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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.2.2021

**on the financing of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the adoption of the work
programme for 2021**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110 thereof,

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 Mechanism², and in particular Article 25(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation 'the Financial Regulation' establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The Annual Work Programme 2021, as set out in the Annex to this Decision, identifies the actions that should be eligible for financial assistance under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in the field of prevention, preparedness and horizontal actions.
- (5) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

- (6) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants⁴ on the basis of points (c), (d) or (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment based on Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) 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:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism for 2021, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

1. The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2021 is set at EUR 73 216 433 . It shall be financed from contributions from other donors to the general budget of the Union and from the appropriations entered in budget line 06 05 01 of the general budget of the Union.
2. The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.
3. The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2021, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes⁵ to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

⁴ Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

⁵ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with points (c), (d) or (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation and the conditions set out in the Annex. They may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with actions set out in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 18.2.2021

For the Commission
Janez LENARČIČ
Member of the Commission

EN
ANNEX

Work programme for 2021 for a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives given in 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 contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2021, as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (section 2),
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (section 4).

1.1. Legal basis

Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism¹, as amended by Decision (EU) 2019/420² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2019 (hereafter referred as ‘Decision No 1313/2013/EU’).

Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism³

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 of 8 April 2019 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rescEU capacities and amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)⁴

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1310 of 31 July 2019 laying down rules on the operation of the European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU⁵.

In accordance with Article 26 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, actions receiving financial assistance under this Decision will be carried out in coherence with other financed actions supported from Union funds.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924.

² OJ L 77 I, 20.03.2019, p. 1.

³ OJ L 320, 6.11.2014, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 99, 10.4.2019, p. 41.

⁵ OJ L 204, 2.8.2019, p. 94–99

1.2. Budget line

06 05 01 - Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)

Implementation arrangements	Budget line 06 05 01- Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)
Grants	EUR 56 713 433
Procurement	EUR 11 495 500
Other actions and expenditures	EUR 5 007 500
TOTAL	EUR 73 216 433⁶

1.3. Objectives pursued

The **general objective** of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('Mechanism' or 'UCPM') is to strengthen the cooperation between the Union and the Member States and to 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. By doing so, the Mechanism aims to 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 2021.

Specific 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;
- To enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters;
- To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters;
- To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters.

1.4. 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 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, in line with the guidelines to be developed by the Commission and by the number/outcome of Member States

⁶ The total financial allocation for 2021 is composed of EUR 70 203 000 from the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), plus EUR 3 013 433 as Participating States estimated contributions. These additional amounts will supplement current allocations for civil protection activities included in the 2021 annual work programme.

participating in voluntary peer reviews on the assessment of risk management capabilities.

- 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 Mechanism and the extent to which the assistance contributes to the needs on the ground;
- 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;
- 5) Progress in improving the protection of citizens and critical infrastructure against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives incidents (CBRN-E) and emerging threats;
- 6) Support to the implementation of the Commission's Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) security risks (COM(2017) 610).

The indicated budget amounts, as earmarked for 2021, are for Member States⁷ and/or for countries eligible for funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession ('IPA countries')⁸ and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries⁹ and may, as indicated in Article 2 of the Financing Decision, be supplemented by contributions from the EEA countries and future acceding, candidate or potential candidate countries which have signed the appropriate agreement with the EU¹⁰.

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is **EUR 56 713 433**.

⁷ In light of Article 28(1a) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, where reference is made to Member States, it shall be understood as including Participating States as defined in Article 4(12) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

⁸ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Kosovo*. Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and North Macedonia are participating in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

⁹ Eastern Neighbourhood countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine**, Syria*** and Tunisia.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

*** EU cooperation with Syria is currently suspended due to the political situation; however, since in principle Syria is eligible for cooperation under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, activities may be taken up again once the situation improves.

¹⁰ In 2021 the States taking part in the UCPM include all EU Member States, as well as Iceland, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Turkey as Participating States. 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.

2.1. Disaster Risk Management

- 2.1.1. Prevention and preparedness for cross-border risks and for maritime emergencies including their impacts at-sea and on shore (“Track 2”)

Objectives

- To achieve a high level of protection against disasters with cross-border impacts by preventing or reducing their potential effects, by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection, maritime and other relevant services/stakeholders (Art. 3(1)(a) Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To enhance cooperation and coordination in the area of preparedness and response between authorities and stakeholders in Member States, IPA beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism, and/or European Neighbourhood Policy countries that share a border, based on existing cross-border or macro-regional agreements or strategies, including regional sea conventions.
- To promote the use of various Union funds (e.g. Interreg, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)) which may support sustainable cross-border disaster risk management and encourage relevant actors in the Member States and cross-border regions to exploit these funding opportunities.

(Article 1(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

Type of applicants targeted by call for proposals

Budget line 06 05 01 - Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)¹¹:

Public and/or private entities from Member States, including European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC) and international organisations. Proof of consultation with national level civil protection or maritime authorities of all countries benefitting from the projects is required.

Public and/or private entities from Member and non-Member States (IPA beneficiary not participating in the Mechanism and/or European Neighbourhood Policy country), including European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC) 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 the call for proposals

Prevention: Developing tools and frameworks for risk assessment and risk management including of critical infrastructure and cultural heritage. This includes, *inter alia*: data collection/analysis, support to decision-making tools, feasibility studies, risk maps, methodologies and science-based communication tools to improve understanding and management of cross-border and inter-dependent

¹¹ Under reserve of nomenclature changes. In case of application of the system of provisional twelfths, nomenclature should be aligned with the structure of the 2020 budget.

risks, including marine pollution.

Preparedness: Foundational works for developing/improving response capacities. This includes, *inter alia:* technical specifications and feasibility studies for improving multi-country or specialised response capacities; common strategies and operational approaches, small-scale exercises and training courses aimed at testing innovative disaster preparedness approaches/methodologies.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through a call for proposals (planned co-financed rate of up to 95% of eligible costs).

Expected results

- Enhanced cooperation, coordination and capability in the area of prevention, preparedness and response between civil protection, maritime authorities and other disaster risk management stakeholders in Member States, IPA II beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism, and/or European Neighbourhood Policy countries.
- Enhanced exchange of good practices, expertise and planning among all the actors involved in disaster risk management.
- Enhanced understanding of key shared risk(s) in Member States, IPA II beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism, and/or European Neighbourhood Policy countries that share a border, through a regional framework for risk assessment.
- Enhanced regional and inter-regional operational effectiveness and cooperation in case of a maritime emergency, including through communication, procedures and improved tools and strategies.
- Enhanced capability of and training for at-sea and shoreline responders.
- Enhanced cooperation and coordination between at-sea and shoreline response authorities in view of an integrated management of marine pollution accidents.

