation.
support tools for decision-makers, feasibility studies, risk maps and other science-based communication tools.

Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of all of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Direct grants (planned co-financed rate of up to 95% of eligible costs)\(^{12}\).
- Publication of call for proposals (planned co-financing rate of up to 85% of eligible costs, with maximum requests for contribution of EUR 1 000 000 for the internal budget line and EUR 400 000 for the external budget line for each proposal financed).

**Expected results**

- Cooperation, exchange of good practices and support for capacity building in risk management planning are improved, as well as knowledge and practices on how to best integrate climate change in disaster risk planning.
- Links between relevant stakeholders and policies (cohesion policy, climate change adaptation policy, etc.) throughout the disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response, recovery) are stronger.
- Contribution to the implementation of the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Management and planning around EU key risks is enhanced.
- Cross-border and macro-regional cooperation for disaster prevention is enhanced.
- Cooperation between the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) beneficiaries and the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries with the Mechanism and its Member States in the field of disaster prevention is improved.

**Expected outputs**

- At least one risk management plan (including a proposed investment plan) is developed.
- One feasibility study for scaling up prevention and preparedness activities.
- At least one cross-border risk assessment tool for national/regional civil protection authorities is developed.

\(^{12}\) Direct grants will be awarded under the exception of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.
2.2 RESCEU TRANSITION

Objectives

- To establish and manage grant agreements to ensure a smooth transition towards the full implementation of rescEU and to address temporary shortcomings in response capacities, notably in the area of aerial forest firefighting (Article 35 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

Type of applicants targeted by the grant without call for proposals

- Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to pre-commit national capacities for a transitional period of time as “rescEU” and to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State for standby costs of pre-committed capacities.

Description of the activities to be funded by direct grants

- Activities necessary to ensure rapid access to national aerial forest firefighting means (modules using planes and helicopters) will be considered as eligible for the grant. The related costs shall include stand-by costs (costs related to maintenance, to staff and training, to warehousing, to insurance and other costs necessary to ensure the effective availability of such capacities).

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Direct grants awarded to Member States without a call for proposals (planned co-financed rate of 75% of stand-by costs)\(^\text{13}\).
- The grant will be awarded against criteria that assess the relevance, adaptability, and effectiveness of the resources that the Member States intend to commit as rescEU capacities.

Expected results

- The availability of aerial firefighting capacities to respond to forest fires is increased in the short-term.

Expected outputs

- At least six forest fire fighting aircrafts (airplanes and helicopters) from national fleets are made available as rescEU capacities.

2.3 RESCEU CAPACITIES

Objectives

\(^{13}\) Direct grants will be awarded under the exception of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.
• Develop additional reserve capacities defined as rescEU by means of Implementing Decision(s) in order to support Member States in overwhelming situations, notably as provided in Article 12(2) of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU in the areas of forest fires, CBRN, medical emergencies and in relation to high impact low probability events.

• Enable an effective response to major disasters within the EU.

• Enable an effective response to disasters outside the Union when these can affect significantly one or several Member States, or their citizens.

Type of applicants targeted by direct grants (without call for proposal) / call for proposals

• Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to develop rescEU capacities and to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State.

Description of the activities to be funded by direct grants (without call for proposals) / call for proposals

• Activities necessary to develop additional reserve capacities defined as rescEU.

• Activities necessary to ensure the effective availability and deployability of the rescEU capacities.

• Activities necessary to develop or update existing standard operational procedures and exercises to ensure the effective use of these capacities.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

• Direct grants\(^\text{14}\).

• Call for proposals.

Taking into account that acquisition and recurrent costs of the aerial forest fire fighting capacities are very high\(^\text{15}\), the co-financing rate for the development of rescEU capacities in this area is set at 90% of the total estimated costs (TEC). The TEC will be established by means of Implementing Decision. Categories of costs that may be eligible in the calculation of the TEC are listed in Annex Ia of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

For other rescEU capacities, the co-financing rate will be set following their definition by means of the Implementing Decision.

Expected results

\(^{14}\) Direct grants will be awarded under the exception of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

\(^{15}\) Recital 19 of Decision (EU) 2019/420
- Response capacities to respond to specific risks and made available to Member States for interventions within and outside the EU are increased.

**Expected outputs**

- At least one rescEU response capacity is developed at EU level in order to address at least one specific risk category.

### 2.4 Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises

**Objectives**

- To improve the response capacity of Member States, in particular with regard to teams and other assets provided in assistance missions under the Union Mechanism.

- To verify and improve the procedures and establish a common approach for the coordination of assistance interventions under the Union Mechanism and reducing the response time in major disasters.

- To enhance cooperation between the civil protection services of Member States and the Commission.

- To identify and share lessons learnt from exercises.

- To test the implementation of lessons learnt.

(Article 32 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)

**Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals**

- Public and/or private entities and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national level civil protection authorities will be required.

- With the exception of international organisations, entities established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - Member States
  - For projects under the external budget line, entities established in eligible non-EU countries, i.e.:
    - IPA beneficiaries not participating in the mechanism: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo.
    - European Neighbourhood Policy countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
    - Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco.

