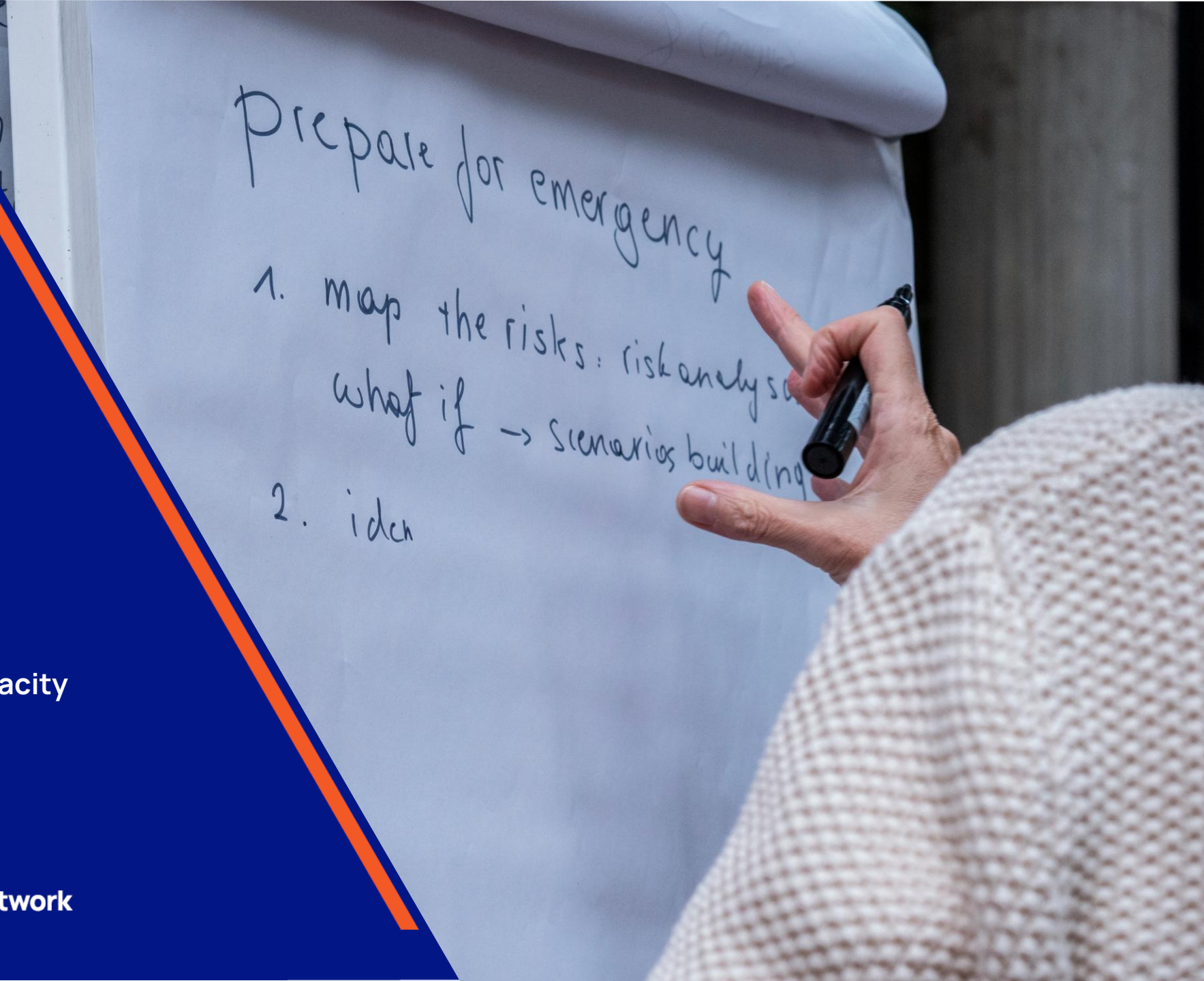
European Union

Financing Smart Disaster Risk Management: Navigating EU Funding Opportunities

21/10/2026

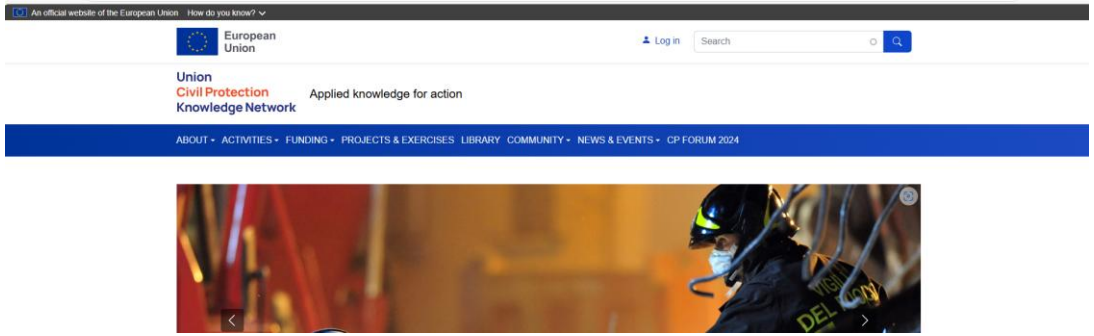
Teresa CAPULA, Policy officer
Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building
European Commission, DG ECHO

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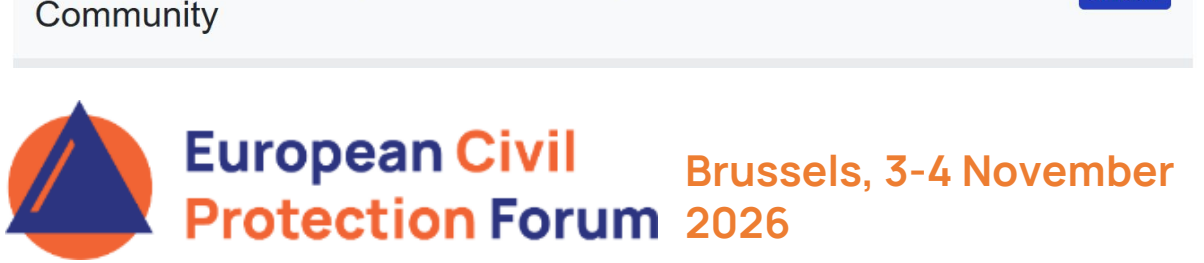