Expected outputs

- Recommendations based on a cross-border risk assessment and/or marine pollution sensitivity maps for national or appropriate sub-national level are developed.
- Feasibility studies for investments in cross-border prevention or preparedness measure(s) are developed.
- Capacity development activities including trainings and exercises are conducted; advanced training technology or methodology is developed.
- Regional anti-pollution manual/guideline is developed or upgraded.
- System(s) for detection and response to various pollutants are improved or developed.
- Joint at-sea and shoreline response plan(s) or an integrated tool for at-sea and shoreline response is developed.

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. Coherence and coordination with EU regional and national initiatives and programmes should be ensured (e.g. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, Prevention Preparedness and Response to Disasters South and East Programmes).

2.2. Capacities

2.2.1. The European Civil Protection Pool

<p>Objectives</p> <p>Develop a European Civil Protection Pool (ECP) consisting of a voluntary pool of pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and including modules, other response capacities and categories of experts.</p> <p>(Article 11 of Decision No 2013/1313/EU).</p>
<p>Type of applicants targeted by the grants awarded without a call for proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Member States' competent authorities or other entities authorised by the Member State to register 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.
<p>Description of the activities to be funded under direct grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">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.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.
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Direct implementation by DG ECHO through direct grants without call for proposals to be awarded to Member States or bodies designated by the Member States, in accordance with Article 195(c) and (d) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
<p>Expected results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased number of response capacities that meet the requirements for certification and registration in the European Civil Protection Pool, including the European Medical Corps.
<p>Expected outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 3 adaptation grants¹² to be contracted.

¹² Adaptation grants are defined in Art 21.2(c) of Decision No 2013/1313 and they cover up to 75% of the eligible “costs necessary to upgrade or repair responses capacities to a state of readiness and availability that makes them deployable as part of the European Civil Protection Pool [...]”.

2.2.2. 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 request and receive financial support from the Commission on behalf of that Member State for standby costs of national capacities registered for a transitional period of time as “rescEU”.

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 or bodies designated by Member States, without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 195(c) and (d) of the Financial Regulation (co-finance rate of 75% of stand-by costs).

The grant will be awarded against criteria that assess the relevance, adaptability, cost-efficiency, 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 ten forest fire fighting aircraft (airplanes and helicopters) from national fleets are made available as rescEU capacities.

2.2.3. 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, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (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.
- Enable cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats (such as cooperation between

the law enforcement, health and civil protection authorities).

(Article 12(2) of the Decision No 1313/2013/EU)

Type of applicants targeted by direct grants (without call for proposal)/ with 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 to Member States or bodies designated by Member States, with no call for proposals, in accordance with Article 195(c) and (d) of the Financial Regulation.

Taking into account that acquisition and recurrent costs of the aerial forest fire fighting capacities are very high¹³, the co-financing rate for the development of rescEU capacities in this area is set at 90% of the total estimated costs. Categories of costs that may be eligible in the calculation of the total estimated costs 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.

For rescEU capacities which are established to respond to low probability risks with a high impact, Union financial assistance shall cover 100% of the costs necessary to ensure their availability and deployability, in accordance with Article 21(4) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Expected results

- Response capacities to respond to specific risks made available to Member States for interventions within and outside the EU are increased.
- Cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats (such as cooperation between the law enforcement, health and civil protection authorities) is reinforced, and synergies with activities that already contribute to CBRN action plan are ensured.

Expected outputs

- Further development of response capacities, notably aerial forest fires fighting capacities, medical evacuation capacities.
- At least one new type of rescEU response capacity is developed at EU level in order to address at least one specific risk category.

¹³ Recital 19 of Decision (EU) 2019/420.

2.3. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

2.3.1. Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises

Objectives

- To improve civil protection preparedness and response to all kinds of disasters inside or outside the EU under the Union Mechanism.
- To provide an additional platform for the certification of response capacities registered to the European Civil Protection Pool and of rescEU capacities.
- To test and improve existing and/or new operational concepts and procedures.
- To establish a common approach for the coordination of assistance interventions under the Union Mechanism and reduce the response time in major disasters.
- To enhance cooperation between the civil protection, humanitarian aid and/or marine pollution services of Member States and the Commission.
- To identify and share lessons learnt from exercises as part of the UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme.
- To test the implementation of lessons identified under the UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme.

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

Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

- Public and/or private entities, including European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC), and international organisations. Proof of support from national civil protection authorities will be required.
- With the exception of international organisations, entities established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - Member States;
 - States participating in the Mechanism;
 - Eligible non-EU countries, i.e.:
 - IPA beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo.
 - European Neighbourhood Policy countries:
 - Eastern Neighbourhood: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
 - Southern Neighbourhood: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

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

- Full-scale exercises: design, plan, conduct and evaluate exercises with scenarios simulating the situation and conditions of all types of disasters calling for the activation of the Mechanism. These include, but are not limited to forest fires, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, marine pollution, medical, CBRN and multi-sectorial emergencies, inside or outside the EU. The exercise project could consist of a combination of different exercise types ranging from table top exercises (TTX) to command post exercises (CPX) with a full-scale exercise (FSX) in a multi-national scenario as main event of the project.
- Other table top or command-post exercises: design, plan, conduct and evaluate table top or

command post exercises simulating the situation and conditions of all types of disasters calling for the activation of the Mechanism. The topics covered can be the following:

- Cross-border: exercises involving two countries sharing a border plus a third one (as minimum), with a scenario depicting a cross-border situation to test cross-border procedures in place, host nation support and the UCPM.
- RescEU: exercises with a scenario calling for the activation of the Mechanism and testing the activation, deployment and coordination of rescEU capacities.
- Host nation support: exercises enhancing host nation support and implementing the EU Host Nation Support Guidelines for the Member States.

Coordination with or active participation of national civil protection or marine pollution authorities should be ensured for every activity. Activities should also address the cooperation with non-civil protection actors.

Countries will participate, through the ERCC, following established procedures (e.g. use of CECIS or CECIS Marine Pollution and activation of the Mechanism). Participants will include, among others: intervention teams (including modules), teams of assessment and/or coordination experts (EUCPT), technical experts, 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.

For projects under the external action (topic 2), coherence and coordination with EU regional and national initiatives and programmes should be ensured (e.g. IPA, PPRD South and East Programmes, the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence) as well as linkages with the international response coordination system, where appropriate.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through a call for proposals (planned co-financing rate of up to 85% of eligible costs).