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16 (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence)
Palestine and Tunisia.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

- In due coordination with national civil protection authorities, design, planning, conduct and evaluation of exercises with scenarios simulating the situation and conditions of all types of disasters calling for the activation of the Mechanism, including marine pollution, medical and CBRN disasters, as well as multi-sectoral emergencies inside or outside the EU.

- Design, planning, conduct and evaluation of exercises enhancing Host Nation Support.

- Design, planning, conduct and evaluation of exercises with scenarios addressing the cooperation with non-civil protection actors.

- Member States will participate, through the ERCC, following established procedures (e.g. use of CECIS and activation of the Mechanism). Participants will include, among others: intervention teams (including modules), teams of assessment and/or coordination experts (EUCPT), national key contact point staff, other intervention support resources and officials of the EU Institutions, including humanitarian aid experts (as required by the exercise scenario).

Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of all of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for proposals (planned co-financing rate of up to 85% of eligible costs, with maximum requests for contribution of EUR 1 000 000 for the internal and external budget lines, for each proposal financed).

Expected results

- Response capacity of Member States is improved, in particular with regard to teams and other assets provided in civil protection and marine pollution assistance interventions, through the preparation of an improvement plan at the end of the exercise.

- Response capacity of IPA beneficiary not participating in the Mechanism and/or European Neighbourhood Policy countries is improved, in particular with regard to teams and other assets provided in civil protection and marine pollution assistance interventions, through the preparation of an improvement plan at the end of the exercise.

- Cooperation in disaster response among civil protection, humanitarian actors and international organisations is improved.

- Procedures are improved and verified, a common approach for the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions is established and the response time
in major disasters is reduced.

- Cooperation at international level between the civil protection and marine pollution services of Member States, the Commission and other relevant actors is improved, using CECIS and the involvement of the ERCC in the exercise design and conduct.
- Lessons are identified and shared through direct observation during the exercise and dissemination of exercise reports among the Member States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected outputs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- At least four exercises are organised.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Exercise guidelines are produced and validated.</td>
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</table>

### 2.5 THE EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION POOL (ECPP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Develop a European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) consisting of a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and including modules, other response capacities and categories of experts. (Article 11 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of applicants targeted by the grants awarded without a call for proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to pre-commit the response capacity to the European Civil Protection Pool and to request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State, on the basis of Article 17 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- International organisations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the activities to be funded under direct grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Financing the upgrade costs of response capacities, so as to make them deployable as part of the European Civil Protection Pool, through direct grants, or framework agreements with Member States' authorities. Up to 75% of eligible costs will be covered, provided this does not exceed 50% of the average cost of developing the capacity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Financing the repair costs of response capacities, so as to make them deployable as part of the European Civil Protection Pool, through direct grants, including, where appropriate, within framework agreements with Member States' authorities. Up to 75% of eligible costs will be covered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Strengthening the mentorship of Emergency Medical Teams wishing to undertake the World Health Organization’s process and supporting the World Health Organization’s work on quality standards and verification process of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Emergency Medical Teams and other medical capacities.

#### Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Direct grants^{17}.

#### Expected results

- The European Civil Protection Pool of disaster response capacities and the European Medical Corps are operational.
- Quality requirements are specified for identified capacities.
- Pre-committed response capacities are registered and certified.
- The European Civil Protection Pool of assets is kept up-to-date in the repository system (CECIS).

#### Expected outputs

- At least three new adaptation grants signed.
- One direct grant signed with the World Health Organization’s emergency Medical Teams initiative.

### 2.6 PREPAREDNESS PROJECTS

#### Objectives

- To enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters (Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters (Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To co-finance projects, studies, workshops, surveys aiming to support Member States’ efforts in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness (Article 21(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU)^{18}.

#### Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

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^{17} Direct grants will be awarded under the exception of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

^{18} Financial assistance referred to in Article 20 and points (a), (b), (f) and (h) of Article 21(1) may also be granted to candidate countries and potential candidates not participating in the Union Mechanism, as well as to countries that are part of the ENP, to the extent that that financial assistance complements funding available under a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of a European Neighbourhood Instrument (Article 28, Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
Public and/or private entities from Member States and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national level civil protection or marine pollution authorities of all countries benefitting from the projects is required.

Budget line 23 03 01 02:

Public and/or private entities from Member and non-Member States (IPA beneficiary not participating in the Mechanism and/or European Neighbourhood Policy country) and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national civil protection or marine pollution authorities of all countries benefitting from the projects is required.

**Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals**

Projects and studies, which may include technical specifications and feasibility studies for multi-country response capacities; small-scale exercises and training courses aimed at testing innovative disaster preparedness approaches/methodologies, including those supported by other EU-funded projects.

Budget line 23 03 01 01:

1. Foundational work for developing and testing new and/or niche capacities or innovative technologies and methodologies, including for medical emergencies or CBRN and for other response capacities as defined in Annex III to Decision 2014/762/EU.

2. Enhancing interoperability and inter-institutional cooperation for response capacities made available by different stakeholders in the Member States.

