



European  
Commission

# 7<sup>th</sup> European Civil Protection Forum 2022 Final Report

#EUCivPro  
#CPForum

## Towards faster, greener and smarter emergency management



photographer: Petar Starčević



European Civil Protection Forum | Brussels 28-29 June 2022

Towards faster, greener & smarter emergency management

Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid



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## Introduction

Over the last 15 years, the European Civil Protection Forum has become an important European gathering of practitioners and decision-makers in the field of civil protection. These include representatives from the civil protection and disaster management community, governments local, regional and national, civil protection authorities, EU institutions, the private sector, scientific communities, experts, international partner organisations, first responders and various other stakeholders.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum, organised by the European Commission, took place on 28 and 29 June 2022 in Brussels. It was the first edition after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time of war, destruction, and immense suffering in Ukraine. Therefore, it served as a timely platform for a joint reflection on the current and future role of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, whose success story is globally acknowledged.

Under the overarching theme “Towards faster, greener & smarter emergency management” and with the facilitation support of Dave Keating as Master of Ceremony, the Forum was structured around four policy axes. Each of these four policy axes was tackled through the prevention, preparedness and response angles, via a combination of plenary sessions and workshops. A high-level opening session and a special plenary session on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine provided additional strategic steering to the discussions.

Alongside the Forum, indoor and outdoor exhibitions showcased innovative solutions and best practices in the field of Civil Protection.

Finally, this edition was also notable for the first award of medals for long-standing commitment and extraordinary contributions to the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

[Watch the highlights of the Forum here \(closing video\)](#)

DG ECHO European Civil Protection Forum Organising Team

Maarten VERGAUWEN, Raluca MURG, Anna BATTISTUTTA

**REGISTRATIONS** 1067

<b>883 (83%)</b>	<b>184 (17%)</b>
<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>ONSITE</b>

**ATTENDANCE**



**TOTAL IN PERSON  
ATTENDANCE:**  
881



**GENDER BALANCE**

## 1. STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE - Preparing for extreme weather events

Climate change is exacerbating the intensity and severity of disasters whose impact can now be felt in previously unaffected regions. Climate change is modifying risks, vulnerabilities and the conditions that shape the resilience of systems while also introducing new uncertainties. It therefore directly influences European Civil Protection activities on our continent as well as abroad and creates unprecedented pressure on all levels of Government.



Is the UCPM adapted to respond to complex events due to more frequent and extreme weather events?

## 2. PROTECT OUR CITIZENS - Adapting to new risks



The risk landscape is continuously changing with unknown risks emerging and existing ones evolving, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine. Man-made actions can further exacerbate the situation and add layers of complexity. New technologies create new threats (e.g. CBRN, cyber, hybrid) and the costs of disasters are rising, especially in case of the so-called low probability events with high impact. An adequate response requires cross-sectoral cooperation on local, national and EU level.

How can the UCPM stimulate cross-sectoral cooperation to face the changing risk landscape?

## 3. EUROPE IN THE WORLD - Reaching beyond geographical boundaries

An important part of the UCPM deployments takes place outside Europe, in neighborhood and third countries. Their impact and overall functioning can be further strengthened through enhanced cross-border regional cooperation in the area of civil protection, including via better integration of certain external regional specificities in the overall functioning of the UCPM, increased coordination with humanitarian actions, other external policies and non-EU actors on disaster risk management.



How to improve regional and international cooperation in the area of civil protection with the UCPM as a catalyst for other EU instruments?

## 4. EMBRACE INNOVATION & DIGITALISATION - Pooling our knowledge



The role of scientific knowledge and information sharing is at the core of risk understanding, risk assessment and early warning systems during an emergency. The challenge of closer cooperation with the private sector on new technologies for response capacities and innovative risk financing needs to go hand in hand with a new paradigm of making civil protection greener. The newly created European Civil Protection Knowledge Network will play a key role in this new equation.

How can the pooling and exchange of our knowledge contribute to a stronger evidence-based, innovative and greener European Civil Protection?

# Agenda matrix



1 - STRENGTHEN CLIMATE RESILIENCE



2 - PROTECT OUR CITIZENS



3 - EUROPE IN THE WORLD



4 - EMBRACE INNOVATION & DIGITALISATION

2 8 J u n e

High-level opening session

Special Plenary Session on Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Plenary Session Prevention

PREVENTION angle

Parallel workshop: Investing in climate resilience

Parallel workshop: Increase our citizens risk awareness in the face of new and emerging risks

Parallel workshop: UCPM as a model for regional cooperation

Parallel workshop: Using science and data for understanding and reducing risks

Evening event

Thinking Lab

How can we foster a greener CP ?

2 9 J u n e

Plenary Session Preparedness

PREPAREDNESS angle

Parallel workshop: Preparing for more frequent and extreme weather events

Parallel workshop: How to face the unthinkable?

Parallel workshop: Learning from abroad : success stories in international cooperation

Parallel workshop: The "next big thing" in Civil Protection Training - Can new technologies revolutionise

J u n e

Plenary Session Response

RESPONSE angle

Parallel workshop: Looking back on responses to climate-induced disasters

Parallel workshop: Focus on Ukraine: Perspectives on stronger European coordination

Parallel workshop: Enhancing cooperation with international partners

Parallel workshop: New and emerging technologies to support disaster responses

Closing session





## Opening remarks

In his opening remarks of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Civil Protection Forum, Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, expressed his deepest appreciation for the work undertaken by all civil protection colleagues in the various crises over the last few years, including the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war on Ukraine, and several natural disasters.

The Commissioner recalled the 2022 Global Risks Report which highlighted extreme weather risks as the greatest threats facing our planet. Economic, technological and geo-political risks are also part of a new challenging reality which no country can face alone. Therefore, in the words of the Commissioner, "The European Union continues to invest in European Civil Protection" with the goal of protecting "all of Europe's citizens, and to show solidarity worldwide".

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism has positioned itself firmly at the heart of Europe's crisis response system throughout the years. Since its inception in 2001, the Mechanism has been activated over 600 times in Europe and beyond. With each passing year, the number of interventions has increased. Before 2020, each year saw around 20 activations of the mechanism. Since then, the situation has drastically changed with over 100 activations per year, setting new records. In Ukraine, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre has run its largest and longest operation in the history of the mechanism. The European Commission is committed to continue to assist those in need by further expanding rescEU with additional firefighting capacities, including innovative initiatives such as the pre-positioning of firefighting forces in hot spots across Europe, as well as medical stockpiles, CBRN supplies, shelter and energy capacities.

Commissioner Lenarčič also highlighted the imperative need to focus on prevention and preparedness efforts in view of large-scale cross-border emergencies. The work on scenarios and disaster resilience goals are at the core of our initiative to help us define our priorities and support the decision-making process on where exactly to concentrate current limited resources. These scenarios and goals, together with training courses and joint exercises facilitated by the Civil Protection Knowledge Network, will help build a more resilient Europe.

The timing of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum coincided with unprecedented crises and humanitarian needs. The immense response and concrete demonstration of solidarity of the member states and the participating states to the mechanism prove the positive impact of working together. The need to expand the Civil Protection community has never been clearer. In this sense, the Commissioner urged the Western Balkans, namely, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Kosovo, to become part of the mechanism in due course.

Innovative ideas about the European and global civil protection, an understanding on how we can work best together, and the ways in which citizens can be protected against new risks are all part of the common goal of making the EU emergency system faster, smarter, stronger and greener. The power to succeed rests in the hands of the civil protection community.

[Watch the opening video here](#)





## High-level Plenary session

### Where do we stand with European Civil Protection – the UCPM as a catalyser for a reinforced European Emergency Management?

Climate change is increasing the intensity and severity of disasters. It is modifying risks, vulnerabilities and the conditions that shape the resilience of our systems. The Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine further demonstrated the limitations of the current disaster management scheme and highlighted the need for better preparedness.

The changing risk landscape calls for a wider range of expertise and cross-sectorial cooperation. It requires enhanced integration and coordination with other policies linked to disaster risk management and resilience, as well as the ability to engage in complex emergencies.

The high-level plenary set the scene for the Forum, discussing the future role of the European Civil Protection, the ways in which systems evolve to cope with current and future crises, and the shift towards an inter-sectorial way of working.

[Watch the plenary session here](#)



#### PANEL

**Janez LENARČIČ**, *Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission*

**Krista MIKKONEN**, *Minister of Interior, Finland*

**Janez POTOČNIK**, *Co-chair, United Nations, International Resource Panel*

Moderator: **Sean KLEIN**, *Event Moderator & Media Consultant*

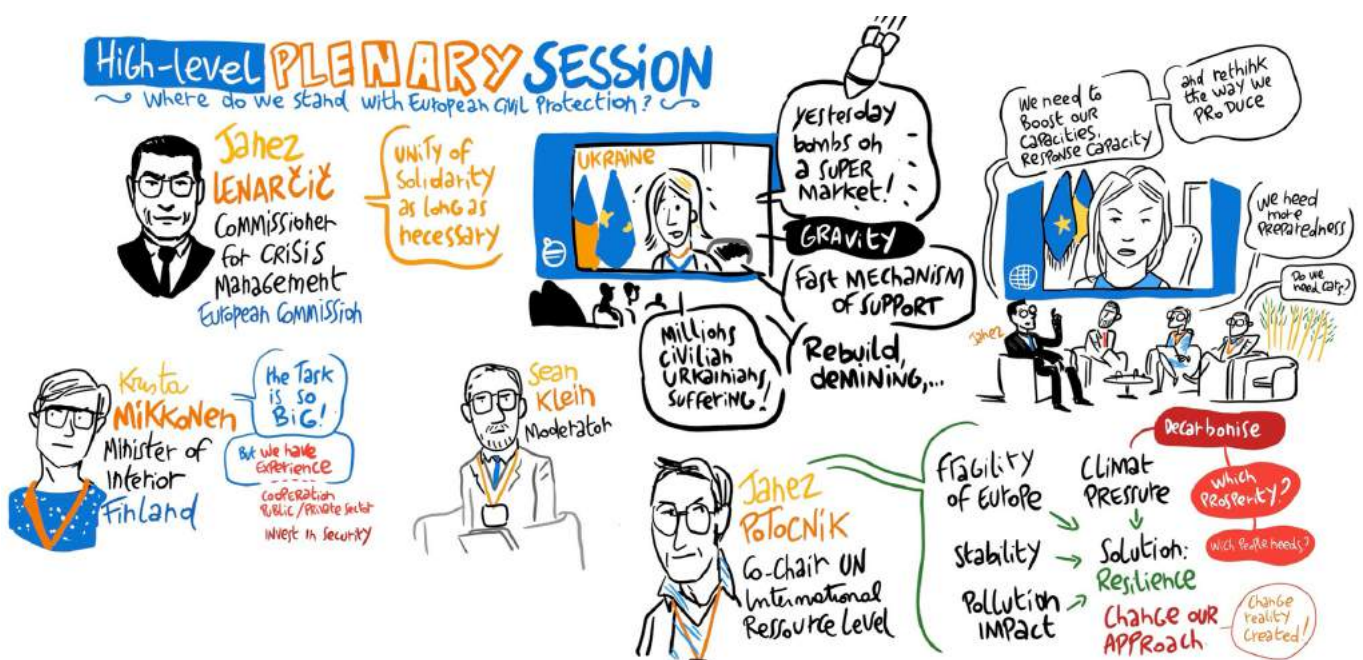






## KEY MESSAGES

- **Climate change has been acknowledged as the biggest current challenge that our society faces.** National capacities are increasingly overrun and overwhelmed. In this context, we have to make sure that preparedness adaptation and the right tools are in place, and focus on what can be still prevented, based on scenarios and disaster resilience goals. We must ultimately build our response capacities.
- **The UCPM has been acknowledged as a unique resource in providing and coordinating assistance to Ukraine, saving lives and facilitating the needs of internally displaced people and of the refugees.** The war on Ukraine has prompted the local government, but also other countries such as Finland for example, to acknowledge that, on their own, the authorities of a single state are not ready to face unknown challenges.
- **The future role of European Civil Protection must grasp the ways in which systems evolve and the shift towards an inter-sectorial way of working to be able to cope with current and future crises.** We face multiple crises at multiple levels. The consequences of the crisis in Ukraine, as well as food and energy crises, are on the rise, exposing Europe's fragility. We are up against a triple environment crisis: climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution. It is important to join forces at EU level, but also engage civil society and the private sector. For preparedness purposes, it is crucial to base planning on scenarios and evidence.