Connect, share, grow





Spaces and cooperation tools:

- Project pages
- Discussion groups
- Knowledge Library
- Quarterly KN newsletter: [subscribe to our mailing list!]



European Civil Protection Forum Brussels, 3-4 November 2026

European Union

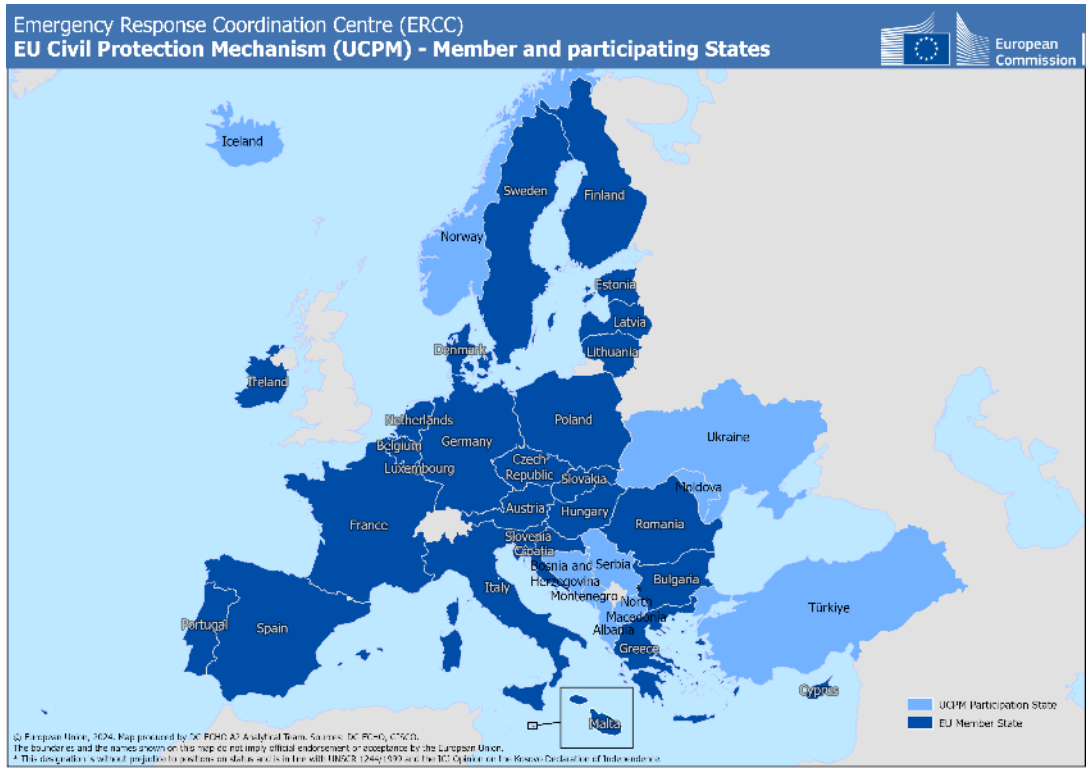
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The European Union's mandate on civil protection