Budget line 23 03 01 02:

1. Foundational work for developing and testing of new and/or niche capacities or innovative technologies and methodologies, including for medical emergencies or CBRN and for other response capacities.

2. Enhancing interoperability and inter-institutional cooperation between disaster response capacities of the UCPM and IPA /ENP countries.

Consultation with relevant EU services and relevant international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of all of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for proposal (planned co-financing rate of up to 85% of eligible costs, with maximum requests for contribution of EUR 1 000 000 for the internal budget line and EUR 400 000 for the external budget line for each proposal financed).

**Expected results**

- The quality of EU response capacities (including marine pollution) is improved.
• The interoperability of modules and other response capacities (including marine pollution) is improved.

• Implementation of the EU CBRN Action Plan is supported.

• Cross-border/macro-regional disaster response plans (including marine pollution) are developed.

• Approaches to meet specific disaster preparedness (including marine pollution) needs and challenges at macro-regional and cross border level are assessed, tested and evaluated.

• The level of preparedness of IPA beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism or European Neighbourhood Policy country is increased through a closer cooperation with the UCPM and its Participating States.

• The interoperability of modules and other response capacities (including marine pollution) between UCPM and IPA/ENP countries is improved.

**Expected outputs**

• One or more new multi-country response capacities are made available for possible enrolment into the European Civil Protection Pool and/or the European Medical Corps.

• One or more cross-border disaster response plans (including marine pollution) are developed.

• One or more response capacities in IPA /ENP countries are strengthened.

• One or more inter-operability/inter-institutional procedures for response capacities in IPA /ENP countries are enhanced.

### 2.7 PREPAREDNESS ACTION FOR EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY COUNTRIES

**Objectives**

To enhance prevention of, preparedness for and effective response to disasters of European Neighbourhood Policy countries through support from Member States Civil Protection authorities:

• studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information;

• training, exercises, workshops, exchange of staff and experts, creation of networks, demonstration projects and technology transfer.

(Article 20(b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

19 Financial assistance referred to in Article 20 and points (a), (b), (f) and (h) of Article 21(1) may also be granted to candidate countries and potential candidates not participating in the Union Mechanism, as well as to countries that are part of the ENP, to the extent that that financial
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of applicants targeted by the grant awarded without a call for proposals</th>
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</table>
| • National or sub-national civil protection authorities (or relevant competent authorities or entities) of Member States, i.e. bodies for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the activities to be funded under the direct grants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Capacity building activities including the strengthening of situation rooms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies. Coherence and coordination with other regional and national initiatives and programmes will be also ensured.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Direct grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following results are expected to be reached in at least two European Neighbourhood Policy countries:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Preparedness capacities are reinforced thanks to an exchange of knowledge with UCPM civil protection authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inter-ministerial and inter-agency cooperation (including on Host Nation Support, legal and operational procedures for information exchange) is strengthened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tools and best practices developed within the Member States are shared.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expected outputs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• A set of indicators to bring European Neighbourhood Policy countries closer to the UCPM, taking into account existing needs assessments (including peer reviews) is developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following outputs are expected to be reached in at least two European Neighbourhood Policy countries:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Capacity building activities including trainings and exercises are conducted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Civil protection situation rooms are strengthened.</td>
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assistance complements funding available under a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) and a future Union legislative act relating to the establishment of a European Neighbourhood Instrument. (Article 28(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

20 Article 195 (f) of Financial Regulation.
2.8 WORKSHOP WITH THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

Objectives

- To exchange knowledge and experience on specific strategic civil protection issues and to discuss further civil protection actions organised in cooperation with the Finnish and Croatian Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

Type of applicants targeted by the grant awarded without a call for proposals

Public entities from EU Member States having a de jure or de facto monopoly on the type of action, due to its nature.\(^\text{21}\)

Description of the activities to be funded under the grant awarded without a call for proposals

- Workshops (one per each Presidency of the Council of the EU)

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Direct grant (planned co-financed rate of 75% of eligible costs)\(^\text{22}\).

Expected results

- Increased awareness and better understanding of strategic civil protection challenges.
- Improved consensus among the main stakeholders from the Member States on strategic civil protection issues.
- Improved awareness of synergies and linkages with other relevant policies (regional development, climate change adaptation, etc.).

Expected outputs

- Summary of key policy messages agreed upon by Member States during the Presidency (one per each Presidency of the Council of the EU).

2.9 PEER REVIEWS

Objectives

- To strengthen the level of preparedness of the Union (Article 8(j) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

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\(^{21}\) Article 195(f) of Financial Regulation.

\(^{22}\) Direct grants will be awarded under the exception of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.
To facilitate the sharing of good practices in prevention and preparedness planning (Article 5(1)(f) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

### Type of applicants targeted by the grant awarded without a call for proposals
- International organisations

### Description of the activities to be funded under the grant awarded without a call for proposals
- Reviews, reports, meetings

Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies.

### Implementation
Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:
- Direct grant with international organisation (such as OECD\(^{23}\)) (pursuant to Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation).