## Special Plenary session on Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has prompted the single largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War. The EU responded rapidly and in robust fashion on many fronts, including through the UCPM and traditional humanitarian channels.

The session started with an emotional intervention of Ms Kate Skripko, a Ukrainian movie and theatre actress and professional dancer, who gave a human face to all citizens whose life stopped from one day to another at the start of the war. She explained how meaningful the international support is to the civilian population, and called upon the audience to continue their efforts.

The special plenary discussion on Russia's war on Ukraine took stock at a strategic level of what has been accomplished to date, what more needs to be done, and how the EU can provide meaningful, timely and effective support in the future in concert with Ukraine, other affected countries, the private sector and international and third-country partners.

[Watch the plenary session here](#)



### PANEL

**Meri AKOPYAN**, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Ukraine

**Petras AUŠTREVICIUS**, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee

**Adrian BUCAŁOWSKI**, Deputy Director, Civil Protection Department, National Headquarters of the State Fire Service, Poland

**Hans DAS**, Director of Emergency Management and rescEU Directorate, DG ECHO, European Commission

**Roman PRYMUSH**, Deputy Head of the State Emergency Service, department of digital development, digital transformation and digitalisation, Ukraine

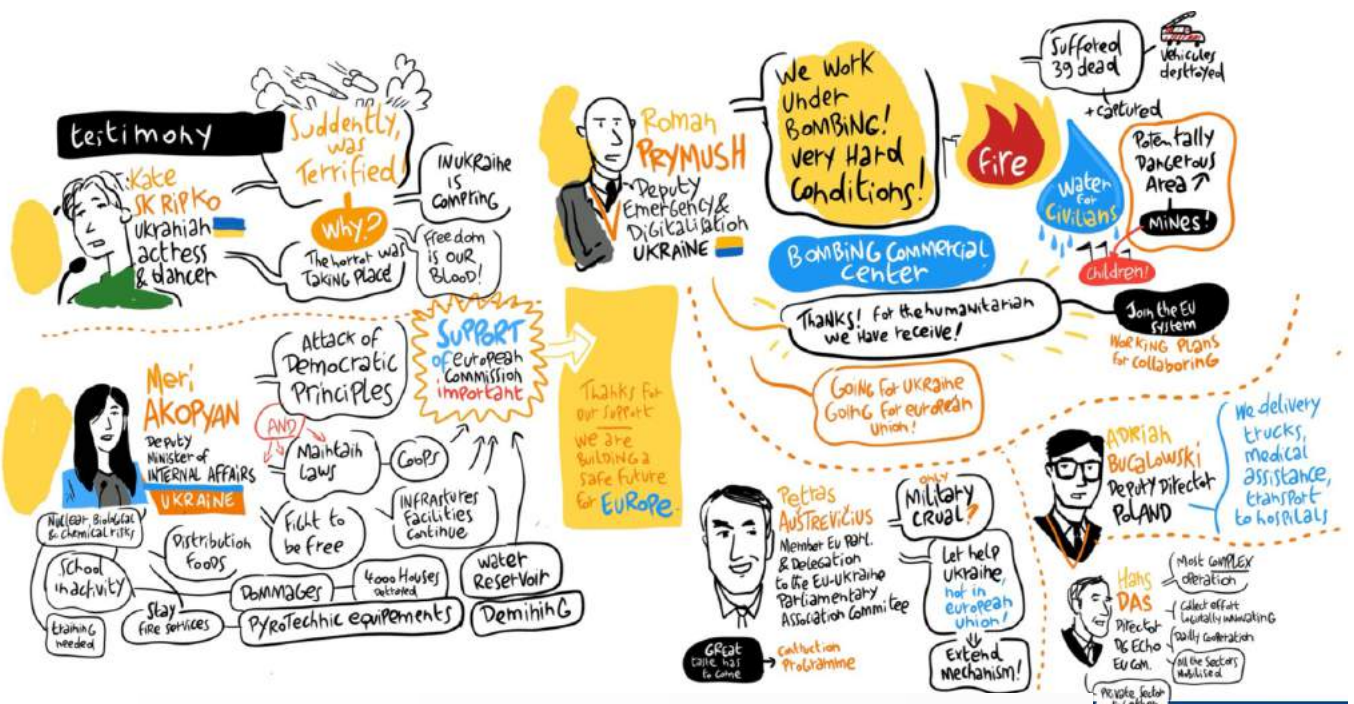
Moderator: **Sean KLEIN**, Event Moderator & Media Consultant





## KEY MESSAGES

- Complex emergencies like the war in Ukraine need a holistic approach:** the UCPM's response to the war in Ukraine has been massive and innovative in responding to the logistical challenges. 4 UCPM hubs have been set up in 3 MS (PL, RO and SK) to support the storage and delivery of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and a private sector donations scheme has been developed. However, the response to the war in Ukraine cannot be organised and covered by the civil protection community alone. The Plenary sees a need to strengthen cooperation with other sectors (energy, oil, private etc.) and the UCPM has a key role to play in this.
- The UCPM was called upon to further develop its preparedness and response actions:** The needs of Ukraine for response have evolved. Demining operations and the reconstruction of destroyed critical infrastructures should be the number one priority (Special rescue equipment, road construction equipment, trucks are just an example of the growing needs and requests). Demining operations are now estimated to last for 7 years. 62 thousand hectares have already been demined in the past months. However, this is a small start when compared to the scale of the affected areas. CBRN threats are also growing. CBRN equipment in Ukraine is obsolete and new items are needed. Preparedness work is also vital. The Plenary welcome work on scenarios and continuous development of rescEU.
- Ukraine aspires to become a Participating State to the UCPM:** Ukraine wants to participate in the mechanism and increase internal preparedness and response capacities. Additionally, Moldova and Georgia should also be welcomed into the UCPM.





## Plenary session on Prevention

### The opportunity of prevention: knowledge and investments for a green and resilient future

The summer of 2021 was the hottest one on record in Europe. Scientific evidence has demonstrated the clear link between global heating and extreme weather events such as floods and wildfires that ravaged Western European and Mediterranean countries. Even if the world manages to limit global warming to 1,5°C above pre-industrial level, some long-term impacts of warming are already underway and are likely to be inevitable and irreversible. These include rising sea levels, increase in heatwaves and other forms of extreme events.

In its inspirational talk at the start of the session, Mr. Henk OVINK, Special Envoy for International Water of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, put the spotlight on the crucial role and importance of ‘water’ when it comes to building resilience in our social, economic and environmental systems. Challenges are increasing and we are not yet fit for the future. For this reason, collaboration is key.

The plenary session on prevention focused on the latest evidence of the impact of climate change on Europe, both on the economy and on critical services to the population. It zoomed on efforts to promote climate resilience as an opportunity for the ‘green transition’ in the post-Covid recovery. It also showed how the UCPM, as the main European framework for cooperation on disaster prevention, can serve as the connector between national and European levels.

### [Watch the plenary session here](#)



#### PANEL

**Elisa FERREIRA**, *Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission*

**Alanna SIMPSON**, *Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist for Europe, World Bank*

**Elisabeth SØRBØE AARSÆTHER**, *Director-General of Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway*

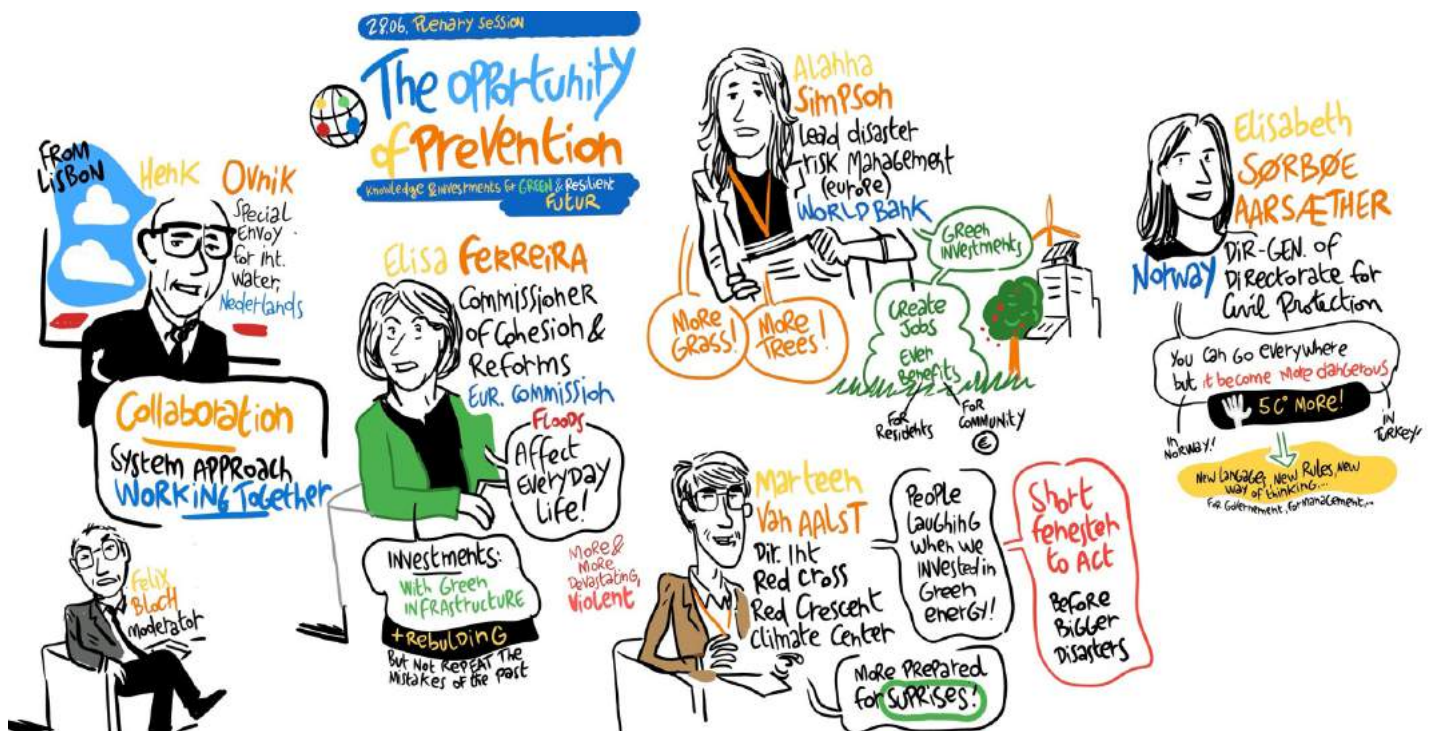
**Maarten VAN AALST**, *Director, International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre*

