

ANNEX 1

Preparatory Action

Network of European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management

INCREASING RISKS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS

Europe is increasingly facing the dramatic impacts of intense and unpredictable natural disasters with ensuing loss of life, destruction of property and cultural heritage. Climate change is amplifying the impacts of extreme weather events in Europe and worldwide. Key trends show, for example, how climate change is contributing to increased intensity of forest fires and a longer forest fire season in Southern Europe, the expansion of fire-prone areas northwards, as well as increased storms and risk of flooding. Moreover, in a shared risk landscape, natural disasters do not respect national borders and require therefore increased collaboration among Member States.

This Preparatory Action 'European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management' was adopted by the European Parliament to support the disaster preparedness in the Union and its Member States in the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and to better tackle the new challenges posed by the changing risk landscape in Europe.

PREPARATORY ACTION

Preparatory actions and pilot projects are initiatives of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility and usefulness of actions and to prepare new actions like EU policies, legislation, and programmes. They are meant to try different approaches, develop evidence-based strategies to address a problem, identify good practices, and provide guidance for possible future initiatives. As such, the preparatory action 'European Hubs for Civil Protection and Crisis Management' is an opportunity to explore the concept of hubs for civil protection and to propose a theoretical model for the development and setting up of such hubs.

The Commission, in close cooperation with the participating states, will then decide whether and how to implement this theoretical model. For this reason, the project will help the Commission to assess the feasibility and relevance of the creation of hubs for civil protection.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is to formulate a concept and a model for European hubs for civil protection and disaster management. The concept of civil protection hub should build on the need to ensure an optimum use of the disaster management knowledge and expertise that exists in Europe, through its further integration into existing practice. Within the scope of the project, a series of concrete activities will be designed to test the feasibility and adequacy of the proposed concept. This set of activities will take the shape of a pilot hub on wildfire risk management. Based on the experiences of the wildfire pilot hub, a generic hub-model will be proposed to provide guidance for a potential future initiative of the UCPM participating states.



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PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

The project started in February 2019 and will be concluded in February 2020. The activities of the project will consist of:



*the topics of the trainings will be defined based on the identified gaps during the mapping exercise and the discussions held for the definition of hubs for civil protection.



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PROJECT DETAILS

Under the supervision of the Commission, the project is implemented by the following consortium:

Lead partner

**Ecorys
ARTTIC**

With the support of

**Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (FhG-INT)
International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS)
Global Fire Monitoring Centre (GFMC)
Centre for Security Studies (KEMEA)
Emergency Services College (ESC)
Agency for the Integrated Management of Rural Fires (AGIF)
Forest Fire Fighting Volunteer Corps of Piemonte**

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