European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

Dr Katja Samuel, Director
Global Security and Disaster Management Limited

Overview

- Introduction to UCPM.
- Legal basis of UCPM.
- Key elements of UCPM.
- Key challenges and solutions for cross-border cooperation.
- Questions.

Introduction to UCPM

- No international treaty exists on cross-border disaster related cooperation (nb UNGA discussions ILC Draft Articles).
- UCPM is EU's institutionalized cross-border cooperation mechanism to prevent, prepare, respond to disasters.
- Established in 2001 with 33 Participating States.
- Key role is coordinate disaster related efforts in Europe and 3rd party states, e.g. deployment of assets and personnel.
- Any country worldwide may call on UCPM assistance (e.g., ebola in West Africa (2014), earthquake in Nepal (2015)).
- Between 2001-2018, responded to 300+ request assistance.
- No assets or resources of its own.

Introduction to UCPM

- Short video illustrating EU cooperation through UCPM in action, fighting forest fires in Italy.
- EU solidarity in action - forest fires in Italy

Legal Basis of UCPM

- UCPM's legal basis Treaty of Lisbon 2007 (EU constitution):
- Provide assistance, relief, and protection to victims of natural or man-made disasters around the world (art. 214) and
- To support and coordinate the civil protection systems of its Member States (art. 196).
- Promise of "Europe that protects" based on 'solidarity clause' in Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (art. 222):
- Establishes a legal obligation for the EU and its member states to assist each other when an EU country is the object of a terrorist attack or a natural or man-made disaster.
- Goals: to protect people against harm from, and ability to respond rapidly to, (imminent) disaster.

Legal Basis of UCPM

- UCPM revised in December 2013 to develop comprehensive disaster management policy: disaster prevention, disaster preparedness and improved response arrangements.
- Revised civil protection mechanism effective 1 Jan 2014:
- Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC);
- European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC); and
- Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