Expected results

- Response capacity of Member States and the Mechanism 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, marine pollution, humanitarian actors and international organisations is improved.
- Procedures are improved and verified, the common approach for the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions is further improved 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 through the evaluations during the exercise and shared and disseminated through the Knowledge Network, as part of the UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme.

Expected outputs

- At least four Union Civil Protection Mechanism exercises are organised.

2.3.2. Network Partnership

Objectives

- To promote networks of civil protection and other relevant disaster management actors.
- To promote exchange of information, training, research and innovation, including the nexus with humanitarian assistance.
- To develop best practices, technical expertise in the fields of civil protection and disaster management.
- To build and capture new knowledge and practices from relevant civil protection and other relevant disaster management actors in the sectors covered by rescEU.
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the field of civil protection and disaster management, including climate change adaptation.
- To improve interoperability and capabilities of intervention teams, and test and validate concepts through experimentation.
- To enhance cooperation and synergies with humanitarian stakeholders involved in disaster response and preparedness activities.

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

- Public, private entities, including European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC), and international organisations. Proof of support with civil protection or disaster management national authorities will be required for all type of applicants.
- Entities and organisations that train, educate experts or carry out research or develop new technologies in specific civil protection areas.
- With the exception of international organisations, entities established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - Member States
 - States participating in the Mechanism
 - Eligible non-EU countries, i.e.:
 - IPA beneficiaries not participating in the Mechanism: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo.
 - European Neighbourhood Policy countries:
 - Eastern Neighbourhood: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
 - Southern Neighbourhood: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

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

- Specific courses/workshops for experts from Member States, IPA beneficiaries and European Neighbourhood Policy countries (civil protection, disaster management, marine pollution and other entities/authorities active in the UCPM), as well as from the Commission, other EU services and the UN who may participate in civil protection interventions on topics of relevance for UCPM .
- Development and organisation of training activities not already covered by UCPM training programme and other ad hoc training activities organised under the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

- Exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience.
- Research activities, innovative approaches, application of new technologies, development of concepts, studies and feasibility assessments.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for proposals (planned co-financing rate of up to 85% of eligible costs).

Expected results

- Response capacity of Member States is improved.
- Cooperation in disaster response among civil protection, disaster management, marine pollution, humanitarian actors and international organisations is improved.
- Networking between and among relevant civil protection and other disaster management actors is established and strengthened, involving also climate change adaptation practitioners as appropriate.
- Expertise is further developed in ad-hoc civil protection and disaster management areas.
- Lessons are identified and shared.

Expected outputs

- At least three projects are supported.

2.3.3. *Workshops with the Presidency of the Council of the EU*

Objectives

- To exchange knowledge and experience on specific strategic/operational civil protection issues and to discuss further civil protection activities organised in cooperation with the Slovenian and French Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

(Articles 5 and 8 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

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

- Public entities from Member States having a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly on the type of activity, due to its nature.

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 a direct grant without a call for proposals, in accordance with Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation (maximum co-finance rate of 75% of eligible costs).

Expected results

- Increased awareness and better understanding of strategic and operational civil protection challenges.

- Improved consensus among the main stakeholders from the Member States on strategic and operational civil protection issues.
- Improved awareness of synergies and linkages with other relevant policies (humanitarian aid, regional development, climate change adaptation, security, development cooperation etc.).
- Increased awareness and better understanding of Standard Operational Procedures in the area of civil protection and/or civil protection cross sectorial guidelines/procedures.

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).
- Meetings and/or workshops focused on particular civil protection policy areas.

2.4. Evidence-base and situational awareness

2.4.1. *Situational awareness, early warning systems, scientific and analytical support to operations*

Objectives

Enhance operational preparedness at Member States and Union level to respond to disasters, emergencies and crises including scientific and analytical support for situational awareness covering natural and man-made disasters (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) and CBRN risks (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

In particular, the activity will:

1. Develop and better integrate transnational detection and early warning, information and alert systems of European dimension in order to enable a rapid response (Article. 8(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) for natural and man-made disasters.
2. Promote the linkage between national early warning and information systems, the 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, as well as satellite imagery and information from remote sensing tools (Article 15(3)(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
4. Increase the availability and use of applied scientific and technical knowledge on natural and man-made disasters (Article 3 (e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU), including Climate Change and Adaptation/Mitigation, Applied Science for Disaster Risk Management, Comprehensive Security, Health, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) risks.
5. Develop and maintain partnerships for the application of science and technology for operational preparedness and disaster risk management (Article 3 (e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the grants envisaged

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

- Supporting and complementing UNESCO's efforts to establish the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (NEAMTWS), according to the European Council Conclusions of December 2007 (15479/07) and June 2008 (7562/08)¹⁴.
- Maintaining and further developing the enhanced European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership, as well as other relevant natural hazard scientific partnership, such as EUMETNET.
- Developing scientific partnerships related to man-made disasters, including health and biological, chemical or radiological and nuclear hazards.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

Direct grant awarded by DG ECHO to UN agencies in line with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

Expected results

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

- Support Member States and Participating States in improving and updating analysis, early warning and information infrastructure;
- Support the operational transfer of the results of the “*Tsunami Last Mile pilot project*” within the framework of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (NEAMTWS).

Regarding objectives (3), (4) and (5), expected results include:

- ERCC support forecast, estimate scale and severity of a disaster, identify priorities, and ensure synergies and complementarity between Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid and post-emergency support such as the EU Solidarity Fund, as well as an improved situational awareness as regards the security situation at places of deployment.
- A pilot European Man-Made Scientific partnership to also provide services related to other hazards, for example Chemical, Radiological/Nuclear, Biological and Health hazards.
- Establish connections between scientific institutes covering Chemical, Radiological/Nuclear, Biological and Health hazards to encourage cooperation on current and future disaster risk management.

¹⁴ Following the disastrous 2004 tsunami, in which over 230,000 lives were lost around the Indian Ocean region, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was mandated by its Member States to facilitate the expansion of global coverage of Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems (TWS), and to coordinate the establishment of the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (NEAMTWS). The twenty-third Session (21-30 June 2005) of the IOC Assembly formally established the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (NEAMTWS). At European Union level, the need to develop the NEAMTWS was recognized in the European Council Conclusions of December 2007 (15479/07) on the development and establishment of Early Warning Systems in the EU, on the establishment of an Early Warning System for tsunamis in the North-East Atlantic and the Mediterranean region, and in the Council Conclusions on Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity – towards an integrated approach to managing disasters of June 2008 (7562/08).

Expected outputs

Regarding objectives (1) and (2):

- Reinforced national early warning, information and analysis systems, and enhanced connections with the ERCC;
- An expanded and reinforced Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (NEAMTWS).