### Expected results
- Recommendations for improving the reviewed countries’ disaster risk management and/or prevention and/or preparedness policies and programmes are identified, shared and promoted.
- Good and innovative practices in the reviewed countries’ disaster risk management and/or prevention and/or preparedness policies and programmes are identified, shared and promoted.
- Cooperation between various stakeholders in the reviewed country in the different phases of the disaster management cycle and across different relevant policy areas (such as climate change adaptation) is strengthened.
- Cooperation and exchange of good practice between countries exposed to common hazards at national, local and expert level is strengthened.

### Expected outputs
- Contribution to methodology, drafting, and dissemination of the peer reviews.

### 3 PRIZES
Not applicable

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\(^{23}\) In the case of OECD, direct grant(s) for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power (Article 128 of Financial Regulation/Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application). The OECD has longstanding experience of providing public authorities and bodies with expert advice and good practice in disaster risk management, and a high level of technical competence in organising peer reviews of its members’ policies, including risk management policies.
## 4 PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2019 amounts to EUR 34 346 000.

### 4.1 IMPROVING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR DISASTER PREVENTION, AWARENESS RAISING AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To improve the knowledge base on disaster risks and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information, including among Member States that share common risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To support and promote Member States' risk assessment and risk mapping activity through the sharing of good practices, and facilitate access to specific knowledge and expertise on issues of common interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To encourage an exchange of good practices on preparing national civil protection systems to cope with the impact of climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To promote prevention measures in the Member States and third countries, referred to in Article 28, through the sharing of good practices, and facilitate access to specific knowledge and expertise on issues of common interest.</td>
</tr>
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(Article 5(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General description of the contracts envisaged</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studies and reports, meetings, workshops</td>
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</table>

Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of all of the above activities in order to pursue, where possible, synergies and efficiencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for tender/existing framework contracts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved knowledge base on disaster risks, including loss data and national risk assessments and their analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better use of scientific evidence, prevention and preparedness project results and other knowledge and relevant data in disaster risk prevention and management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of applied knowledge, risk assessment tools, and prevention measures; knowledge and policy tools are systematically identified, shared and where relevant adopted by stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Expected outputs

- Technical report on National Risk Assessments (following submissions by Member States in December 2018).
- Uptake of the Risk Data Hub in a minimum of two Member States.
- At least one study or report (sub-topic to be defined) to encourage the use of disaster risk management project results through the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre.
- A policy support study or report (e.g. cost-benefit analysis of prevention measures, analysis of low probability risks with a high impact at the European level).

4.2 rescEU capacities

Objectives

- Develop additional reserve capacities defined as rescEU by means of Implementing Decision(s) in order to support Member States in overwhelming situations, notably as provided in Article 12(2) of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU in the areas of forest fires, CBRN, medical emergencies and in relation to high impact low probability events.
- Enable an effective response to main disasters within the EU.
- Enable an effective response to disasters outside the Union when these can affect significantly one or several Member States, or their citizens.

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Activities necessary to develop additional reserve capacities defined as rescEU
- Activities necessary to ensure the effective availability and deployability of the rescEU capacities
- Activities necessary to develop standard operational procedures and exercises to ensure the effective use of these capacities.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Joint procurement

Taking into account that the acquisition and recurrent costs of the aerial forest fire fighting capacities are very high, the co-financing rate for the procurement of rescEU capacities in this area is set at 90% of the total estimated costs (TEC). The TEC will be established by means of Implementing Decision. Categories of costs that may be eligible in the calculation of the TEC are listed in Annex Ia of Decision No
For other rescEU capacities, the co-financing rate will be set following their definition by means of Implementing Decision.

**Expected results**

Response capacities to respond to specific risks for interventions within and outside the EU are increased.

**Expected outputs**

- At least one rescEU response capacity is developed at EU level in order to address at least one specific risk category.

### 4.3 The Emergency Response Coordination Centre

**Objectives**

- Ensure 24/7 operational capacity, and serve the Member States and the Commission in pursuit of the objectives of the Union Mechanism, (Article 7 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

- Manage the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), (Article 8(a) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

**General description of the contracts envisaged**

- Service contracts to support purchase and development of specialised IT and communication equipment.

- Maintenance and/or arrangements to ensure the ERCC’s security, resilience and business continuity on a 24/7 basis.

- Service contract for contributing to 24/7 capacity for the ERCC duty officer system.

- Purchase and maintenance of specialised equipment to maintain a fully operational 24/7 centre and ensure the ERCC’s security, resilience and business continuity.

- Upgrade and maintenance of equipment procured for the initial setup of the ERCC (2013) and that has completed its lifespan.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- For 24/7 duty officer capacity, existing framework contracts.

- For acquisition and maintenance of ERCC equipment, existing framework
contracts.

### Expected results

- The ERCC has the capacity to timely and adequately plan, prepare for and respond to disasters on a 24/7 basis.

### Expected outputs

- 24/7 monitoring and information-sharing capacity is provided by ERCC duty officers.
- 100% emergency management requests are addressed by ERCC operational and management staff.
- ERCC functions and information services downtime is less than 48 hours/year.