- **Art. 196 TFUE and Decision No 1313/2013/EU:**
  - The Union Mechanism shall support, complement and facilitate coordination of Member States' action …
- **UCPM is 27 MS + 10 PS**

Decision: EUR-Lex - 02013D1313-20210101 - EN - EUR-Lex
Implementing Decision: EUR-Lex - 02014D0762-20190410

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – European Commission





Evolving risk landscape













European Union

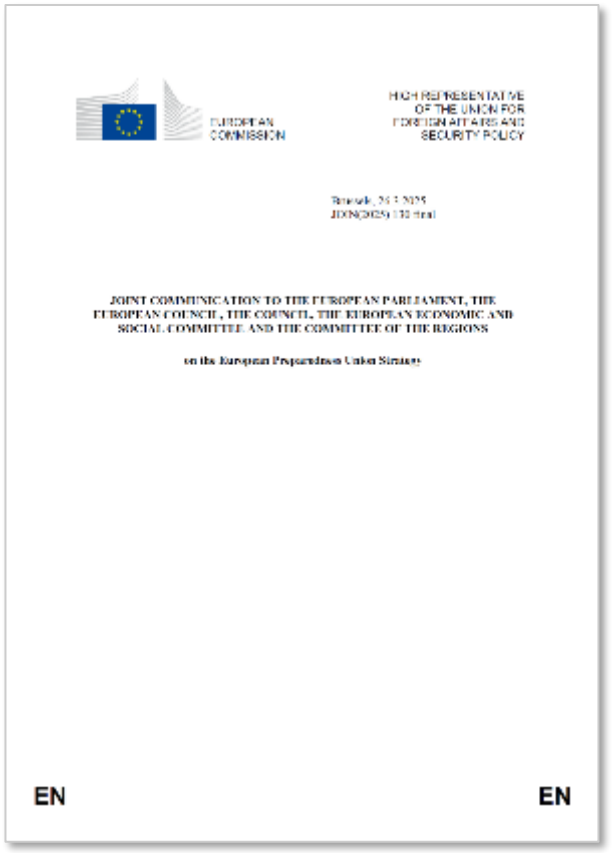
Ur ge Network

EU Preparedness Union Strategy

Adopted in March 2025







EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY

JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

on the European Preparedness Union Strategy

EN EN

Why

- Evolving European risk landscape
- More proactive, integrated & upscaled approach

