Programme Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Short general description

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism aims at supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States for the protection, primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents.

Objectives:

In view of the significant increase in the numbers and severity of natural and man-made disasters in recent years, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism aims improving the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters. The annual work programmes 2014-2020 will allow participation of countries that are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy to some of its activities.

The programme aims also to promote solidarity and facilitate the coordination with the EU Member States in the field of civil protection.

Supported activities:

- co-financing projects, studies, workshops, surveys and similar actions and activities to fulfil prevention objectives and carry out prevention actions;
- co-financing peer reviews;
- (contribute to the) development of transnational detection, early warning and alert systems of European interest, in order to enable a rapid response as well as to promote the inter-linkage between national early warning and alert systems, and their linkage to the ERCC and the CECIS;
- set-up and management of a training programme for civil protection and emergency management personnel on disaster prevention of, preparedness for, and response to disasters;
- set-up and management of a programme of exercises;

- set-up and management a programme of lessons learnt from civil protection actions, including aspects from the entire disaster management cycle;
- (upon request by a beneficiary State) support the provision of advice on prevention or preparedness measures through the deployment of an expert team on site.

Eligibility (in the context of the ENP): Financial assistance may be granted to countries that are part of the ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy), to the extent that it complements funding available from the European Neighbourhood Instrument.

Modalities of participation:

Eligibility of actors, actions and modalities of participation will be further detailed in the Annual Work Programmes and in the specific calls for proposals or for tenders, which will be published in the ECHO website. ENP organisations can participate in activities together with EU MSs organisations, in consortium led by the latter. Participation of ENP countries is open to a specific set of activities included in the annual work programme, without any requirement. According to the new legal base, full participation to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism is not possible for ENP countries.

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Examples of activities where ENP countries can be involved:

- Joint civil protection exercises with EU Member States;
- Joint disaster prevention and preparedness projects with EU Member States;

- Extension of the European Flood Alert System (EFAS) to the ENP countries;
- Studies.