## 4.4 Early Warning Systems, Scientific and Analytical Support, Deployment Plans and Lessons Learnt

### Objectives

Enhance preparedness at Member States and Union level to respond to disasters. (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

In particular, the action will aim at:

1. Develop and better integrating transnational detection and early warning and alert systems of European dimension in order to enable a rapid response, (Article 8(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
2. Promote the linkage between national early warning systems, ERCC and CECIS, taking into account and building upon existing and future information, monitoring and detection sources and systems, (Article 8(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
3. Support the ERCC with making recommendations, in consultation with the requesting Member State, for the provision of assistance through the Union Mechanism, based on the needs on the ground and any relevant pre-developed plans, (Article 15(3)(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
4. Make recommendations, when possible in cooperation with the affected country, based on the needs on the ground and any relevant pre-developed plans, inviting Member States to deploy specific capacities and facilitating the coordination of the requested assistance, (Article 16(3)(b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
5. Set up and manage a programme of lessons learnt from civil protection actions conducted within the framework of the Union Mechanism including aspects from the entire disaster management cycle, in order to provide a broad basis for learning processes and knowledge development, (Article 13(1)(d) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

### General description of the contracts envisaged

- Updating real-time hazard modelling systems, alerting systems, impact
assessment systems, databases, hardware infrastructure and software; further
strengthening of the ERCC's scientific, mapping and analytical capacity,
including lessons learnt tools in order to ensure that the ERCC fulfils its tasks.

- Maintaining and further developing the European Natural Hazard Scientific
  Partnership.
- Promoting the setting-up of a scientific expert network.
- Organisation of meetings and workshops.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- One administrative agreement with the JRC
- Call for tender

**Expected results**

Regarding objectives (1) and (2), expected results include:

- European Detection and Alert System such as the Global Disaster Alert
  Coordination System (GDACS) provide fast, accurate and reliable information
to enable rapid responses.
- European Detection and Alert System such as GDACS are strengthened
  through improvements including the ERCC's global multi-hazard early
  warning capacities, integrating amongst others, early warning systems for
  floods, forest fires and droughts as well as integrating innovative technologies
  and systems to provide scientific and analytical support and databases.
- Promoting the integration between the various platforms and systems and
  enhancing synergies with existing global systems.

Regarding objectives (3) and (4), expected results include:

- ERCC and Member States are able to establish comprehensive situational
  awareness of a given situation in the immediate aftermath of an emergency.
- ERCC support forecast, estimate scale and severity of a disaster, identify
  priorities, and ensure synergies and complementarity between Civil Protection
  and Humanitarian Aid.
- The European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership continues to provide 24/7
  services to the ERCC consisting of multi-hazard scientific expert judgement in
  forecasting events or in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster.

Regarding objective (5), expected results include:

- Identification of lessons and good practices resulting from UCPM activations.
- Dissemination of identified lessons and good practices amongst civil
  protection experts from Member States.

**Expected outputs**

Regarding objectives (1) and (2):

- European detection and alert systems such as the Global Disaster Alert
Coordination System (GDACS) are maintained and further improved through *inter alia* the inclusion of new hazards in GDACS or the improvement of early-warning modelling for already included hazards.

- The integration between existing national and EU-wide platforms on early warning systems is supported and promoted through annual expert meetings.
- Synergies with global early warning systems are enhanced and promoted through thematic early warning system working group meetings.
- The ERCC portal, the ERCC Deployment Tool (EDYT), and the field reporting tool are maintained and further developed.

Regarding objective (3):

- Delivery of at least 200 information products (including but not limited to analytical briefs and maps) to enable the ERCC to establish comprehensive situational awareness of a given situation in the immediate aftermath of an emergency or to assist ERCC in forecasting events, estimating scale and severity of the impact of a disaster, identifying priorities or ensuring complementarity between Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid.
- Elaboration, provision and dissemination of deployment plans to UCPM Member States in the case of activations of the UCPM.

Regarding objectives (4):

- Scientific expert advice and/or reports are available as of 3 hours from a request for the hazards defined in the European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership.
- Decision support systems facilitating rapid analysis and information exchange (ERCC Portal, the ERCC Deployment Tool (EDYT) and the Field Reporting Tool) are further developed and enhanced.

Regarding objective (5):

- An annual lessons learned report compiling the possible lessons and good practices is developed.
- Lessons learned identification and analysis are carried out throughout the entire emergency management cycle, including for training and exercises.
- Lessons learned and good practices discussed with experts from Member States at operational and technical level are identified.
- Lessons learned and good practices disseminated on the ERCC portal.

### 4.5 Hosting, Maintenance and Further Development of IT Platforms and Communications Support Systems

**Objectives**

- Manage a Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) to enable communication and sharing of information between the ERCC and the Member States’ contact points, (Article 8(b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- Ensure, in the event of disaster within the Union, notification of disasters to
Member States.

- Establish and maintain the CECIS and other tools enabling communication and sharing of information between the ERCC, the contact points of the Member States and other participants in the context of the Union Mechanism, (Article 21(1)(e) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

- Promote inter-linkage between national early warning and alert systems, the ERCC and the CECIS (Article 21(1)(f) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

- Ensure compliance with implementing acts on components of CECIS as well as the organisation of information sharing through CECIS (Article 1(b) of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU).