How

- All-hazard
- Whole-of-government
- Whole-of-society

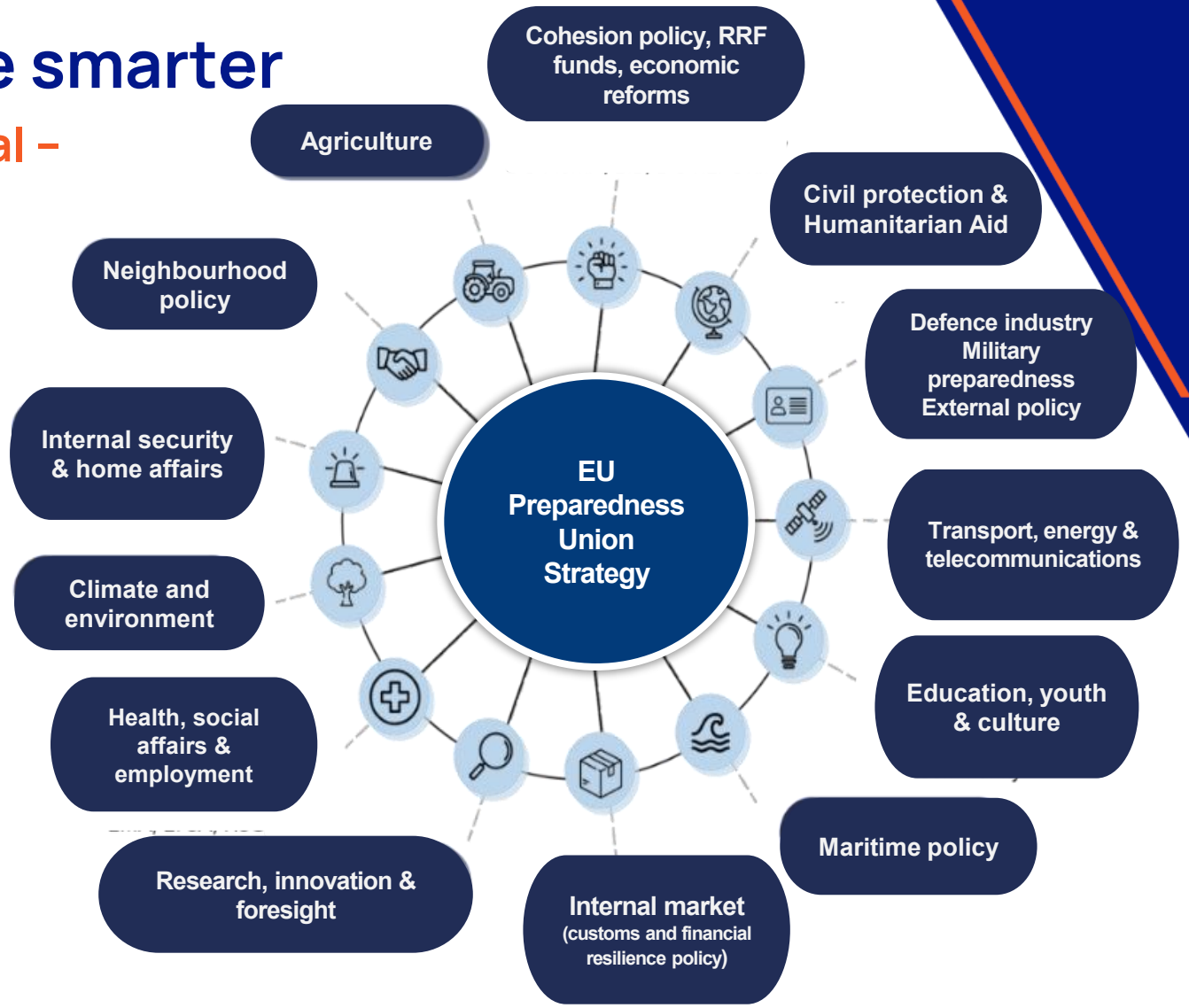
How far

- Civilian preparedness — incl. civ-mil cooperation
- European Preparedness — incl. external where impact on EU
- EU added value to MS — Excl. competence change
- Vision till end of mandate — incl. next MFF

Why financing need to become smarter

Disaster risk management is cross-sectoral – and so is the EU funding landscape

- Preparedness is an horizontal policy
- EU support for DRM is not concentrated in one programme
- “Smart financing” means combining instruments and policy areas around a coherent investment pipeline
- Funding should support the full DRM logic: risk knowledge > prevention/mitigation > preparedness > response capacity > recovery and resilience



“Preparedness and security considerations will be integrated and mainstreamed across EU legislation, policies and programmes.”