Moderator: **Felix BLOCH**, *Head of Unit for “Knowledge Network and Evidence-Based Policy”, DG ECHO, European Commission*



## KEY MESSAGES

- Civil Protection voices on prevention need to be amplified:** There is a real sense of urgency. We have a short window of opportunity to secure a liveable future, reduce emissions and build resilience. We need civil protection voices to be heard on these topics, silos have kept us separate for too long. We need civil protection authorities to look from a “climate adaptation lens”. Civil Protection actors are the most credible voices to ask for long-term resilience building, adaptation and emission reduction.
- The knowledge on prevention needs to be made accessible to the general public:** We need to present the knowledge in a language that people can understand. People need accessible knowledge to use in their decisions and planning. Important task: make knowledge available and easy to understand. The answer is not in the government or institutions, but rather in the people. Build a community based on trust in society.
- Prevention investments pay off:** Scaling up plans and investments for disaster prevention is more important than ever. The Commission plans for over 100 billion EUR of investments in green transition (i.e. renewable energies, sustainable growth, bringing convergence and cohesion), but it is up to Member States to step forward to use it. Prevention investments need to maximise social and economic benefits. Today we have new evidence showing us that some investments are “smart” because they improve our well-being and our economies, regardless of whether a disaster happens or not.





## Workshop on Prevention Investing in Climate Resilience

This session brought together civil protection representatives at national and local levels from 6 countries of the UCPM, to flesh out some of the challenges and bottlenecks that hamper investment in disaster prevention and climate resilience. The session also served as a curtain raiser to the second phase of the DG ECHO-World Bank study “Economics for Prevention and Preparedness”, which started in July 2022 and should help civil protection authorities with evidence-based information plan resilience investments under climate change and other disaster scenarios.

The argument for scaling up plans and investments for climate resilience has never been clearer. Recent evidence from a joint World Bank-DG ECHO study shows us that “smart” investments, i.e. combining nature-based solutions and early warning systems, have an even higher return compared to traditional infrastructure investments for extreme weather events. Resilience investments have three benefits, not just one: they help avoid damages and losses; they stimulate the economy by increasing investments and creating a safer society; and they help restore nature and provide precious ecosystem services.

Among the key points that emerged from the experiences presented in this workshop were: the need to scale up investment financing and continue capacity building efforts, the fact that resilience is everybody’s business and more awareness raising is necessary, and the fact that work is ongoing to better assess the impact of future risks and climate scenarios on civil protection infrastructure in Europe.



### CLIMATE RESILIENCE Workshop

**Zuzana STANTOS-GEDES**

- EU asked a study to look at Risks & opportunities
- some weather events can impact 70% GBP of EU countries
- Ex: FLOOD - Serbia  
FIRE - PORTUGAL  
EARTHQUAKE - CROATIA
- listing challenges: communication before infrastructure, ...

⇒ IDENTIFIED 70 potential investments

- ✓ Short term investment in GR on PREVENTION + LONG term investment
- ✓ 3 examples from FR
  - DOMINO FSX - device
  - FR-ALERT - inform about risks
  - ©/CatNat - Location of disasters → made 1982
- ✓ PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN
  - ↳ for youth, elderly, parents.
  - Ex: town that forgot the emergency plan

Catastrophe Naturelle

DREAM BIG, but don't forget the basics

FOREST FIRE in turkey

FLOODS IN GETTINGEN IN FINLAND → BUILD DIKES

+ HOUSES  
+ BUSINESS  
+ TRAIN STATION



## Workshop on Prevention

### Increase our citizens' risk awareness in the face of new and emerging risks

In an ever-evolving risk landscape, Civil Protection Authorities play a key role in raising citizen disaster risk awareness. They inform citizens on disaster risks in their region/country of residence, they help them identify protective measures and mitigate the consequences of the increased frequency of disasters (induced by climate change). They contribute to building overall increased resilience to disaster risks in ordinary times or during protracted crisis (such as COVID pandemic). The Civil Protection Forum constituted a good opportunity to look more closely into this area, to enable the exchange of good practices at European level, and foster risk awareness.

One of the key elements to take away from the workshop would be raising citizens' disaster risk awareness, therefore saving lives and building skills for life and resilience.

The CP Forum helped collect good practices in several areas, and paves the way for future activities in this field. Effective risk awareness information campaigns, education in primary and secondary level schools, and the inclusion of technological advancements were some of the main areas identified. The session also touched upon how to prepare citizens for the unexpected and communicate disaster risks, by making good use of behavioral science and reaching out to relevant stakeholders, vulnerable groups and municipalities and local authorities.

#### Facts and Figures:

Panel included presentations from World Health Organisation, Covenant of Mayors, Horizon 2020 project representative and 5 MS Representatives. The workshop was delivered to an audience of 150 people, by using 2 Interactive sessions, 30 templates and 1 sli.do.





## Workshop on Prevention

### UCPM as a model for regional cooperation

The workshop was built around experience sharing on regional cooperation, with the UCPM as a potential model or catalyst in the area of civil protection prevention. Invited guests from UNDRR, Poland, Italy and Israel kicked off the panel discussion, starting from their own experiences in the European Neighborhood (Middle East, Eastern Europe) and Enlargement countries (Western Balkans and Turkey).

Main outcomes focused on the importance of using existing regional frameworks to strengthen cooperation, and on building trust before disaster strikes. Also, all hazard risk assessments are needed to better predict, prepare for and prevent, in a world in which unpredictable disasters are increasingly occurring. This should be accompanied by the mapping of specific available regional capacities that could be deployed in the event of an unforeseen disaster.

Further recommendations include training courses to raise standards, the strengthening of interoperability of teams, the improvement of standardisation of equipment and the stimulation of exchanges of experts to other countries via equal partnerships, two-way learning opportunities between the UCPM and third countries and, ultimately, in the framework of the UCPM Knowledge Network. Finally, the workshop highlighted the need for continuous renewal of guidelines, particularly concerning host nation support.







## Workshop on Prevention

### Using science and data for understanding and reducing risks

In this interactive session participants discussed the challenges of bringing science to the planning and implementing parts of prevention activities. Participants learned about finding data, research results, and mature useful solutions, and were able to further discuss the topic of cross-disciplinary learning.

Risk is everybody's business. But risk is too complex for anyone to deal with alone. Understanding risk requires exchange of science, knowledge and practice - across policies, across sectors and across borders. That is the purpose of the UCPM Knowledge Network.

Additionally, good data, tools and solutions are already available. Over EUR 200 million per year is being invested in research in the EU alone to create new such opportunities. The Science Pillar of the UCPM Knowledge Network provides access to what already exists in terms of knowledge, and turns potential gaps into a roadmap for future research.

Finally, participants would like to see the UCPM Knowledge Network get the European Research Executive Agency (REA) to do more, so that project results are brought to a mature operational level. Most tools, methods and platforms developed still die at the end of the project.





## Plenary session on Preparedness

### The Covid-19 pandemic as catalyser for strengthening Europe's cross-sectoral preparedness

Emergency and crisis management systems have been profoundly challenged since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. As risks intensify due to climate change, the outbreak of the pandemic and its wide-ranging impact put additional strain on those systems, and has highlighted a lack of preparedness in Europe and around the globe.

In the context of "2022 as Year of the Youth", the session started with an inspiring story of testimony by Simona Fironda, a Romanian national who has been volunteering since the age of 11 with a local NGO focused on civil protection activities, including preparedness activities centered on educating children and young adults about crisis management. Her speech highlighted the importance of not overlooking the important role that children and the young can play in Civil Protection. She encouraged the creation of training opportunities for children to become skilled in preparedness activities, and used her personal example and accomplishments to illustrate the benefits these activities have at the individual and social levels.

The plenary session on Preparedness focused on how the Union Civil Protection Mechanism could learn from the Covid-19 pandemic when it comes to cross-sectoral cooperation, and how this would influence our future preparedness to disasters and crisis.

### [Watch the plenary session here](#)



### PANEL

**Raed ARAFAT**, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania*

**Charlotte PETRI GORNITZKA**, *Director-General of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, Sweden*

**Ilkka SALMI**, *EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, European Council*

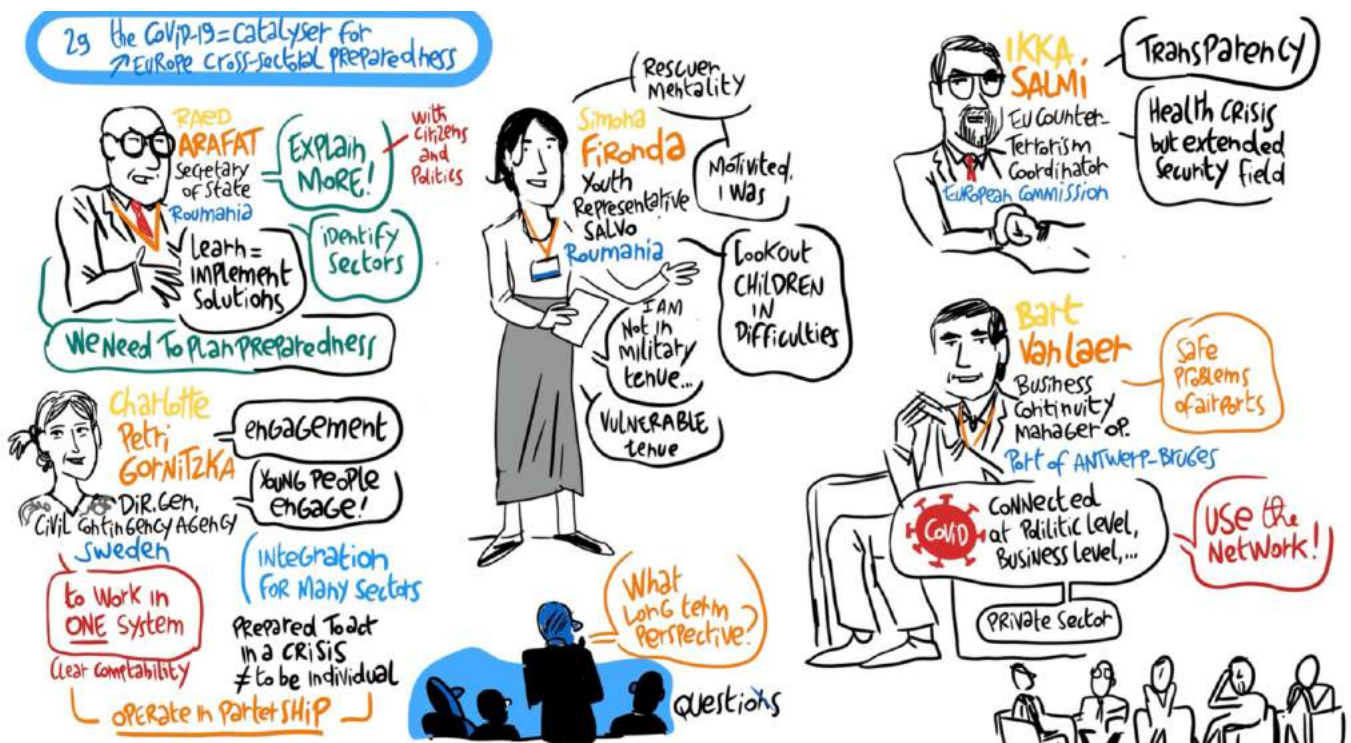
**Niels VANLAER**, *Business Continuity Manager Operations of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges.*