**General description of the contracts envisaged**

- Service contracts to support administration and evolving maintenance of CECIS and other IT platform (e.g. e-Grant), online helpdesk and support services.

- Management/further development of CECIS software platform, hardware and specialised equipment; CECIS hosting and related assistance.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tenders for a new framework contract (2020-2024).

- Service-level agreements with DG DIGIT (CECIS and e-Grant hosting).

**Expected results**

- Enable the ERCC, Member States' operational contact points and other participants in the Mechanism and regional sea conventions to cooperate and share information effectively at any moment.

- Faster and more efficient process, based on CECIS, for addressing requests of assistance, including for transport of assets and teams.

- Establish a protocol to automatically close a request for assistance in CECIS after 90 days unless additional justification is provided.

- The ERCC and CECIS work 24/7, securely and at full capacity, during disasters and on normal duty.

**Expected outputs**

- CECIS downtime and recovery time is less than 48 hours/year without data loss.

- An IT application to interface CECIS information with other ERCC information tools (e.g. ERCC portal) is developed (set of data to be shared will
be defined in collaboration with users).

- A project management system (e.g. e-Grant) is available 24/7 to manage UCPM-related grants through the project cycle inside and outside of the UCPM.

### 4.6 TRAINING

#### Objectives

- Enhance coordination, compatibility and complementarity between capacities and to improve the competence of experts, (Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU and Article 26 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU).

#### General description of the contracts envisaged

- Courses for experts from Member States (civil protection, marine pollution and other services active in the UCPM), the Commission, other EU services and the UN who may participate in civil protection interventions. Participation of national and EU diplomatic personnel as well as specific sector experts may be considered for targeted courses. Participation of experts from IPA countries not participating in the Mechanism and/or European Neighbourhood Policy countries, where possible and in coordination with existing EU regional programmes.

- Development and organisation of new training activities according to emerging needs.

- Development and implementation of a Train the Trainers scheme for the trainers providing the UCPM courses.

- Translation of the UCPM online courses in other languages.

- Launch of a study on the learning needs in preparation of the upcoming revised training programme.

- Organisation of targeted training courses for EU delegation staff and DG ECHO Field focal points on UCPM activation and requests for assistance.

- Organisation of meetings (e.g. the Training Policy Group, National Training Coordinators, trainers’ workshops, ad hoc expert and stakeholder meetings, and preparatory meetings for prevention and preparedness missions).

- Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of the above activities in order to pursue synergies and efficiencies.

#### Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:
- Call for tenders.

**Expected results**

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of managers, experts and stakeholders involved in UCPM prevention, preparedness and response missions (including EUCPT) at the request of an affected state, and the UN or its agencies.

- Enhanced knowledge among experts of internationally recognized standards and methodologies in specific areas (e.g. logistics, environmental emergencies, medical teams, camp management, disaster assessment, etc.) to allow for better coordination with other international stakeholders.

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of DG ECHO field focal points regarding civil protection. Geographic target areas will be Central America, the Middle East and Asia.

- Enhanced knowledge of EU Delegation staff regarding activation of the Mechanism and request for assistance. Shared common syllabus among experts, agreed with the ERCC and conforming to UN standards.

- Aligned training and exercises programmes with the needs of the Mechanism and Member States.

**Expected outputs**

- At least one “train the trainers” session is organised.

- An online registration and evaluation tool for training and exercises is developed and used by the training centres.

- A report on learning needs is produced.

- Thematic workshops organised by centres of excellence in the rescEU priority sectors.

- The generic online training products are translated into different languages.

- Organisation of targeted training activities for EU Delegations and DG ECHO field focal points.

- Organisation of at least one technical experts’ course addressing emerging needs.
4.7 Knowledge Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a network of relevant civil protection and disaster management actors and institutions, including centres of excellence, universities and researchers, forming together with the Commission a Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. The Commission shall take due account of the expertise available in the Member States and the organisations active on the ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU)</td>
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<tr>
<th>General description of the contracts envisaged</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop and day-to-day management of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (‘Knowledge Network’), including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coordination and network meetings with relevant stakeholders, such as Training Centres and Centres of Excellence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Administrative and logistic support, document management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Develop, host and manage the IT and communication solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Launch of a study on relevant knowledge holders/knowledge mapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Development of the governance structure of the Knowledge Network.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Specific contracts using existing Framework contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Call for tenders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The establishment and organisation of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network shall be laid out by means of an Implementing Decision.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expected results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop and manage the structure to bring together preparedness activities into a structured and coherent package.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased availability and output of scientific knowledge linked to civil protection needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote partnerships between universities and training centres to develop new educational initiatives, e.g. Erasmus-like mobility for students and experts, new study programmes for civil protection students or experts, a virtual academy.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Develop an online collaborative platform in support of knowledge collections and dissemination and to stimulate research and innovation.

Expected outputs
• One strategic framework to link the exercises with the training activities to better record and integrate lessons learnt and exchange knowledge.
• One report on knowledge mapping.
• One report on governance structure and operating rules of the Knowledge Network.
• At least two workshop/meetings with the stakeholders.
• One online collaborative platform in support of knowledge dissemination.
• Development, design and implementation of educational initiatives, including increased availability of scientific knowledge linked to civil protection needs.