Regarding objectives (3), (4) and (5):

- Availability of scientific expert advice upon request to States participating in the UCPM available through the established network of scientific experts to better use scientific knowledge in relation to early warning, disaster management technologies as well as risk assessments, prevention and planning, resilience and reconstruction.

3. PROCUREMENT

The budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2021 amounts to **EUR 11 495 500**.

3.1. Evidence-base and situational awareness

3.1.1. *Strengthening the evidence base for disaster risk management*

Objectives

- To improve the knowledge base on and management of disaster risks, including the implications of climate change on such risks, economic analysis of prevention and preparedness, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information, including among Member States that share common risks, including in the field of education and awareness raising.
- To support and promote Member States risk assessment and mapping activities.
- Contribute to and support better understanding of disaster risks, vulnerabilities, risk management capabilities, socio-economic benefits of resilience at EU and national levels.
- To strengthen disaster risk management knowledge and seek possible prevention opportunities in light of future policy developments (such as the next 2021-2027 programming period).
- 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.

(Article 5(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

Studies, reports, evaluations.

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:

- Calls for tender and existing/new framework contracts.
- Expert contracts.

Expected results

- Improved knowledge base on disaster risks, including loss data, use of climate change projections for disaster risk management planning, implications of climate change on disaster risks, economic aspects of prevention and preparedness and financial resilience.
- Improved knowledge of vulnerabilities, potential large-scale disaster scenarios with high impact on several Member States, and disaster resilience building needs and directions. Evaluation of guidelines for and practices of risk assessment and mapping for disaster risk management¹⁵, with a view of improving the support and promotion of Member States risk assessment and mapping activities.
- Better use of scientific evidence, prevention and preparedness project results, Horizon 2020 security research project results and other and relevant data, including innovation in disaster risk prevention and management and synergies with climate change adaptation.
- Better exchange of applied innovative knowledge, risk assessment tools, risk awareness raising, prevention measures, economic analysis and cross-border cooperation on disaster risk management.
- Improved understanding of risk prevention and land use in the context of just transition.
- Improved knowledge on the impact of the past UCPM projects and regional programmes (IPA, PPRD South and PPRD East), identifying gaps and needs for future activities in the regions.
- Recommendations for initial steps needed to green EU Civil Protection.

Expected outputs

- Technical report presenting the overview of national submissions due in December 2020 under Article 6.1(d) of Decision No 1313/2013.
- Support to an evaluation of guidelines for and practices of risk assessment and mapping for disaster risk management, including review of risk assessment methodologies and other guidance available.
- Support to the exchange of applied innovative knowledge, including on risk assessment tools, risk awareness raising, prevention measures, economic analysis and cross-border cooperation on disaster risk management.
- Multimedia report for disseminating the key messages of the “*Economics of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness*” study and making them accessible to large audiences.
- A report with recommendations on how to initiate the greening of EU Civil Protection.

3.1.2. *Situational Awareness, early warning systems, scientific and analytical support to operations*

Objectives

Enhance operational preparedness at Member States and Union level to respond to disasters, emergencies and crises including scientific and analytical support for situational awareness covering natural and man-made disasters (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) and CBRN risks (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

In particular, the activity will aim to:

1. Develop and better integrate transnational detection and early warning, information and alert systems of European dimension in order to enable a rapid response (Article 8(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) for natural and man-made disasters.

¹⁵ EFFAS, EFIS, EDO, GDO, GWIS and GLOFAS are part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

2. Promote the linkage between national early warning and information systems, the 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, as well as satellite imagery and information from remote sensing tools (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, as well as satellite imagery and information from remote sensing tools, 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. Increase the availability and use of applied scientific and technical knowledge on natural and man-made disasters (Article 3 (e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU), including Climate Change and Adaptation/Mitigation, Applied Science for Disaster Risk Management, Comprehensive Security, Health, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) risks.
6. Develop and maintain partnerships for the application of science and technology for operational preparedness and disaster risk management (Article 3(e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Maintaining, updating and further developing real-time hazard modelling systems, alerting systems, impact assessment systems, databases, decisions support systems databases, hardware infrastructure and software; further strengthening of the ERCC's scientific, technical mapping and analytical capacity, including lessons learnt tools in order to ensure that the ERCC fulfils its tasks.
- Supporting and complementing EU Member States' efforts to establish national public warning system in light of the obligation under Article 110(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
- Maintaining and further developing the enhanced European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership, as well as other relevant natural hazard scientific partnership, such as EUMETNET.
- Developing scientific partnerships related to man-made disasters, including health and biological, chemical or radiological and nuclear hazards.
- Supporting the setting-up of an applied science expert group based on existing initiatives and structures within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tender/existing framework contracts under the European Scientific Partnerships initiative.
- Specific contracts using existing framework contracts.

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. The European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), the European Forest Fire System (EFFIS), the European

Drought Observatory (EDO), the Global Flood Awareness System (GLOFAS), the Global Wildfire System (GWIS) and the Global Drought Observatory (GDO)¹⁶ and Meteoalarm, which provide fast, accurate and reliable information to enable rapid responses, are strengthened through improvements e.g. filling existing gaps such as flash flooding and integrating systems such as GLOFAS, GWIS and GDO into GDACS. European Detection and Alert Systems such as GDACS are further strengthened through improvements including integrating innovative technologies including satellite related technologies to provide 24/7 continuous scientific and analytical support and databases.

- Promoting the integration between the various platforms and systems and enhancing synergies with existing global systems including satellite based systems such as the future Galileo Emergency Warning Service (GEWS).

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 and post-emergency support such as the EU Solidarity Fund, as well as an improved situational awareness as regards the security situation at places of deployment.
- The European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership continues to provide 24/7 emerging reporting services to the ERCC consisting of multi-hazard scientific expert judgement in forecasting events or in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster, as well as a monitoring service three times a week.
- A pilot European Man-made Scientific partnership to also provide services related to other hazards, for example Chemical, Radiological/Nuclear, Biological and Health hazards.

Regarding objectives (5) and (6), expected results include:

- Establish connections between scientific institutes covering Chemical, Radiological/Nuclear, Biological and Health hazards to encourage cooperation on current and future disaster risk management.
- Establish a governance structure for the envisaged scientific expert network within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.
- Encourage cooperation amongst scientific experts to support EU Member States in developing and further enhancing national early warning systems including public warning system, promoting amongst others available space related services such as Galileo Emergency Warning System Service.

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

¹⁶ EFFAS, EFIS, EDO, GDO, GWIS and GLOFAS are part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

early warning system working group meetings.