Moderator: **Julia STEWART-DAVID**, *Acting Director of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Directorate, DG ECHO, European Commission*



## KEY MESSAGES

- **The need to strengthen coordination at both national and EU level:** the panelists acknowledged that to strengthen European civil protection preparedness at EU and national levels, we need to 'think of the unthinkable', plan accordingly on the medium to long-term and at larger scale, and invest in cooperation with other sectors (i.e. stockpiling as good example).
- **Make citizens more aware of the role of civil protection:** there is an opportunity to take advantage of the Covid-19 crisis to learn and think about preparedness, to learn from the overall society approach during a pandemic. Practitioners and decision-makers need to work together and provide visibility in times of crisis. Different thematic and geographical services should come together and build common robust scenarios and clear communication. The Plenary recommended the creation of an EU month for civilian resilience to make an opportunity to engage individuals and share ideas.
- **Reinforce a multi-disciplinary approach** by better connecting key actors on complex and new emerging risks. Creating "a network of existing networks" should be the goal. The example was highlighted of critical infrastructures (major airports and ports) as they have a unique position in society, with the opportunity to connect the operational layer to the economic layer and to the policy-making layer.





## Workshop on Preparedness

### Preparing for more frequent and extreme weather events

The workshop provided the opportunity to share information and identify lessons learnt from different stakeholders, especially researchers and practitioners across Europe, on how to better prepare for more frequent and extreme weather events, by discussing future forecasting and linking it to early and rapid notification.

It was commonly agreed that the effective use of science-based tools and products to support the civil protection decision making process is crucial in improving preparedness for a changing risk landscape due to climate change. An example is the rollout of machine learning algorithms, fed by historical data, to better predict the impact of future weather phenomena.

Other additional steps that can be taken to better prepare for more frequent and extreme weather events would be: cross-border cooperation, improve communication between science and decision makers, capacity building, multilevel and voluntary data collection to identify potential impacts and gaps, better structured emergency plans, and a common methodology and policy for data collection, processing and sharing. Further recommendations include better land, water and critical infrastructure management, improving the awareness and preparation of the population at local level, and pushing for impact-based forecast at different levels.





# Workshop on Preparedness

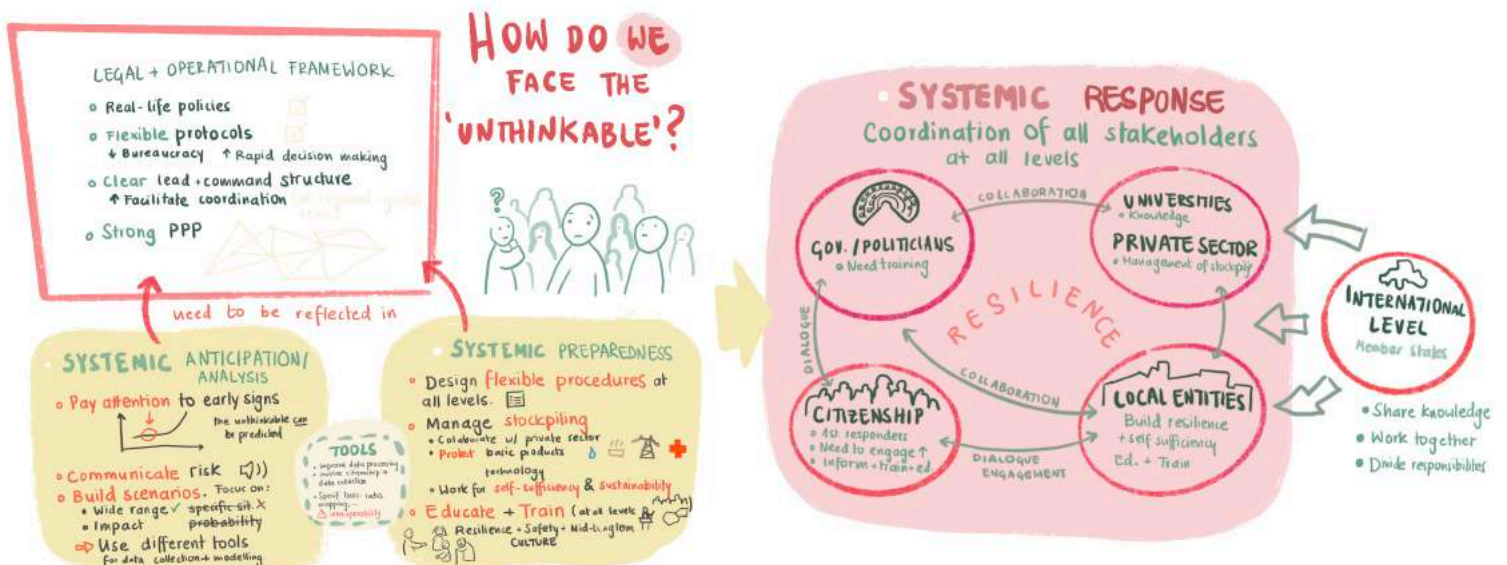
## How to face the unthinkable?

This workshop focused on how to better prepare for what we may have to face. The aim was to challenge the way in which we work and collect best practices and new ideas. A pointed scene setter, followed by a panel discussion of practitioners and deciders, led to fruitful discussions.

The workshop brought to everyone’s attention the need for cross-sectorial focus on anticipation and forecasting activities, as well as better integration of the latest scientific input to preparedness and response activities, translating scenarios into real-life policy being absolutely crucial (e.g. pandemic).

Participants agreed on the importance not only to focus on the threats that society faces, but rather on the consequences they have when the former is turned upside down and does not function anymore in a normal way. Citizens should be part of the solution. They should become civil protection champions and be able to protect themselves. Investing in self-preparedness and trainings would help develop a culture of safety.

Other valuable outputs are the need to include private sector (whole of society) in knowledge networks, engaging citizens in data collection, investing in strategic autonomy and individual preparedness, and designing and building stockpiles in a smart manner (by looking at the common threats of unthinkable scenarios and focusing on the common basic needs that arise from these scenarios).



SOFIA SALGADO





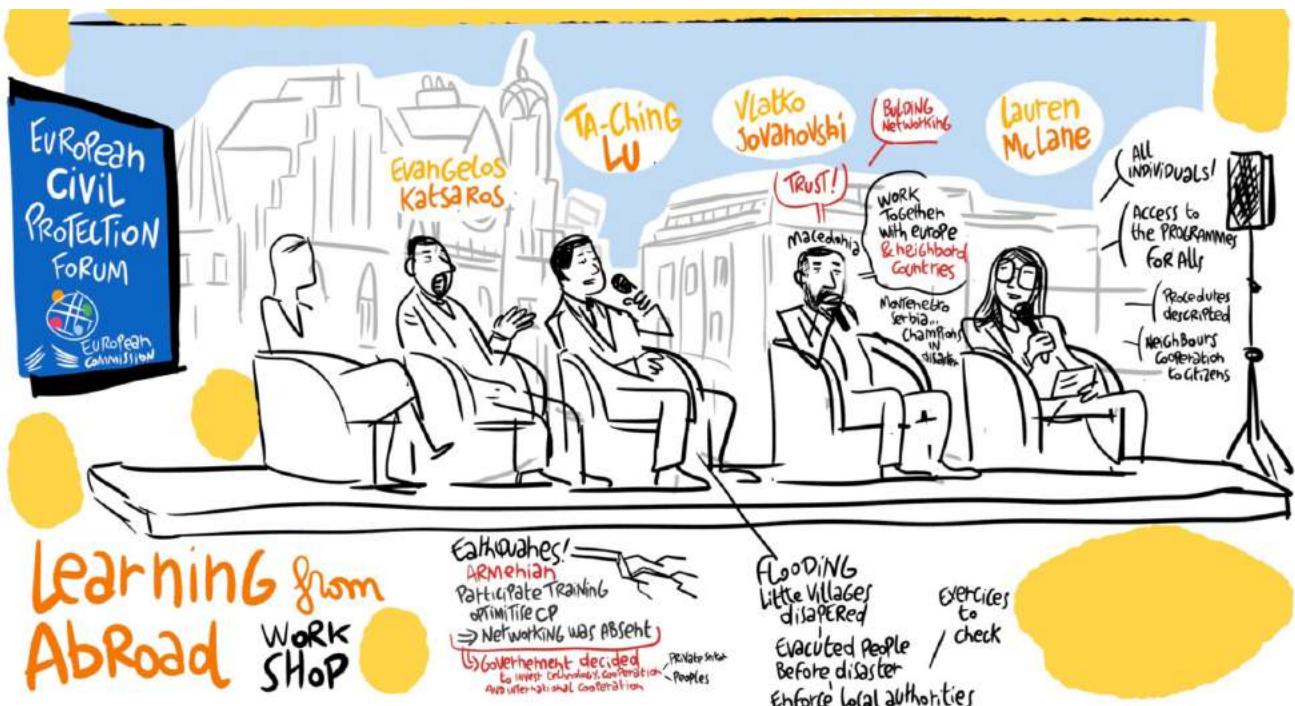
# Workshop on Preparedness

## Learning from abroad: success stories in international cooperation

Panelists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Taiwan and US shared their success stories, good examples and practices in preparing for disasters. Their input was then processed by the participants against their potential impact and benefits for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The contribution of the different speakers was analysed via several angles: (i) a policy perspective (to better understand the reason behind the chosen action) advocating a whole-of-society-approach and supporting inclusivity; (ii) the importance of technology (new technology that can better prepare for disasters; existing technology to be used more efficiently); (iii) a focus on cross border initiatives (how can regional initiatives and platforms for cooperation in civil protection be used for better information exchange, lessons learnt and best practices so they are applicable to other regions?); and (iv) the importance of procedures that favor a common methodological approach in assessment and planning and that include the development of Host Nation Support guidelines prior to a disaster occurring.