4.8 EXERCISES ON CIVIL PROTECTION MODULES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAMS AND EU CIVIL PROTECTION TEAMS (EUCPT)

Objectives
• To meet the interoperability requirements between modules. (Article 9(2)(b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged
• Plan and conduct exercises for civil protection modules, technical assistance and support teams registered in CECIS as well as the EUCPTs. Other response capacities registered in the European Civil Protection Pool may also participate in these exercises. The plans for the exercises should take into account the results of evaluations of previous exercises and lessons learned from civil protection actions.
• Development and implementation of a Train the Trainers scheme.
• Development and implementation of a virtual reality projects to improve the simulation of disaster situations.
• Organisation of meetings (i.e. with ad hoc experts and stakeholders).

Implementation
Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:
• Calls for tender

Expected results
• Increased awareness of Member States and the ERCC of operational procedures in disasters and cooperation agreements.

• Enhanced inter-operability of modules, other response capacities (including TAST) and EUCPT, and with other actors involved during an international deployment (including humanitarian organisations).

Expected outputs

• At least 15 exercises allowing the certification of modules/response capacities are conducted.

• Development of virtual reality products.

4.9 Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises (Plug-in / Host Nation Support)

Objectives

• To improve the response capacity of Member States, in particular with regard to teams and other assets provided in assistance missions under the Union Mechanism.

• To improve and verify the procedures and establish a common approach for the coordination of assistance interventions under the Union Mechanism and reducing the response time in major disasters.

• To enhance cooperation between the civil protection services of Member States and the Commission.

• To identify and share lessons learnt from exercises.

• To test the implementation of lessons learnt.

(Article 32 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)

General description of the contracts envisaged

• To design, plan, conduct and self-evaluate exercises that "plug-in" into other already proposed and scheduled full-scale exercise projects in order to test, improve and/or establish the procedures, SOPs and agreements necessary to incorporate UCPM response (in terms of capacity and in-kind assistance) into an activation outside of Europe.

• To design, plan, conduct and self-evaluate host national support (HNS) tabletop exercises (TTX) for key actors of the UCPM response, including the ERCC and its mains interlocutors at European, national and international levels.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:
### Expected results

- Response capacity of Member States is improved, in particular with regard to
  teams and other assets provided in civil protection and marine pollution
  assistance interventions, through the preparation of an improvement plan at the
  end of the exercise.

- Cooperation in disaster response among civil protection, humanitarian actors
  and international organisations is improved.

- Procedures are improved and verified, a common approach for the coordination
  of civil protection assistance interventions is established and the response time
  in major disasters is reduced.

- Cooperation at international level between the civil protection and marine
  pollution services of Member States, the Commission and other relevant actors
  is improved.

- Lessons are identified and shared through direct observation during the exercise
  and dissemination of exercise reports among the Member States.

### Expected outputs

- At least two Plug-In exercises in two different hemispheres.
- At least three HNS TTX organised.

### 4.10 The European Civil Protection Pool

#### Objectives

- Establish a European Civil Protection Pool consisting of a voluntary pool of
  pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and include modules,
  other response capacities and experts.

(Article 11 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)

#### General description of the contracts envisaged:

- Certification: Certification activities will be implemented through existing
  training courses and Mechanism and modules exercises, as well as through
  specific workshops, (the costs of which are covered under this action). The
  Commission following the nomination by Member States appoints certifiers.
  The costs of certifiers observing the exercises as well as costs of experts
  attending workshops may be financed using existing framework contracts for
  travel and accommodation. Where necessary, a daily allowance will also be
  provided.

- Studies: Specific studies to support the optimal functioning of the European
Civil Protection Pool will be carried out through call for tender and/or framework contracts.

**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tender
- Existing framework contracts (reimbursement of expenses)

**Expected results**

- The European Civil Protection Pool and the European Medical Corps are operational.
- Quality requirements are specified for identified capacities.
- Pre-committed response capacities are registered and certified.
- The European Civil Protection Pool is kept up-to-date in the repository system (CECIS); adaptation costs are financed where necessary.

**Expected outputs**

- 25 capacities certified before registration in the European Civil Protection Pool.
- 20 new certifiers fully trained.
- Three new studies launched.

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### 4.11 **PEER REVIEWS**

**Objectives**

- To strengthen the level of preparedness of the Union (Article (8)(j) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To facilitate the sharing of good practices in prevention and preparedness planning (Article 5(1)(f) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

**General description of the contracts envisaged**

- Peer review visit/meetings and related report.
- Follow-up on previous Peer review programmes.

Consultation with relevant EU services and international organisations will be ensured throughout planning and implementation of the above activities in order to pursue synergies and efficiencies.
**Implementation**

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tender

**Expected results**

- Recommendations for improving the reviewed countries’ disaster risk management and/or prevention and/or preparedness policies and programmes are identified, shared and promoted.
- Good and innovative practices in the reviewed countries’ disaster risk management and/or prevention and/or preparedness policies and programmes are identified, shared and promoted.
- Cooperation between various stakeholders in the reviewed country in the different phases of the disaster management cycle is strengthened.
- Cooperation and exchange of good practice between countries exposed to common hazards at national, local and expert level is strengthened.

**Expected outputs**

- Three to five peer reviews to be defined based on the interests of the reviewed countries.
- At least two follow-up reports on past peer reviews to be defined based on the interests of the countries concerned.

### 4.12 Policy and Technical Meetings, Workshops, Prevention and Preparedness Missions

**Objectives**

- Preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Union Mechanism and the achievement of its objectives. Such expenditures may, in particular, cover: studies, meetings of experts, information and communication actions, including corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the general objectives of the Union Mechanism, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, including their interconnection with existing or future systems designed to promote cross-sectoral data exchange and related equipment, together with all other technical and administrative assistance expenses incurred by the Commission for the management of the programme, (Article 19 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

- Promote awareness raising, information and communication on the revised Union Civil Protection Mechanism, (Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

**General description of the contracts envisaged**

- Technical meetings on disaster management, including: forest fire season preparedness, European Burns Plan, rescEU capacities, CECIS trainings and forest fire support teams during summer months and the special consultation
mechanism established to enhance appropriate prevention and preparedness planning and coordination.

- Support the development of policy initiatives leading to the organisation of the seventh edition of the European Civil Protection Forum in 2020.

- Policy meetings on disaster management, including expert Working Groups (e.g. Disaster Risk Prevention, Capacities and certification, Training Policy, Host Nations Support guidelines).

- Intersectoral meetings with Member States' experts to develop a common framework for hybrid resilience to mass casualty incidents.

- Meeting of UCPM Directors-General.

- Meeting of UCPM Directors-General with Directors-General for civil protection of Mediterranean countries.

- Deployment of experts through prevention and preparedness missions.

### Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Framework contracts.

- Service level agreement with SCIC for the organisation of events/seminars.

### Expected results

- Level of preparedness for the forest fire season 2019 is increased.

- Enhanced appropriate prevention and preparedness planning and coordination.

- Cooperation with Participating States and Mediterranean countries is enhanced.

- Establish a framework for structured planning on preparedness and prevention of mass casualty incidents, caused by natural or man-made events such as hybrid incidents or mass burns.

- Capacity of countries requesting UCPM advice on prevention and preparedness is improved.

### Expected outputs

- EU-Member States joint plan for renewal and acquisition of new aerial forest fire fighting means.

- Guidelines for reporting under Article 6(1)(d) are developed.

- EU-Member States joint plan for establishment of rescEU capacities in areas other than firefighting, in particular CBRN and medical response.

- European Burn Plan is developed and then agreed in its final version by the Civil
• The quality assurance of the emergency response capacities is reinforced.
• Minimum quality requirements of CBRN capacities are developed.
• Reinforcement of the ERCC with forest fire support team during summer.
• Update and sharing of information on level of preparedness for forest fire season of Participating States and the ERCC.
• Organisation of two trainings on CECIS.
• Concept and logistical note for the seventh edition of the European Civil Protection Forum.

### 4.13 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

#### Objectives

- To give appropriate visibility to the Union, including prominence to the Union emblem for those capacities committed to the European Civil Protection Pool and for rescEU capacities, (Article 20a(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To develop a communication strategy in order to make the tangible results of the actions taken under the Union Mechanism visible to citizens, (Article 20a(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To award medals in order to recognise and honour long-standing commitments and extraordinary contributions to Union Civil Protection, (Article 20a(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

#### General description of the communication activities envisaged

- Communication activities on civil protection and disaster risk management, including corporate EC communication initiatives (e.g. social media, videos, publications, etc.).
- In line with a detailed communications plan, communication activities aim to foster awareness among EU citizens and civil protection stakeholders and demonstrate how the EU is stepping up its support to protect its citizens in times of crisis, in simple and clear language that will ensure that messages are easily understood.
- The above communications actions feed into DG COMM's corporate communication campaign "EU that Protects". In line with the plan, communication actions include media coverage of the rescEU launch event, a continuation of the ‘EU Saves Lives’ virtual reality campaign in 8 European cities with media opportunities, dedicated communication products for social and traditional media for European, national and local media outlets and the preparation of a press room intervention by the Commissioner.

#### Implementation
• Specific contracts under relevant Framework contracts of DG Communication; to be confirmed and pending DG Communication agreement.

• Co-delegation to DG Communication.

### Expected results

• Greater awareness of the target audience achieved through the dissemination of key messages by national opinion leaders and increased news coverage.

### Expected outputs

• Communication and media products finalised and disseminated on social and traditional media channels as detailed in rescEU communication plan.

• Rolling out of the ‘EU Saves Lives’ campaign with eight new stops in Europe.

• Press room intervention by the Commissioner with relevant press and communication materials.

5 **INDIRECT MANAGEMENT**  
Not applicable

6 **TRUST FUNDS**  
Not applicable

7 **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**  
Not applicable

8 **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BLENDING FACILITIES**  
Not applicable

9 **OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE**  
Not applicable