- The interlinkages between the ERCC portal, the field reporting tool and the relevant European Union Emergency Information and Communication System e.g. ARGUS, IPCR and CECIS, are established, maintained and further strengthened ensuring adequate security level.

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 including the security situation at potential places of deployment, 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, and post-emergency support such as the EU Solidarity Fund.
- Elaboration, provision and dissemination of analytical briefs and 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.
- Scientific Monitoring reports are available 3 times a week and followed by a teleconference with scientific experts.

Regarding objective (5) and (6):

- Sharing experience and best practice to support EU Member States fulfilling their legal obligation established by Article 110(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
- Calibrating the Galileo Emergency Warning Service to the need of the EU Member States.
- Establishment of the applied science expert group.
- Availability of scientific expert advice upon request to States participating in the UCPM available through the established network of scientific experts to better use scientific knowledge in relation to early warning, disaster management technologies, as well as risk assessments, prevention and planning, resilience and reconstruction¹⁷.

3.2. Peer reviews, prevention and preparedness (advisory) missions

Objectives

- To provide advice on prevention and preparedness measures, (Article 5(2), and Article 13(3) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
- To provide advice on prevention and preparedness measures, (Article 6(4)(b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

Deployment of expert teams tailored to respond to specific punctual needs and problems identified by the requesting country on a variety of prevention and preparedness topics. The main deliverable consists of a written report with recommendations and advice to the requesting country.

¹⁷ In the event that scientific experts are deployed, the deployment shall follow the regular procedure for expert deployments following an activation of the UCPM.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Existing framework contracts.

Expected results

- Recommendations to inform requesting countries prevention, preparedness, recovery and reconstructions strategies in non-emergency contexts and post-emergency situations, including on how to build resilience to future disasters.
- Cooperation between the Union, national civil protection authorities from the requesting countries and other disaster management actors, humanitarian actors among them, promoting a common understanding of prevention and preparedness subjects, including implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Improvement of the knowledge base on and state of disaster preparedness and prevention and facilitation of the sharing of knowledge, best practices and information.

Expected outputs

- Four missions, within and outside the Union, providing prevention and preparedness recommendations.

3.3. 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 and technical support.
- 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.
- Service contract for a study on development of ERCC, both to enhance its support and coordination role, including drawing on lessons learnt during COVID-19 response and in line with the mission letter of the Commissioner for Crisis Management as well as to identify and analyse existing standards, legislation and requirements related to labour, ergonomics, infrastructure and IT, telecommunications, health and safety in the workplace in the context of 24/7 operational capacity across EU Member States in order to enhance interoperability of the ERCC with its counterparts.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- For 24/7 duty capacity and technical support, existing framework contracts.
- For acquisition and maintenance of ERCC equipment, existing framework contracts and calls for tender, when appropriate.
- For study on ERCC, call for tender or 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.

3.4. Capacities

3.4.1. *The European Civil Protection Pool*

Objectives

- Establish a European Civil Protection Pool consisting of a pool of voluntarily pre-committed response capacities of the Member States and include modules, other response capacities and categories of experts (Article 11 of Decision 2013/1313/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Certification: Training courses, workshops, seminars, expert group meetings will be organised to complement core certification activities and further improve the quality assurance of the European Civil Protection Pool. The Commission covers most of the costs incurred for these events, such as travel costs of external participants, the cost of renting meeting rooms, the catering and other related costs, and outsources the service of handling the logistical arrangements. Additionally, where necessary, a daily allowance will also be provided to peer certifiers in relation to their involvement in exercises. To enhance the visibility of the ECPP and the certification, visibility material will be procured and distributed to ECPP capacities and certifiers.
- Studies: One or more 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

Expected results

- Peer certifiers are informed of new UCPM developments, and in particular for what concerns certification of Pool capacities.
- New peer certifiers trained.
- Lessons and feedback from certification activities are collected and analysed.

- Main priorities for the coming year regarding the technical aspects of the development and management of the European Civil Protection Pool are identified.
- Enhanced visibility of the ECPP certification.

Expected outputs

- At least 4 events organised.
- At least one new study launched.
- Tailored visibility material procured and distributed.

3.5. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

3.5.1. Training & Exchange of Experts

Objectives

- Enhance coordination, compatibility, interoperability and complementarity between capacities and to improve the competence of experts.
- To improve the effectiveness of transnational cooperation through the Mechanism by improving and increasing the knowledge and experience of the experts involved and enabling them to attend specific courses not available in their home country or to organise such courses in a host country.

(Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU and Articles 26 and 29 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- To implement the UCPM Training Programme.
- To design and implement a series of ad-hoc trainings and thematic seminars and workshops as part of the UCPM Training Programme, to respond to emerging risks and needs on a more continuous basis.
- To organise exchanges and short-term placements of experts.

The specific ad-hoc training courses and the thematic seminars and workshops will be accessible to experts from Member States and UCPM Participating States (civil protection, marine pollution and other entities/authorities active in the UCPM), the European 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, in particular, in the targeted thematic seminars and workshops. Participation of experts from IPA countries not participating in the Mechanism and European Neighbourhood Policy countries, where possible and in coordination with existing EU regional programmes.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Existing contracts (UCPM Training Programme)
- Call for tenders
- Renewal of existing contract (Exchange of Experts programme).

Expected results

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of experts and stakeholders involved in UCPM prevention, preparedness and response missions.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of experts and relevant stakeholders on topics linked to the emerging needs and risks and other thematic areas and subject matters of relevance for the UCPM.
- Reinforced use of different e-learning options and virtual meetings in the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme.

Expected outputs

- A framework for designing and providing new ad-hoc and thematic training courses and workshops and related events is put in place and relevant contracts are signed.
- The Exchange of Experts contract is extended.

3.5.2. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

Objectives

- To establish a network of relevant civil protection and other disaster management actors and institutions, universities and researchers, forming together with the Commission a Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. The Commission shall take due account of existing structures, notably the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, and the expertise available in the Member States and the organisations active on the ground, (Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Development and day-to-day management of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network ('Knowledge Network'), including:
 - Coordination and meetings of the governance bodies of the Knowledge Network.
 - Secretariat, technical, administrative and logistic support, knowledge management.
- Knowledge management, communication, dissemination, and collaborative activities.
- Workshops and networking opportunities of relevant civil protection and other disaster management actors and institutions, universities and researchers, as well as beneficiaries of relevant EU-funded projects.
- Expertise that enables the Knowledge Network to call upon and produce guidance and recommendations on topical (e.g. pandemics) and emerging challenges and identified knowledge gaps.