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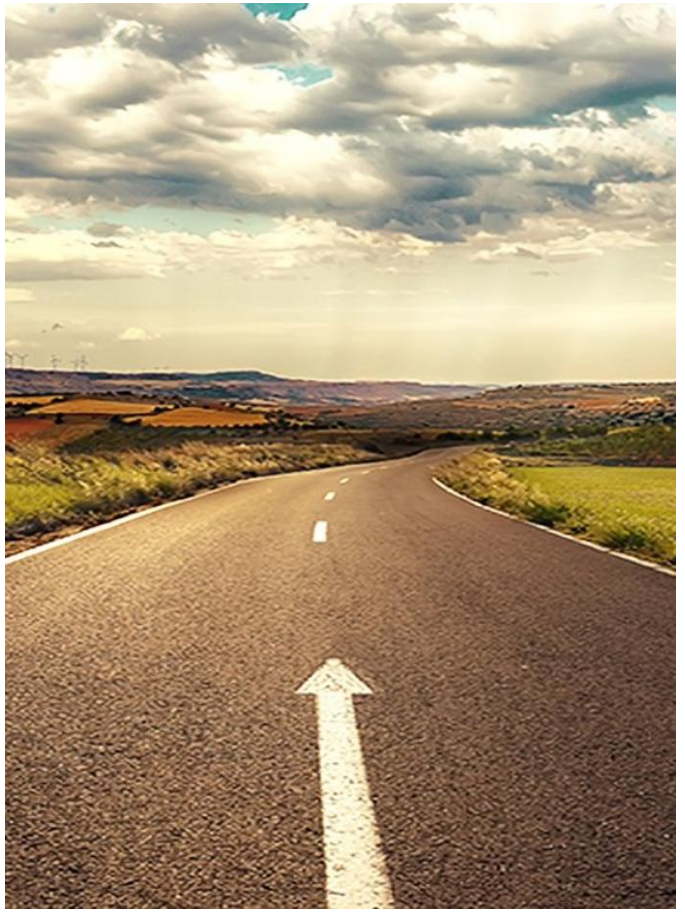
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The funding landscape

Need / What do you want to achieve	Funding routes / potential instruments worth exploring	Possible application / typical DRM relevance
Develop a disaster risk strategy or prepare future investments	**UCPM Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management (Track 1)**, where eligibility and national arrangements permit	Risk assessment, strategic planning, feasibility studies
Invest in climate adaptation, risk reduction, resilient infrastructures	**ERDF**, **Cohesion Fund**, **LIFE**, depending on the intervention and applicable programme	Flood resilience, nature-based solutions, buildings, urban heat adaptation
Address shared risks across borders, cross-border and transnational cooperation	**INTERREG programmes**	Cross-border preparedness, shared risk information, joint planning, pilots, cross-border capacities and exercices
Research, innovation, develop and test innovative solutions	**Horizon Europe**, depending on the call topic	Risk modelling, early warning, technologies, decision-support tools
Cooperate with cities in other countries and strengthen preparedness	**UCPM KAPP,** subject to the relevant call and consortium requirements **UCPM exchange of experts** / other	Joint preparedness methodologies, knowledge exchange, exercises
People, skills, societal preparedness	**UCPM KAPP**, **Erasmus+**, **European Solidarity Corps**, **ESF+**	Risk communication, training, youth engagement, skills and social resilience

Important! 2028 – 2034 Multiannual Financial Framework ("MFF") - under discussion

- The current EU funding landscape **is expected to evolve under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034**, currently under discussion.
- While the instruments and priorities presented here provide a useful overview of the current situation, **the future framework may bring new opportunities and changes in how funding is structured and accessed**.
- The key is therefore to understand not only the existing instruments, but also the broader funding landscape and how to navigate it.