The workshop also emphasised the importance of developing a culture of risk awareness in populations, by leaving no one behind, and ensuring that the priorities of people with special needs are included in preparedness efforts.





## Workshop on Preparedness

The next “big thing” in civil protection training - can new technologies revolutionise the way we learn in civil protection ?

This workshop discussed digitalisation in disaster management training. With speakers expert on global trends in new technologies and with experience in digitalised solutions for the UCPM training and exercises programme, participants shared national examples of using new tools in civil protection training and discussed how digitalisation can support learning activities in the UCPM.

The workshop highlighted the fact that immersive technologies, such as virtual and augmented reality, offer great opportunities to improve the way we learn and train in Civil Protection. However, they need to be fit for purpose and enhance the preparedness capacities of our experts and staff for future emergencies.

The potential of new technologies in training staff should continue to be explored. We must work with other relevant stakeholders such as the United Nations or the private sector. These efforts would build our own capacities at European and Member States levels, and help us better understand when and how to best apply them in the UCPM.





## Plenary session on Response

### How to respond to the next climate-related crisis?

Showing solidarity with countries in need is at the very core of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). In recent years, the UCPM and its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) have seen a rather sharp increase in requests for assistance from countries in the EU and beyond, including tackling consequences of Covid-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the impact of climate change, showing the further importance of the UCPM being at the forefront of crises.

The session started with a first-hand account of the devastating impact of climate change induced weather events on people, property and the environment. Lukas Serman, a German wine grower who is one of the victims of the 2021 record flooding in Germany and active in an agricultural sector increasingly hit by changing weather patterns, illustrated the devastation and long-term consequences of this flooding event. This set the scene for a lively debate among the panelists.

The plenary session on response provided a clearer understanding of UCPM's future role in the light of climate change, including a focus on hot-spots and sudden-onset crisis in the EU and beyond, as well as an overview of the necessary building blocks for the future such as foresight, innovation and cooperation.

[Watch the plenary session here](#)



### PANEL

**Jytte GUTELAND**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

**Friederike OTTO**, Senior Lecturer, The Grantham Institute for Climate Change, Imperial College London

**Christos STYLIANIDES**, Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic

**Edem WOSORNU**, Chief, Response Support Branch Coordination Division OCHA, United Nations

Moderator: **Hans DAS**, Director of the Director for Emergency Management and rescEU, DG ECHO, European Commission







## KEY MESSAGES

- Thinking out of the box leads to innovation in policy making and programme development:** Minister Stylianides, the first Minister in Europe to merge civil protection and climate change in one portfolio, underlined the importance of thinking out of the box when looking at the future of climate change. For example, risk management and climate change should be merged when developing public policies and administration. Innovative pilot projects can lead to new ways of cooperating at EU level. This year's UCPM pilot project that prepositions 200 firefighters, from countries less affected by forest fires, in Greece during July and August, is a good example.
- Action around disaster management must look more at vulnerability and exposure:** recent disasters could not have been avoided by better response equipment or more sharing of capacities at EU level, but by better knowledge and increased links between the scientific world, the private sector and the civil protection community.
- Upgrading civil protection at EU level is necessary:** the impacts of climate change are increasing, generating a sense of urgency. Joint investments in emergency response but also in climate change adaptation and risk awareness (e.g. education) have to put citizens at the center of all considerations, while politicians and decision-makers in capitals should help make EU action more visible.





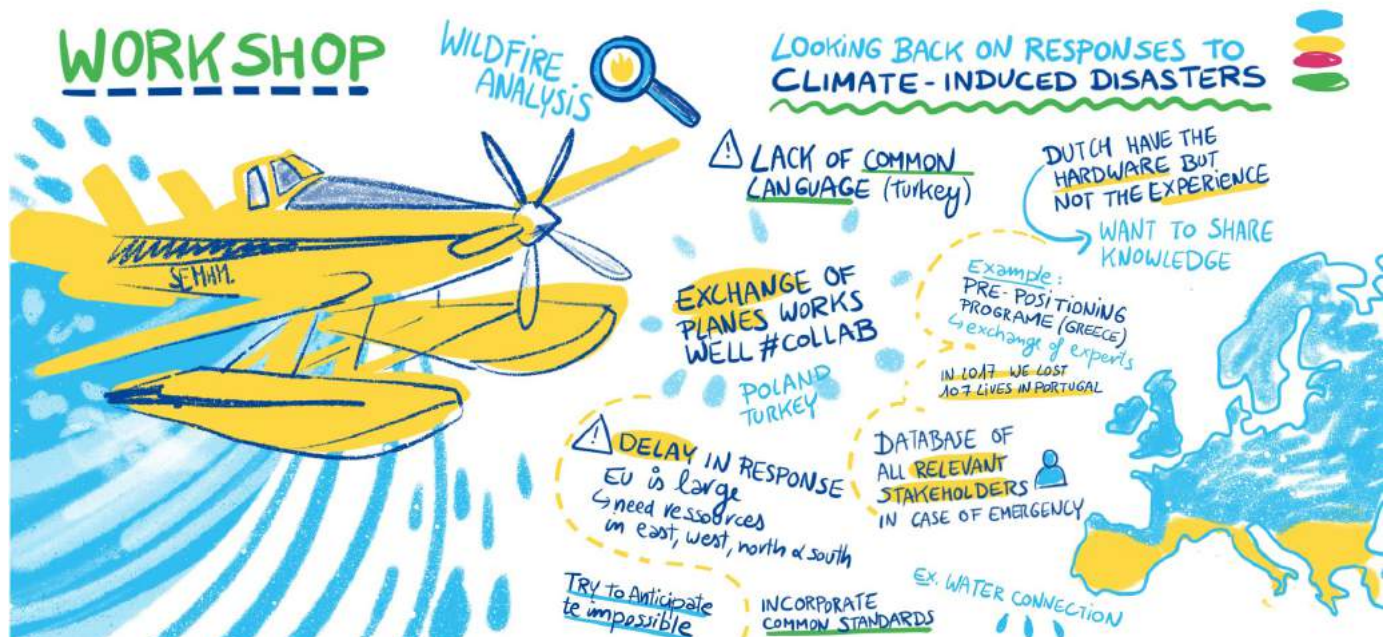
## Workshop on Response

### Looking back on responses to climate-induced disasters

This workshop covered the UCPM response to the simultaneous wildfires all over the Mediterranean area during the summer of 2021. Speakers from Sweden, Poland, Portugal, Spain, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Greece explained how they managed the situation, how they delivered assistance and what challenges they found during these simultaneous emergencies.

Participants to the workshop concluded that climate change boosts existing risks and generates new ones. Increased climate-induced risks can easily overwhelm national capacities hence the need for early warning systems. Anticipation and foresight activities, such as prepositioning of specific capacities, accurate forecasting, and risk reduction planning must be further strengthened, to contribute to mitigate the impact of these climate-induced events.

EU solidarity is needed more than ever. We need to face disasters together and this should be done by sharing knowledge, by organising peer exchanges and continue to harmonise our standards. Some parts of Europe are more experienced in forest fires than others. It is important to have the capacity to collaborate and to exchange knowledge in firefighting when it is needed. In parallel, foresight activities, well trained and operational staff, together with strong investment in prevention is the key to success. Finally, the links between long-term financial frameworks (i.e. the Common Agricultural Policy, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Cohesion Policy, Horizon Europe, etc.) need to be reinforced.





## Workshop on Response

### Focus on Ukraine: Perspectives on stronger European coordination through the ERCC

This workshop provided a number of snapshots depicting how different European actors worked and continue to work through/with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in responding to the war in Ukraine. Besides hearing from different practitioners based in Brussels and around the Union, including on Ukraine's doorstep, the session offered an opportunity for participants to share their own experiences and reflections on the civil protection response to the war thus far and going forward.

The discussions covered the hard work and close cooperation that has already taken place through the ERCC in order to provide unprecedented levels of assistance to Ukraine and other affected countries through the UCPM. The needs related to the war in Ukraine are likely to persist, at the same time as we know we will confront other challenges going forward.

Amongst the key challenges found were (i) the risk of cascading effects of attacks on chemical, biological or nuclear facilities, (ii) the functioning of the logistics centers (hubs) established in neighboring countries, as they are essential instruments in delivering the assistance offered by Member States to Ukraine under extremely difficult security situations, (iii) the need to have a pool of predefined experts in Member States ready for deployment and finally (iv) the importance to build bridges between the civil protection community and other sectors (i.e. energy, agriculture, IT, etc.), including the private sector.





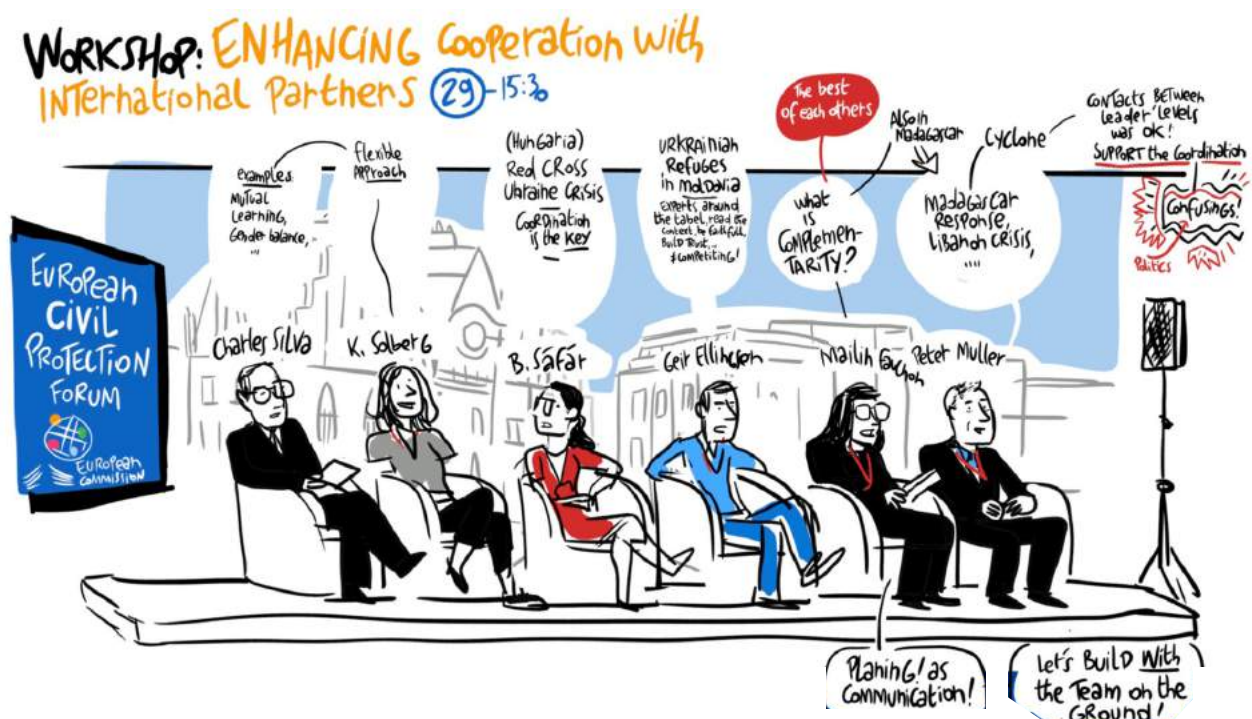
## Workshop on Response

### Enhancing cooperation with international partners

International challenges are becoming more and more provocative. The Covid crisis and the current war in Ukraine have shown that we cannot do it on our own, and that we need to complement each other. We should not compete, on the contrary, we have to cooperate as challenges are becoming more complex.

The workshop focused on how to enhance further cooperation with international partners and looked at their potential impact and benefits for the UCPM. An exchange of experience between international partners/liason officers, using case studies in relation to the cooperation with the UCPM, was followed by interactive group discussions.

Participants agreed that well-established and structured cooperation across national, regional and local levels has significant potential, and is needed to contribute to better mutual understanding. Mutual trust based on regular exchanges and close cooperation is an asset of paramount importance in cross-border crises. Collaboration between the UCPM and international partners should not be a maintenance activity, merely replicating what was done in the past. Instead, it has to rise above and beyond what exists, by integrating new ideas in a cooperative and transparent manner. Concretely, this could be done by better defining the respective mission objectives of the different actors engaged in field missions, further develop the coordination mechanism on the ground to avoid duplication, and embed external missions within the existing local networks.





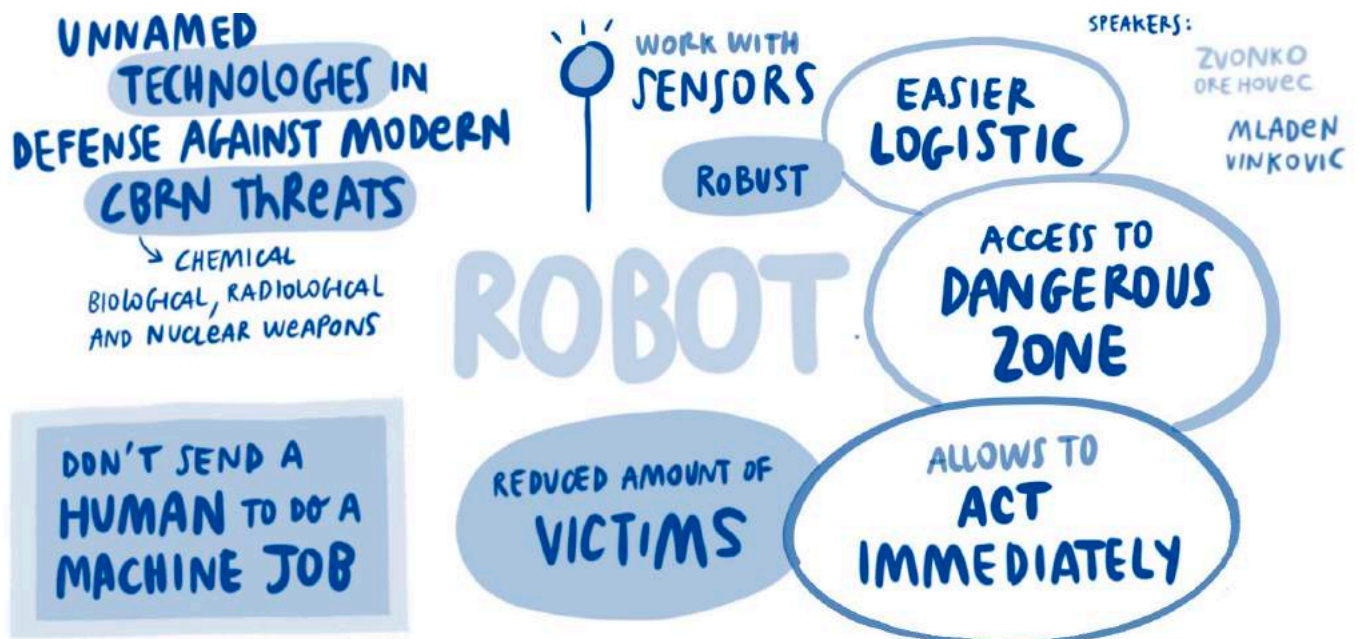
## Workshop on Response

### New and emerging technologies to support disaster responses

This workshop offered a forum to discuss and share knowledge on new and emerging technologies, and to scope the risks and opportunities posed by such innovations for emergency response.

New and emerging technologies can have positive impacts on the response to disasters by improving processes, or providing new solutions to existing problems. Two examples are the smarter use of satellite-based communication systems (e.g. GOVSTACOM, EGNSS, Galileo or Copernicus) or the use of unmanned ground vehicles for the response to CBRN disasters.

The risks and potential benefits of new and innovative technologies need to be carefully weighed against each other. Such technologies can also bring new risks and challenges due to limited operational experience, additional complexity or ineffective integration into the overall response.





## Thinking lab

### How can we foster a greener Civil Protection?

How to move forward with greener and more sustainable civil protection operations in all phases of the disaster management cycle? The aim of this workshop was to highlight the importance of greening civil protection and discuss gaps, opportunities and incentives.

Establishing a more ambitious position on reducing the environmental impact of civil protection actions in the EU and beyond is an important and visible contribution to the European Green Deal. This is of particular importance given that climate change is one of the key drivers of an increasing number of disasters.

This thinking lab encouraged the panelists to share their knowledge and propose several concrete actions to reduce the impact that response activities have on the ground. Such practices include the use of sustainable and recyclable materials, but also energy-saving measures which could have a positive impact on the overall footprint of the mission. As response, the public stressed the need of adopting a forward-looking approach by investing in sustainable measures such as:

- Investments in nature-based solutions, while avoiding deforestation and destruction of the natural habitat.
- Mainstreaming environment in preparedness work and awareness raising activities for citizens.
- Investing in resilience research and inclusion of different expertise, in particular environmental, waste management and biodiversity ones.

While it has been recognised that a shift towards a more sustainable response is needed, the panelists underlined the challenges that such a shift could bring for safety and efficiency, and stressed that these aspects should not be limited by a more sustainable response.





## Thinking lab

### Disability Inclusion in Emergencies

It is recognised that around 15% of the world's population live with some form of disability and this percentage is likely to increase in emergency contexts. Persons with disabilities are among those most exposed to disaster risks, and are rarely involved in emergency cycle decision-making processes. However, despite the current situation, examples of good practices do already exist.

This Thinking Lab shed light on the importance of meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities towards inclusive emergency management policies, and collected ideas for mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disability in civil protection. Additionally, the invited panel demonstrated the need of developing common European guidelines related to protection, preparedness and the rescue of persons with disabilities in emergencies, an endeavour which should be prioritised by policy makers around the globe.

The group conversation was structured around several open questions and provided a space for discussion between all present stakeholders, speakers and public alike. The main outcomes of the fruitful exchanges between the participants are presented below:

- Disability inclusion has been defined as a basic human right, where importance must be given to ensure its presence in mainstream services, allowing accessibility to all.
- The importance of meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities with first responders, in an attempt to undertake mutually beneficial trainings.
- The necessity to combine good policies at national and international level with effective implementation by developing common European guidelines related to protection, preparedness and rescue of persons with disabilities in emergencies.





## Union Civil Protection Medals Award Ceremony

The first set of UCPM Medals ever were planned for awarding during a special ceremony at the European Civil Protection Forum.

To this end, the Commission decided to award a medal to Ms Patricia Gaspar, the current Secretary of State of Portugal, for her long-standing commitment to the UCPM as the interface for the Portuguese authorities' successful shift from a response-driven to a prevention based disaster management approach, as well as her role in the successful negotiations of the latest UCPM legislative revision.

The second type of medal was awarded to the French Water Purification Team, the Norwegian EMT and the Luxembourg emergency communication team that deployed to Haiti for their extraordinary contribution to the UCPM. This deployment took place in a challenging situation and was a clear act of bravery, with all three teams placing the needs of the population before their own, showing considerable courage.

### [Watch the Award Ceremony here](#)



Extraordinary Contribution to the UCPM, Water purification module (France)



Extraordinary contribution to the UCPM, Emergency medical team type 1 (Norway)



Extraordinary contribution to the UCPM, Telecoms emergency, communication agency (Luxembourg)



Long-standing commitment to the UCPM, Patricia Gaspar, Secretary of State, Portugal

EUROPEAN  
CIVIL PROTECTION  
FORUM

★ AWARDS

PLENARY SESSION



#### AWARDED TEAMS

- WATER PURIFICATION MODULE (FRANCE)
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAM (NORWAY)
- TELECOMS EMERGENCY, COMMUNICATION (LUX)

#### AWARDED • Long term achievement

- Patricia GASPAR
- Peter BILLING

Closing  
Speech

"We need to connect  
the dots!"  
SCIENCE  
BASED







## Exhibition

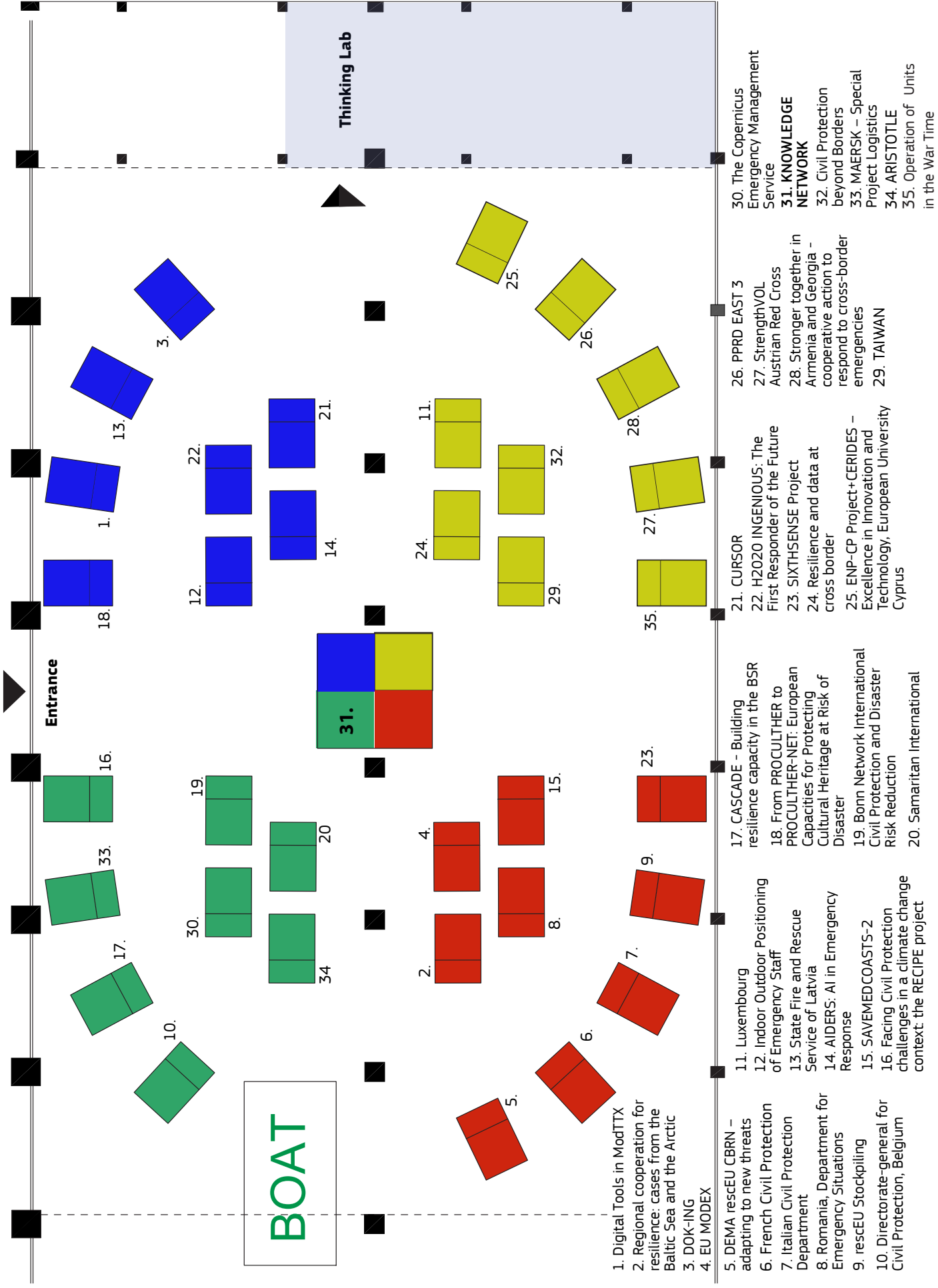
The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Civil Protection Forum hosted an internal exhibition space, as well as an external one, bringing together 35 exhibitors to showcase innovative solutions and best practices, which complemented the topics tackled in the plenary and workshop discussions.

The stakeholders involved ranged from preparedness and prevention projects to projects funded under Horizon Europe, NGOs, third state governments and the private sector. Participants to the exhibition represented the preparedness, prevention and response angles of the UCPM.

Alongside a central stand representing DG ECHO's recently launched Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, the internal stands exhibition covered 35 different stands distributed in four areas corresponding to the four-policy axis of the Forum, while the external stands hosted two CBRN modules - one on detection, identification and sampling and the other on decontamination.



# Exhibition



- 1. Digital Tools in ModTTX
- 2. Regional cooperation for resilience: cases from the Baltic Sea and the Arctic
- 3. DOK-ING
- 4. EU MODEX
- 5. DEMA rescEU CBRN – adapting to new threats
- 6. French Civil Protection
- 7. Italian Civil Protection Department
- 8. Romania, Department for Emergency Situations
- 9. rescEU Stockpiling
- 10. Directorate-general for Civil Protection, Belgium
- 11. Luxembourg
- 12. Indoor Outdoor Positioning of Emergency Staff
- 13. State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia
- 14. AIDERS: AI in Emergency Response
- 15. SAVEMEDCOASTS-2
- 16. Facing Civil Protection challenges in a climate change context: the RECIPLE project
- 17. CASCADE - Building resilience capacity in the BSR
- 18. From PROCULTHER to PROCULTHER-NET: European Capacities for Protecting Cultural Heritage at Risk of Disaster
- 19. Bonn Network International Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction
- 20. Samaritan International
- 21. CURSOR
- 22. H2020 INGENIOUS: The First Responder of the Future
- 23. SIXTHSENSE Project
- 24. Resilience and data at cross border
- 25. ENP-CP Project+CERIDES – Excellence in Innovation and Technology, European University Cyprus
- 26. PPRD EAST 3
- 27. StrengthVOL Austrian Red Cross
- 28. Stronger together in Armenia and Georgia – cooperative action to respond to cross-border emergencies
- 29. TAIWAN
- 30. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service
- 31. KNOWLEDGE NETWORK
- 32. Civil Protection beyond Borders
- 33. MAERSK – Special Project Logistics
- 34. ARISTOTLE
- 35. Operation of Units in the War Time



# Annex - Forum Programme

## 28 June 2022

08:30 - 10:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
10:00 - 10:15 Gold Hall	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p><b>Janez LENARČIČ</b>, <i>Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission</i></p>
10:15 - 11:15 Gold Hall	<p>High-level Plenary session</p> <p><i>Where do we stand with European Civil Protection - The UCPM as a catalyser for a reinforced European Emergency Management?</i></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Janez LENARČIČ</b>, <i>Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission</i>  <b>Krista MIKKONEN</b>, <i>Minister of Interior, Finland</i>  <b>Janez POTOČNIK</b>, <i>Co-chair, United Nations, International Resource Panel</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Sean KLEIN</b>, <i>Event Moderator &amp; Media Consultant</i></p>
11:15 - 11:30 Gold Hall	<p>Presentation of the Forum programme</p> <p><b>Michael KÖHLER</b>, <i>Acting Director General, DG ECHO, European Commission</i></p>
11:30 - 12:30 Gold Hall	<p>Special Plenary session on Russia's invasion of Ukraine</p> <p>Inspiring Story: <b>Kate SKRIPKO</b>, <i>Ukrainian movie and theatre actress and professional dancer</i></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Meri AKOPYAN</b>, <i>Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Ukraine</i>  <b>Petras AUŠTREVICIUS</b>, <i>Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee</i>  <b>Adrian BUCAŁOWSKI</b>, <i>Deputy Director, Civil Protection Department, National Headquarters of the State Fire Service, Poland</i>  <b>Hans DAS</b>, <i>Director, Emergency Management and rescEU, DG ECHO, European Commission</i>  <b>Roman PRYMUSH</b>, <i>Deputy Head of the State Emergency Service, department of digital development, digital transformation and digitalisation, Ukraine</i></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Sean KLEIN</b>, <i>Event Moderator &amp; Media Consultant</i></p>





## 28 June 2022

12:30 - 14:30  
Grand Hall 1

### Networking Lunch | Exhibition

Opening of the Exhibition: **Janez LENARČIČ**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission

13:30 - 14:15  
Grand Hall 2

### Thinking Lab: *How can we foster a greener Civil Protection?*

*How to move forward with greener and more sustainable civil protection operations in all phases of the disaster management cycle? The aim is to highlight the importance of greening of civil protection and discuss gaps, opportunities and incentives.*

Speakers: **Roberto ARRANZ**, Head of the Emergency Department, Office of Humanitarian Action, Spain. **Karolina KALINOWSKA**, Policy officer at DG ECHO, European Commission. **Pekka TIAINEN**, Senior Specialist in the Ministry of the Interior of Finland

Moderator: **Maria ZUBER**, Deputy Head of Unit, Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), DG ECHO, European Commission

14:30 - 15:30  
Gold Hall

### Plenary session on Prevention

*The opportunity of prevention: knowledge and investments for a green and resilient future*

Inspiring Story: **Henk OVINK**, Special Envoy for International Water, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Speakers: **Elisa FERREIRA**, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission

**Alanna SIMPSON**, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist for Europe, World Bank

**Elisabeth SØRBØE AARSÆTHER**, Director-General of Directorate for Civil Protection, Norway

**Maarten VAN AALST**, Director, International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

Moderator: **Felix BLOCH**, Head of Unit for "Knowledge Network and Evidence-Based Policy", DG ECHO, European Commission

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break



## 28 June 2022

16:00 - 17:30 Parallel Workshops on Prevention

Hall 400

### Investing in climate resilience

*Under the topic “Increasing investments in climate resilience” this session will bring together civil protection representatives at national and local levels to flesh out some of the challenges and bottlenecks that still hamper investment in disaster prevention and climate resilience. The session will also serve as a curtain raiser to the second phase of the DG ECHO-World Bank study “Economics for Prevention and Preparedness” which will start in July 2022 and is expected to help civil protection authorities with evidence-based information for planning resilience investments under climate change and other disaster scenarios.*

Speakers: **Hanna BILLMAYER**, Climate Adaptation Strategist at Halmstad Municipality, Sweden. **Luigi D'ANGELO**, Director of the Operational Office for the coordination of emergencies at the Civil Protection Department of the Prime Minister Cabinet Office of Italy. **Erkan DOĞANAY**, Disaster and emergency management expert, Head of National Disaster and Emergency Management Center. **Spyros GEORGIU**, Head of the International Relations Directorate of the Ministry for Climate Change and Civil Protection. **Zuzana STANTON-GEDES**, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank's Europe and Central Asia region. **Laura STORM HENRIKSEN**, Chief advisor, Danish Coastal Authority. **Bruno ULLIAC**, Head of European and International relations unit, General Directorate for Civil Protection Civil and Crisis Management (DGSCGC), French Ministry of Interior. **Gaetano VIVO**, Deputy Head of Unit, Prevention and Disaster Risk Management, DG ECHO, European Commission

Hall 100

### Increase our citizens' risk awareness in the face of new and emerging risks

*In an ever-evolving risk landscape, Civil Protection Authorities play a key role in the area of citizen disaster risk awareness. They inform citizens on disaster risks in their region/country of residence, they help them identify protective measures and mitigate the consequences of the increased frequency of disasters (induced by climate change) and contribute building overall increased resilience to disaster risks in ordinary times or during protracted crisis (such as COVID pandemic). The Civil Protection Forum constitutes a good opportunity to look more closely into this area and to facilitate exchange of good practices at European level and foster risk awareness.*

Speakers: **Laurent ALFONSO**, Firefighter officer. **Christina ANDERSSON**, Risk-and crisis communication strategist. **Daniela DI BUCCI**, Structural Geologist, Italian Civil Protection Department. **Carlos MENDES**, Head of Department for risk analysis and emergency planning in the Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection. **Aldo TREVILLE**, Scientific Project Officer at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. **Galya TOTEVA TERZIEVA**, Disaster Risk Manager, Consultant for the Ministry of Interior, Slovakia. **Karsten UHING**, Researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute. **Simon VAN WOERDEN**, Risk Communication Officer in the Health Emergency Programme of WHO's Regional Office for Europe



## 28 June 2022

Panoramic  
Hall

### UCPM as a model for regional cooperation

*The workshop will allow experience sharing on regional cooperation and see how the UCPM can be considered as a model or catalyst of civil protection prevention. Invited guests from UNDRR, Poland, Italy and Israel will kick off the discussion with their own experiences from the European Neighbourhood (Middle East, Eastern Europe) and Enlargement countries (Western Balkans and Turkey).*

Speakers: **Davide MIOZZO**, Deputy team leader and risk management capacity key expert – CIMA foundation. **Krzysztof PATUREJ**, Ambassador, President of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICSSS), Warsaw, Poland. **Tessa SCHMEDDING**, EU Affairs and Coordination Officer at UNDRR for Europe and Central Asia.

Hall 300

### Using science and data for understanding and reducing risks

*In this interactive session you will discuss challenges in bringing science to the planning and implementing of prevention activities. You will learn about finding data, research results, and mature solutions that are useful for you, and you will be able to discuss cross-disciplinary learning.*

Speakers: **Tina COMES**, Full Professor on Decision Theory & Information Technology for Resilience at the TU Delft and the University of Maastricht. **Christina CORBANE**, Leader of the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre. **Tom DE GROEVE**, Deputy Head of Disaster Risk Management Unit, JRC (Italy). **Maarja KRUUSMAA**, Professor and vice-rector of research, Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia. **Virginia MURRAY**, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Representative. **Maria POLESE**, Associate Professor of 'Structural Engineering' at the University of Naples Federico II. **Christian RESCH**, Disaster Competence Network Austria (DCNA), Austria. **Marzia SANTINI**, Knowledge management officer at the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) of the European Commission Joint Research Centre.

18:00 - 18:30  
Gold Hall

### Day 1 wrap up and transition to the Forum cocktail-dinner: "Going for Gold" with Shane McLeod.

*Participants gather together in the Gold Hall for a short wrap-up of day one and a pre-dinner inspiring sporting-story on building high-performance teams.*

Speaker: **Shane MCLEOD**, Coach of the National Belgian Hockey Team Olympic Gold Medal winner

18:30 - 21:00  
Grand Hall 1

### Walking dinner

*Guests are cordially invited to meet over an informal cocktail and walking dinner with musical accompaniment by **Anne-Laure Jazz band***



## 29 June 2022

08:00 - 09:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:00 - 10:00 Gold Hall	<p><b>Plenary session on Preparedness</b></p> <p><i>The Covid-19 pandemic as catalyser for strengthening Europe's cross-sectoral preparedness</i></p> <p>Inspiring Story: <b>Simona FIRONDA</b>, Youth Representative SALVO, Romania</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Raed ARAFAT</b>, Secretary of State, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania  <b>Charlotte PETRI GORNITZKA</b>, Director-General of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, Sweden  <b>Ilkka SALMI</b>, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, European Council  <b>Niels VANLAER</b>, Business Continuity Manager Operations of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Julia STEWART-DAVID</b>, Acting Director of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Directorate, DG ECHO, European Commission</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:00	Parallel Workshops on Preparedness
Hall 400	<p><b>Preparing for more frequent and extremer weather events</b></p> <p><i>The workshop will provide the opportunity to share information and identify lessons from different stakeholders, especially researchers and practitioners across Europe, on how to better prepare for more frequent and extremer weather events, by discussing future forecasting and linking it to the early and rapid notification.</i></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Ilona LANG-RITTER</b>, Research Scientist working with Climate Change and extreme weather impacts at the Finnish Meteorological Institute. <b>Krista MIKKONEN</b>, Minister of the Interior of Finland. <b>Pekka TIAINEN</b>, Senior Specialist in the Ministry of the Interior of Finland</p>

photographer: Petar Starčević



## 29 June 2022

Hall 100

### How to face the unthinkable?

*This workshop will not give you a definite prediction on what the future will look like, or provide you with a silver bullet on how to face it. However, we hope to spark an interesting and, likely, controversial discussion among the audience on how we can be prepared better for what we may have to face. We would like to challenge the way we work and collect best practices and new ideas together with you. A pointed scene setter followed by a panel discussion of practitioners and deciders will pave the way for fruitful discussions among us.*

Speakers: **Peter BILLING**, Deputy Director for Emergency Management and Head of Unit "Security and Situational Awareness" at the Directorate-General „ DG ECHO. **Marius DOGEANU**, Chief of the Directorate-General for Civil Protection within Romanian Department of Emergency Situations / Ministry of Home Affairs. **Dita HEIBERGA**, Head of Centre of Disaster Medicine. **Nicholas PARHAM**, Senior Analysis Advisor for ACAPS. **Lisbet ZILMER-JOHNS**, Director General, Danish Critical Supply Agency

Panoramic Hall

### Learning from abroad: success stories in international cooperation

*Successful stories, good examples and practices from the European Neighbourhood and beyond in preparing for disasters will be discussed. Invited guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Taiwan and US will kick off the discussion with their own success stories*

Speakers: **Vlatko JOVANOVSKI**, Head of the Secretariat of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). **Evangelos KATSAROS**, Researcher in civil protection field at the CERIDES Center of Excellence, European University Cyprus. **Ta-Ching LU**, Senior executive officer in the Office of Disaster Management of the Executive Yuan. **Lauren MCLANE**, Operational Planning Branch Chief in the Response Division of FEMA Region 1

Hall 300

### The next "big thing" in civil protection training - can new technologies revolutionise the way we learn in civil protection ?

*This workshop will discuss digitalization in disaster management training. With expert speakers on global trends in new technologies in training, and experience in digitalized solutions for the UCPM training and exercises programme, participants will share national examples of using new tools in civil protection training and discuss how digitalization can support learning activities in UCPM.*

Speakers: **Nicole Victoria PALLARES FERRER**, Junior Programme Officer at the ITCILO's Learning Innovation Programme. **Henri SCHWAIGER**, Project Coordinator at the International Division at the Headquarters of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) Germany.

photographer: Petar Starčević





## 29 June 2022

12:00 - 14:00  
Grand Hall 1

Networking Lunch | Exhibition

13:00 - 13:45  
Grand Hall 2

**Thinking Lab: Disability inclusion in emergencies**

*It is recognised that around 15% of the world's population live with some form of disability and this percentage is likely to increase in emergency contexts. Persons with disabilities are among those most exposed to disaster risks and are rarely involved in emergency cycle decision-making processes. However, despite the current situation, examples of good practice do already exist.*

Speakers: **Marijana BERKET**, National Civil Protection Training Centre Regional Centre, Croatia. **Gino CLAES**, Head of Crisis Management, Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, Belgium. **Nujeen MUSTAFA**, Kurdish Syrian refugee and activist.

Moderator: **Gordon RATTRAY**, Programme Coordinator with the European Disability Forum (EDF)

14:00 - 15:00  
Gold Hall

**Plenary session on Response**

*How to respond to the next climate-related crisis?*

Inspiring Story: **Lukas SERMANN**, Young winegrower affected by last year's heavy floods in Germany

Speakers: **Jytte GUTELAND**, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

**Friederike OTTO**, Senior Lecturer, The Grantham Institute for Climate Change; Imperial College London

**Christos STYLIANIDES**, Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic

**Edem WOSORNU**, Chief, Response Support Branch Coordination Division OCHA, United Nations

Moderator: **Hans DAS**, Director of the Director for Emergency Management and rescEU, DG ECHO, European Commission

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee Break



## 29 June 2022

15:30 - 17:00 Parallel Workshops on Response

Hall 400

### Looking back on responses to climate-induced disasters

*This workshop will tell you the story of the UCPM response to the simultaneous wildfires all over the Mediterranean area during the last summer 2021. Speakers from Sweden, Poland, Portugal, Spain, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Greece, will explain how they managed the situation, how they delivered assistance and what challenges they found during the emergencies happening almost at the same time*

Speakers: **Adrian BUCAŁOWSKI**, Deputy Director of Civil Protection Department at National Headquarters of the State Fire Service of Poland. **Luigi D'ANGELO**, Director of the Operational Office for the coordination of emergencies at the Civil Protection Department of the Prime Minister Cabinet Office. **Jelmer DAM**, National Wildfire Coordinator, National Institute Physical Safety, The Netherlands. **Andre FERNANDES**, National Commander for Civil Protection. **Anna Karin HAMREN**, Programme manager at the Response and Operations Department at MSB. **Álvaro JIMÉNEZ GONZÁLEZ**, Chief of service within the Spanish Wildfire Management Service. **Eirini KRAMPI**, Head of the Department of the European Relations, Directorate of International Relations. **Bruno ULLIAC**, Head of European and International relations unit at the General Directorate for Civil Protection Civil and Crisis Management (DGSCGC) of the French Ministry of Interior

Hall 100

### Focus on Ukraine: Perspectives on stronger European coordination through the ERCC

*This workshop will provide a number of snapshots depicting how different European actors worked and continue to work through/with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in responding to the war in Ukraine. Besides hearing from different practitioners based in Brussels and around the Union, including on Ukraine's doorstep, the session offers an opportunity for participants to exchange their own experiences and reflections concerning the civil protection response to the war thus far and going forward.*

Speakers: **Oleh BONDARENKO**, Head of the Committee on Environmental Policy and Nature Management of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. **Nazar BORYSHKEVICH**, Acting Head of the European Integration and International Cooperation Department of the State Emergency Service, Ukraine. **Juho KURTIO**, Emergency preparedness, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). **Antoine LEMASSON**, Head of the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre. **Marcin PATER**, Emergency Response Officer Emergency Response Coordination Centre, DG ECHO. **HP SCHREINEMACHERS**, Head of the Justice, Security and Migration Team at the Netherlands Permanent Representation. **Anne SIMON**, Head of Unit of the Emergency Office, European Health Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). **Sofia WESTBERG**, Programme Manager at the Humanitarian Operations Section of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).



## 29 June 2022

### Panoramic Hall

#### Enhancing cooperation with international partners

*Exchanges of experience of international partners/liaison officers using case studies in relation to the cooperation with the UCPM. An interactive group session will follow after each case study focussing on how to enhance further cooperation with international partners and look for their potential impact and benefit for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.*

Speakers: **Geir ELLINGSEN**, Program officer / Seconded National Expert, DG ECHO. **Mailin FAUCHON**, Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator. **Peter MULLER**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer – UNDAC Global Lead Emergency Response Section, Response Support Branch OCHA Geneva. **Brigitta SAFAR**, Head of Disaster Management, Hungarian Red Cross. **Charles SILVA**, Team Leader for the LACER project (Leveraging ASEAN Capacity for Emergency Response). **Kriztin SOLBERG**, Project Manager for the Twinning Enhancing Civil Protection in Armenia programme and LACER (Leveraging ASEAN Capacity for Emergency Response)

### Hall 300

#### New and emerging technologies to support disaster responses

*This workshop will offer a forum to discuss and share knowledge on new and emerging technologies, and to scope the risks and opportunities posed by such innovations for emergency response.*

Speakers: **Vasileios KALOGIROU**, Space Downstream Research & Innovation Officer at the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA). **Zvonko OREHOVEC**, CBRN subject matter expert, Civil Protection Directorate, Croatia. **Mladen VINKOVIC**, Head of the Sector of the State Civil Protection Intervention Unit in the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, Croatia.

17:15 - 18:00  
Gold Hall

#### Award ceremony | Closing plenary session

**Patricia GASPAS**, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Portugal

**Janez LENARČIČ**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission



European Civil Protection Forum | [Brussels 28-29 June 2022](#)

Towards faster, greener & smarter emergency management