Implementation¹⁸

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

¹⁸ Currently under discussion with Member States, the establishment and organisation of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network will be substantiated by means of an Implementing Act, which may provide further details regarding the implementation mode.

- Specific contracts under existing Framework contracts.
- Call for tenders.

Expected results

- The Knowledge Network and its governance structure is formally launched as the structure bringing consistency across the various preparedness activities, including platform moderation and secretariat functions.
- Scientific knowledge linked to civil protection and disaster management needs is made available, notably through the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre. Under the Knowledge Network, training activities and exercises are more closely linked and strategically contribute to better knowledge, lessons and expertise sharing, skills and capacity development, as well as coordination and collaboration.
- Building on existing platforms and initiatives, and with an aim to streamline information and knowledge sharing, an online collaborative platform begins to support knowledge management, sharing and dissemination, as well as collaboration, and stimulates research and innovation.
- Communication and awareness raising activities provide relevant, easily accessible and regularly updated information to civil protection and other disaster management actors: news, events, lessons, good practices and innovative approaches from across Europe and beyond.
- The Knowledge Network's convening function is enhanced, and workshops and networking opportunities are developed and organised for civil protection and other disaster management actors (face to face and online).
- Collaboration and partnership is strengthened among beneficiaries of the Network Partnership call, as well as between project beneficiaries and the wider civil protection and disaster management community.
- The Knowledge Network flexibly generates expertise and knowledge on issues of particular interest to the civil protection community, with a particular focus on knowledge gaps and the implementation and practical use of findings.

Expected outputs

- One event is organised to launch the Knowledge Network and inaugural meetings are organised for the governance bodies.
- The operating rules and the work plan of the Knowledge Network are adopted.
- Workshops are organised, to support networking, the sharing of lessons, best practices, and innovative approaches.
- Communication and awareness raising activities are developed and launched to allow civil protection and other disaster management actors easy access to the latest relevant information and knowledge.
- Lessons and best practices from the Network Partnership projects are disseminated to the wider civil protection and disaster management community.

3.5.3. Exercises on Civil Protection Modules, Technical Assistance and Support Teams and EU Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT)

Objectives

- To enhance the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism by ensuring improved compatibility and interoperability (Article 9(2)(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) between the intervention teams and other intervention support, as

well as by developing the competence of the experts involved.

- To provide an opportunity to test the capacity, capability and competence of EU civil protection capacities and experts.
- To provide a suitable platform for the certification process of modules, technical assistance and support teams, other response capacities and civil protection experts for the European Civil Protection Pool.
- To provide a suitable platform for the INSARAG International External Reclassification (IER).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Design, plan, conduct and evaluate field and table top exercises for civil protection modules, other response capacities, technical assistance and support teams (TAST) registered in CECIS and/or in the European Civil Protection Pool and/or rescEU, as well as the experts of the European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT). The design of the exercises shall focus on seven main objectives: coordination, interoperability, self-sufficiency, standard operating procedures (SOP), communication and reporting, safety and security, and the specific learning objectives of participants. It also takes into account the results of evaluations of previous exercises and lessons learned from other civil protection activities.
- Development of a specific modules field and table top exercise for marine pollution capacities to better align and integrate them into the UCPM disaster response architecture.
- Development and implementation of a training of trainers programme for MODEX.
- Development and implementation of virtual reality simulation to enhance the learning opportunity and to improve the exercise experience for participants.

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tenders.
- Framework contracts.

Expected results

- Better prepared intervention teams and experts of Member/Participating States for international deployments under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.
- Enhanced coordination and interoperability of modules, TAST, other response capacities, and EUCPT, and with other actors involved during an international deployment.
- Better aligned and integrated marine pollution capacities into the UCPM architecture.

Expected outputs

- A total of 29 exercises are designed, planned and a number of them conducted (8 table top exercises, 3 water related exercises, 1 CBRN exercise, 6 USAR exercises, 2 EUCPT Team Leaders exercises, 2 forest fire exercises, 1 marine pollution exercise).
- At least 80 certification slots are provided.
- Training of Trainers programme is developed and implemented.
- Virtual reality products are developed for modules exercises.

3.5.4. Union Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises

Objectives

- To improve the response capacity of Member States, in particular with regard to response teams,

modules and other capacities provided in assistance missions under the Union Mechanism, based on major risks in Europe, Neighbourhood and Enlargement, as well as outside Europe, based on high risk prone countries and UCPM activations.

- To improve coordination platforms 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, including all stakeholders in the field.
- To enhance cooperation between the civil protection services and other relevant stakeholder in Member States, EU and target countries outside Europe.
- To enhance awareness raising of EU emergency response tools and the UCPM.
- To improve procedures on the functioning of the UCPM and other related tools, including Host Nation Support.
- To identify and share lessons learnt from exercises and real emergencies.
- 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 exercises (TTX) with the host nation support (HNS) as main topic (hereafter HNS TTX) in countries outside of Europe for key actors of the UCPM response and its main interlocutors at European, national and international levels. The exercises will address all relevant stakeholders, including EU Delegations, ECHO field offices, EU MS embassies, national disasters management authorities and coordination platforms (including Ministries of Foreign Affairs).

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tenders.

Expected results

- Response capacity of Member States is improved, in particular with regard to teams and other assets provided in civil protection and maritime emergency assistance interventions, through the preparation of an improvement plan at the end of the exercise.
- Proposal for a revised HNS concept, which include enlarged target groups and covers also other emergency response tools.
- Cooperation in disaster response among civil protection and other national disaster management stakeholders, EU institutions, humanitarian actors and international organisations is improved in selected regions and countries.
- Operational recommendations for other regions are elaborated based on lessons learned from emergencies and exercises.
- Increased awareness of UCPM and other emergency response tools within EUD, EU MS embassies and stakeholders at both national and regional levels.
- Procedures are improved and verified, the 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 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 scenarios.
- At least two TTX organised.

3.6. Communication

Objectives

- To raise awareness and endorsement among the general public on the Union's civil protection activities and to make tangible results of those activities taken more visible.
- To inform the civil protection community and involve them actively as multipliers towards their national or local constituencies.
- To give appropriate visibility to the Union and to contribute to the Commission's corporate communication narrative.

(Article 20a(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the communication activities envisaged

- General communication activities on civil protection and disaster risk management (e.g. awareness campaigns towards the civil protection community and the general public; social media activities; dissemination of videos, publications, etc.).
- Specific communication activities around concrete UCPM/rescEU operations and activations (media communication, social media), in close cooperation with the contributing and receiving countries.
- Using consistently the Union emblem on those capacities committed to the European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU, as well as civil protection operations funded under the ESI, and on all related communication tools developed by the Member States and Participating States.

Implementation

- Communication activities will be prepared by DG ECHO's communication unit with the support of external service providers. For the latter, specific procurement contracts will be signed, where possible under relevant Framework contracts of DG Communication (to be confirmed and pending DG Communication agreement).
- For the communication at national and local level, DG ECHO will closely follow-up the obligation for Member States and Participating States to give the required visibility to the EU's funding.

Expected results

- Greater awareness of the Union's civil protection operations among the general public, in particular in the contributing and receiving countries.
- Greater awareness and active engagement/endorsement among the civil protection community.
- Positive impact on the overall perception of the Union and its new Recovery plan.

Expected outputs

- Communication products finalised and disseminated on social and traditional media channels both at the corporate EU level and in the Member States:
 - Active dissemination of online publications and social media material.
 - Regular press communication on the performance of the Union Civil Protection, rescEU and civil protection assistance funded by the Emergency Support Instrument.
 - Audio-visual productions.
 - Targeted advertising and content placement, addressing the civil protection community and/or the general public in specific countries and regions in the EU.
 - Topical media communication by the Commissioner and/or by the partners in the Member States, linked to concrete operations.
 - Visual EU branding of the EU funded assets and operations managed by the Member States and Participating States.

3.7. Lessons learnt, policy support & meetings, technical workshops

Objectives

- Preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the achievement of its objectives. Such expenditures may, in particular, cover: studies, meetings of experts (including task team meetings or expert meetings for rescEU), 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).
- Set up and manage a programme of lessons learnt from civil protection activities conducted within the framework of the Union Mechanism (the UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme) including aspects from the entire disaster management cycle (prevention, preparedness and response), as well as horizontal elements linked to disaster risk management, in order to provide a broad basis for learning processes and knowledge development, (Article 13(1)(d) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU). This programme is to coordinate all activities related to the identification, dissemination and implementation of lessons and good practices conducted in the framework of the UCPM.

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Technical meetings on disaster management, including: forest fire season preparedness, European Burns Plan, development of rescEU capacities, lessons learnt, CECIS trainings, research and forest fire support teams during summer months and the special consultation mechanism established to enhance appropriate prevention and preparedness planning and coordination.
- Policy meetings on disaster management, including expert groups or task team meetings (e.g. disaster prevention and risk management, capacities and certification, training policy, Host Nation Support guidelines, marine pollution).
- Intersectoral meetings with Member States' experts to develop a common framework for hybrid resilience to mass casualty incidents.
- Meetings of UCPM Directors-General.
- Meeting of Civil Protection Directors-General or experts groups involving EU Neighbourhood Policy countries and/or countries covered by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.
- Studies or evaluations covering regional activities in the Neighbourhood/IPA countries.

- Creation of the virtual reality linked directly with e-learning module, which would enable ERCC to substitute physical visits during the period when visits due to COVID-19 restriction are put on hold.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Framework contracts.
- Service level agreement with SCIC for the organisation of events/seminars.
- Service level agreement with DIGIT and the possibility to invest in IT for webinar, meetings, etc. in the context of travel restrictions.

Expected results

- Level of preparedness for the forest fire season 2021 is increased.
- Enhanced appropriate prevention and preparedness planning and coordination.
- Cooperation between Member States and EU Neighbourhood Policy countries and/or countries covered by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance 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.
- Uptake of security research projects for operations is improved.
- Capacity of countries requesting UCPM advice on prevention and preparedness is improved.
- Identification of lessons and good practices from UCPM activations, as well as horizontal activities derived from disaster risk management actions (prevention and preparedness activities).
- Dissemination of identified lessons and good practices amongst civil protection authorities and other relevant stakeholders.
- Awareness raising on the UCPM activities.

Expected outputs

- Joint Member States' 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 Protection Committee.
- 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 Member States and the ERCC.
- 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.
- Orientation workshops (webinars) on Track 1 and Track 2 grants.
- Virtual reality linked directly with e-learning module (special hardware -equipment in the ERCC and software with subscription).

3.8. IT support systems

Objectives

- Manage and upgrade as necessary a Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS and CECIS Marine Pollution) 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 disasters within the Union, notification of disasters to Member States.
- Establish and maintain 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)(e) and (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).
- Promote inter-linkage and ensure sustainability of web page regional programs IPA and European Neighbourhood countries.

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Service contracts to support administration and evolving maintenance of CECIS, CECIS Marine Pollution and other IT platform (e.g. e-Grant), online helpdesk and support services.
- Management/further development of CECIS and CECIS Marine Pollution software platforms, hardware and specialised equipment; CECIS hosting and related assistance.
- Management of future IPA and PPRD South and East platform.
- Service contracts to support the development and maintenance of a Civil Protection Data Repository.
- Service contracts to support the development and maintenance of a platform allowing the management of transport grants.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Call for tenders or framework contracts.
- 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 coordinate 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.
- A better link between CECIS Marine Pollution and other maritime support systems managed by the European Maritime Safety Agency
- 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.
- The Civil Protection Data Repository, an intuitive database to extract data from various sources, making information easily available. This tool will link all the different platforms and systems (in particular CECIS and the ERCC Portal).

Expected outputs

- CECIS downtime and recovery time is less than 48 hours without data loss.
- An IT application to interface CECIS information with other information tools (e.g. ERCC portal, Member States contact details for capacities and in different working groups, Vademecum, etc.) is developed (set of data to be shared will be defined in collaboration with users).
- The optimization the information management process by consolidating data and by making it easily available and more user-friendly.
- 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. OTHER ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

The budgetary envelope reserved for other actions and expenditures amounts to **EUR 5 007 500**.

4.1. Situational Awareness, early warning systems, scientific and analytical support to operations

Amount

EUR 3 750 000

Objectives

Enhance operational preparedness at Member States and Union level to respond to disasters, emergencies and crises including scientific and analytical support for situational awareness covering natural and man-made disasters (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) and CBRN risks (Specific Objective 2, Article 3 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

In particular, the activity will aim to:

7. Develop and better integrate transnational detection and early warning, information and alert systems of European dimension in order to enable a rapid response (Article. 8(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU) for natural and man-made disasters.
8. Promote the linkage between national early warning and information systems, the 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).
9. 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, as well as satellite imagery and information from remote sensing tools (Article 15(3)(c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).
10. Make recommendations, when possible in cooperation with the affected country, based on the needs on the ground and any relevant pre-developed plans, as well as satellite imagery and information from remote sensing tools, 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).
11. Increase the availability and use of applied scientific and technical knowledge on natural and man-made disasters (Article 3 (e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU), including Climate Change and Adaptation/Mitigation, Applied Science for Disaster Risk Management, Comprehensive Security, Health, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) risks.

12. Develop and maintain partnerships for the application of science and technology for operational preparedness and disaster risk management (Article 3 (e) Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Maintaining, updating and further developing real-time hazard modelling systems, alerting systems, impact assessment systems, databases, decisions support systems databases, hardware infrastructure and software; further strengthening of the ERCC's scientific, technical mapping and analytical capacity, including lessons learnt tools in order to ensure that the ERCC fulfils its tasks.
- Supporting and complementing EU Member States' efforts to establish national public warning system in light of the obligation under Article 110(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
- Developing scientific partnerships related to man-made disasters, including health and biological, chemical or radiological and nuclear hazards.
- Supporting the setting-up of an applied science expert group based on existing initiatives and structures within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Administrative Arrangement or similar cooperation modalities¹⁹ with the European Commission Services such as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

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. The European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), the European Forest Fire System (EFFIS), the European Drought Observatory (EDO), the Global Flood Awareness System (GLOFAS), the Global Wildfire System (GWIS) and the Global Drought Observatory (GDO)²⁰ and Meteoalarm, which provide fast, accurate and reliable information to enable rapid responses, are strengthened through improvements e.g. filling existing gaps such as flash flooding and integrating systems such as GLOFAS, GWIS and GDO into GDACS. European Detection and Alert Systems such as GDACS are further strengthened through improvements including integrating innovative technologies including satellite related technologies to provide 24/7 continuous scientific and analytical support and databases.
- Promoting the integration between the various platforms and systems and enhancing synergies with existing global systems including satellite based systems such as the future Galileo Emergency Warning Service (GEWS).
- Decision Support Systems (DSS) such as the Forest Fire DSS support the emergency decision-making process when deploying UCPM capacities.

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

- ERCC and Member States are able to establish comprehensive situational awareness of a given

¹⁹ As an example, a tri-partite Agreement currently under preparation between DGs DEFIS, ECHO and JRC, cover the implementation and financial support of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service under the MFF 2021-2027.

²⁰ EFFAS, EFIS, EDO, GDO, GWIS and GLOFAS are part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

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 and post-emergency support such as the EU Solidarity Fund, as well as an improved situational awareness as regards the security situation at places of deployment.

Regarding objectives (5) and (6), expected results include:

- Establish connections between scientific institutes covering Chemical, Radiological/Nuclear, Biological and Health hazards to encourage cooperation on current and future disaster risk management.
- Establish a governance structure for the envisaged scientific expert network within the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.
- Encourage cooperation amongst scientific experts to support EU Member States in developing and further enhancing national early warning systems including public warning system, promoting amongst others available space related services such as Galileo Emergency Warning System Service.

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.
- The interlinkages between the ERCC portal, the field reporting tool and the relevant European Union Emergency Information and Communication System e.g. ARGUS, IPCR and CECIS, are established, maintained and further strengthened ensuring adequate security level.

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 including the security situation at potential places of deployment, 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, and post-emergency support such as the EU Solidarity Fund.
- Elaboration, provision and dissemination of analytical briefs and deployment plans to UCPM Member States in the case of activations of the UCPM.

Regarding objectives (4):

- 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) and (6):

- Sharing experience and best practice to support EU Member States fulfilling their legal obligation established by Article 110(1) of Directive (EU) 2018/1972.
- Calibrating the Galileo Emergency Warning Service to the need of the EU Member States.
- Establishment of the applied science expert group.
- Availability of scientific expert advice upon request to States participating in the UCPM available through the established network of scientific experts to better use scientific knowledge in relation to early warning, disaster management technologies, as well as risk assessments, prevention and planning, resilience and reconstruction²¹.

4.2. Training & Exchange of Experts

Amount

EUR 120 000

Description

Objectives

- Enhance coordination, compatibility, interoperability and complementarity between capacities and to improve the competence of experts.
- To improve the effectiveness of transnational cooperation through the Mechanism by improving and increasing the knowledge and experience of the experts involved and enabling them to attend specific courses not available in their home country or to organise such courses in a host country.

(Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU and Articles 26 and 29 of Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- To maintain and further develop the online UCPM Training and Exercises Programme registration tool and the expert database in the framework of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

Implementation

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Administrative Arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

²¹ In the event that scientific experts are deployed, the deployment shall follow the regular procedure for expert deployments following an activation of the UCPM.

Expected results

- Strengthened Training and Exercises registration system (used by the national authorities, European Commission, national training centres, etc.) for experts' database and registration to the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme and improved monitoring and support mechanism for experts' learning and development across the UCPM training path.

Expected outputs

- The Training and Exercises Programme online registration tool and expert database are operational and launched for use by the Training and Exercises Programme. Different virtual meetings and e-learning options used and tested in the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme.

4.3. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

Amount

EUR 800 000

Description

Objectives

- To establish a network of relevant civil protection and other disaster management actors and institutions, universities and researchers, forming together with the Commission a Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. The Commission shall take due account of existing structures, notably the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, and the expertise available in the Member States and the organisations active on the ground, (Article 13 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU).

General description of the contracts envisaged

- Knowledge management, communication, dissemination, and collaborative activities, including the development, hosting and management of an IT platform.

Implementation²²

Direct implementation by DG ECHO through:

- Service level agreement with DIGIT.

Expected results

- Building on existing platforms and initiatives, and with an aim to streamline information and knowledge sharing, an online collaborative platform begins to support knowledge management, sharing and dissemination, as well as collaboration, and stimulates research and innovation.

Expected outputs

- The Knowledge Network's online collaborative platform is developed and launched to support knowledge management, sharing and dissemination, as well as dissemination and collaboration.

²² Currently under discussion with Member States, the establishment and organisation of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network will be substantiated by means of an Implementing Act, which may provide further details regarding the implementation mode.

4.4. Civil Protection Forum and/or mini-series

Amount

EUR 337 500

Objectives:

- To gather civil protection practitioners in a safe format throughout the year, and work together on topical issues related to the four policy axes foreseen in the agenda of the European Civil Protection Forum.

General description of the communication activities envisaged

Work with in-house experts on communication and undertake virtual outreach activities. Support the organisation of the seventh edition of the European Civil Protection Forum.

Implementation

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

Expected results

- Civil Protection practitioners will exchange information and have the possibility to share lessons learnt from their latest activities.

Expected outputs

- Feedback from each session will feed into the content of the European Civil Protection Forum workshops.
- Network of civil protection practitioners is informed about latest development in civil protection.