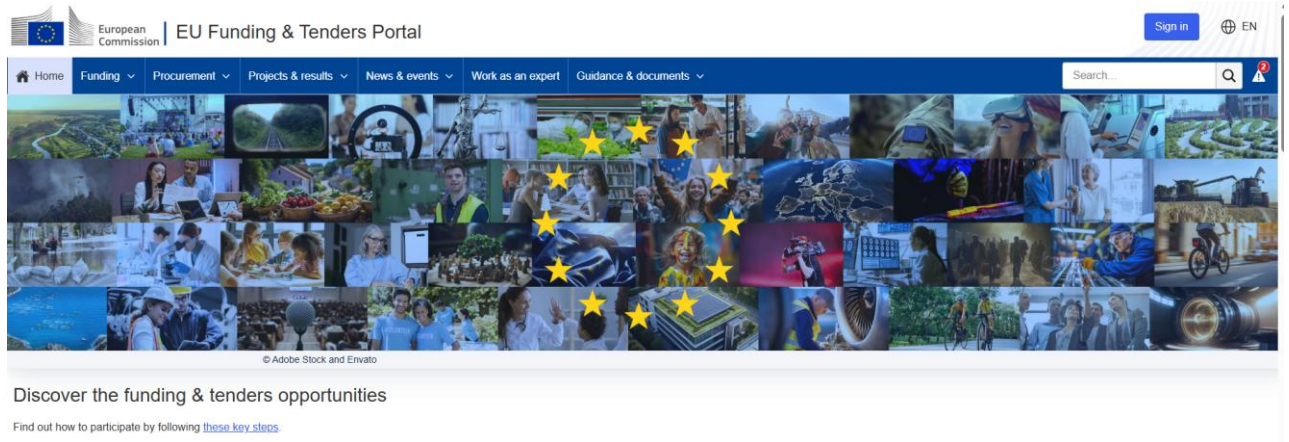


>> European Commission - The 2028-2034 EU budget for a stronger Europe

Five practical steps

Before you look for funding …

1. Map the need first, define the problem: which risk, vulnerability or preparedness gap needs to be addressed?
2. Clarify the type of support
3. Watch the calls / work programmes and check eligibility
4. Identify the right partners - use the community!
5. Plan for impact and continuity



EU login

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism capacity building instruments

The most direct route for DRM authorities

Single country grants: Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management - Track 1

Technical Assistance Financing Facility - TAFF

Multi-country grants:
Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP)

- Multi-country partnership projects strengthening disaster prevention and preparedness / cooperation, testing and learning across Member States / UCPM Participating States
- Annual calls - next in 2028!
- Partnership of minimum 3 entities (public or private) of 3 different eligible States
- Projects funded min 400.000 / max 1.000.000, for a max duration of 24 months

Success stories!
UCPM prevention and preparedness projects



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Some voluntary tips on how to better integrate …

… into DG ECHO policies and increase chance of impact



- Learn, follow and use them, such as …
  - DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (general info)
  - EU Preparedness Union Strategy
  - European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP)
  - EU Host Nation Support Guidelines
  - Wildfire Peer Review Assessment framework

- EU academy UCPM Intro-course, a good entry point:
  - UCPM Training Course for national civil protection and disaster management staff





Population preparedness



65% of Europeans feel that **they need more information to be able to prepare** for disasters or emergencies

At EU level, citizens feel personally most exposed to extreme weather events, followed by human health emergencies and floods

The overall level of risk awareness and preparedness across the EU needs to be improved

Special Eurobarometer on disaster awareness and preparedness of EU citizens (September 2024) › + countries fiches





Final recommendations available via:
Citizens' Panel on Preparedness - Citizens' Engagement Platform

›› Coming soon! EU Guidelines:

- for effective, accessible and inclusive risk communication
- to support at least 72 hours of self-sufficiency
- to support the inclusion of preparedness in pre-primary and primary schools (ECHO & EAC)
- to support disability inclusive preparedness

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Three things to remember

Key takeaways

- It's a **system**, not a single grant: smart financing means combining a EU toolbox of complementary programmes, including dedicated UCPM instruments
- **Timing is strategic**: partnership building should start now, not when the call is published
- **Preparedness by design pays off**! Embedding resilience across cohesion, research, and social funding multiplies impact well beyond what civil protection budgets alone can achieve

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Connect. Share. Grow.

Contacts:
TERESA.CAPULA@ec.europa.eu
ECHO-CP-KNOWLEDGE-NETWORK@ec.europa.eu

civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu