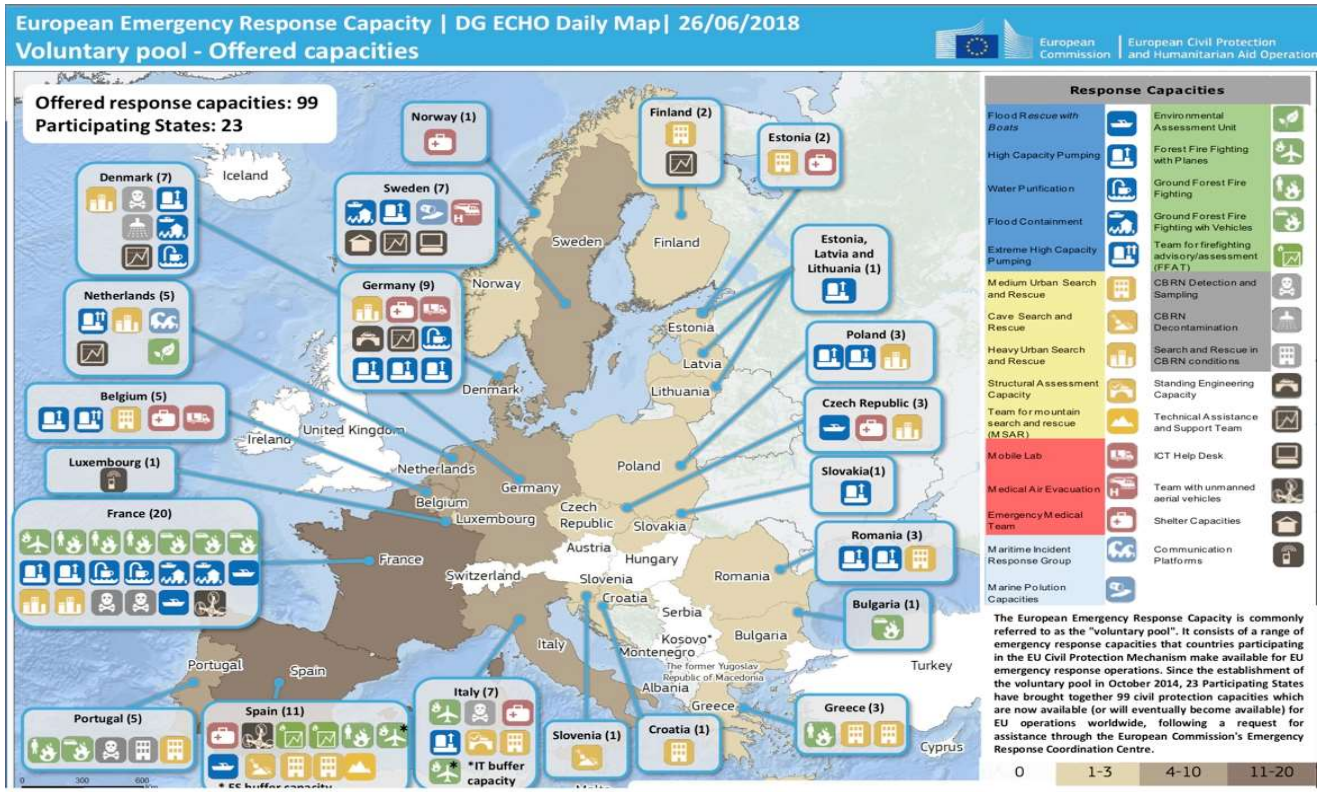
ERCC

- ERCC (Emergency Response Coordination Centre) operative hub at heart for UCPM – main contact point to coordinate EU's response.
- Main crisis monitoring and coordinating platform:
- Disseminates information;
- Provides early warning; and
- Coordinates responses from Participating States.
- Full 24/7 capacity e.g. to monitor and respond to disasters, give updates, allocate resources from voluntary pool, etc.

EERC

- European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC).
- UCPM has no assets of its own.
- Provided on voluntary basis by Participating States who decide whether or not to make an offer of assistance in response to specific requests.
- Oct 2014, voluntary pool launched – *pre-committed* capacities from participating states – aimed at less reactive, ad hoc responses.
- Assets subject to certification process for quality.
- Currently, 23 participating states offer 98 specialised response capacities. UCPM voluntary pool

EERC



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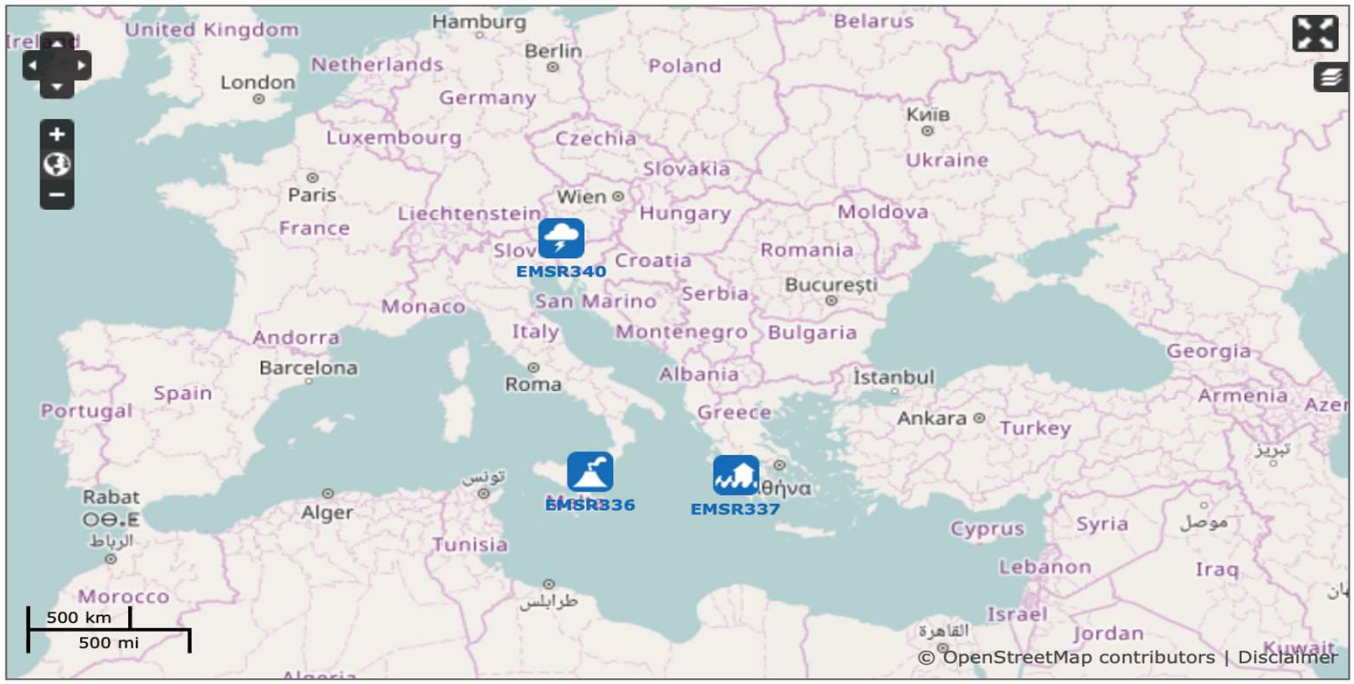
CECIS

- ERCC supported by CECIS (Common Emergency Communication and Information System).
- Web-based alert and notification system.
- EU Commission developed/uses number near real-time monitoring and alert systems for natural disasters/early warning:
- Copernicus Emergency Management System (geospatial).
- European Flood Alert System (EFAS).
- European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).

CECIS

Copernicus Emergency Management Service - Mapping

A service in support of European emergency response



Map above displays only latest Copernicus EMS - Mapping Activations. To see a Map of All Activations, go to section Map of Activations in Rapid Mapping or in Risk and Recovery Mapping sub-menus respectively.

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CECIS

Latest Copernicus EMS - Mapping Activations

Act. Code	Title	Event Date	Type	Country/Terr.	Feed
EMSR341	Internally Displaced People in Rann,...	2019-01-28	Humanitarian	Nigeria	
EMSR340	Wind Storm in the South of Austria	2018-10-28	Storm	Austria	
EMSR339	Floods in Mozambique	2019-01-22	Storm	Mozambique	
EMSR337	Flood in Western Greece	2019-01-12	Flood	Greece	
EMSR336	Etna Volcano eruption in Sicily, Italy	2018-12-24	Volcanic activ...	Italy	

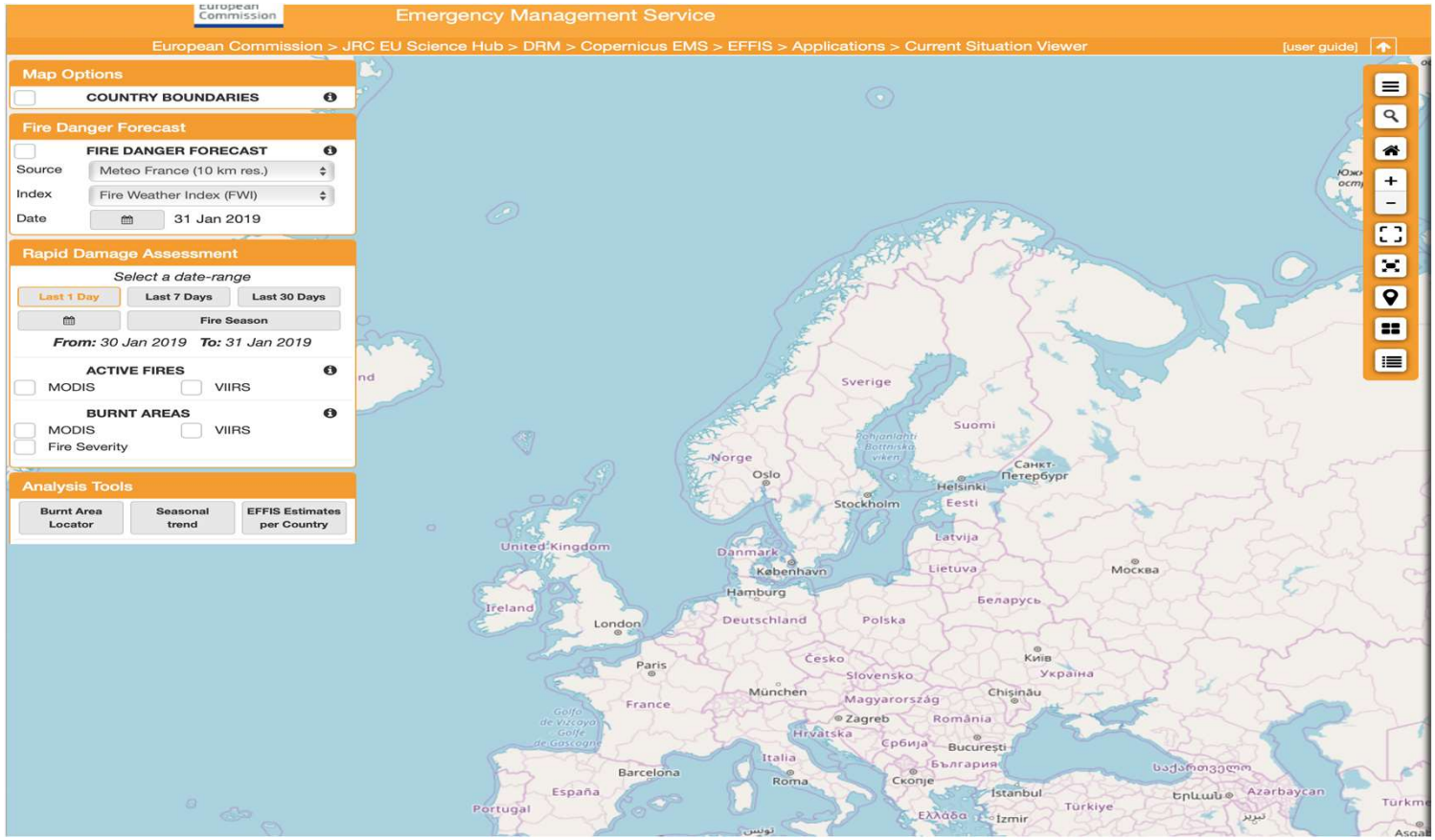
Summary of the Copernicus EMS - Mapping Activations

Type of Disaster	Number of Activations	Number of Reference Maps	Number of Delineation Maps	Number of Grading Maps
Earthquake	20	115	33	240
Epidemic	1	3	0	0
Flood	117	399	1237	145
Forest fire, wild fire	23	49	102	79
Humanitarian	7	22	117	1
Industrial accident	5	12	3	1
Mass movement	3	6	6	8
Other	69	292	280	226
Storm	27	60	294	67
Volcanic activity	3	0	8	30
Wildfire	46	10	234	154
Wind storm	19	86	109	71
[Total: 01.04.2012 - 31.01.2019]	340	1054	2423	1022

In the above table, only non-obsolete components are considered.

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CECIS



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European Medical Corps

- EMC mobiles medical and public health expert teams to better prepare/respond to health emergencies inside/outside the EU.
- 11 Participating States provide 17 teams (e.g., medical teams, mobile laboratories, medical evacuation, planes, logistical support teams). Coordinated as part of UCPM.
- Established after key lessons learnt from Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2014 on importance to better coordinate international response in health emergencies.
- Supports prevention/preparedness efforts of Participating States, e.g. undertaking of risk assessments, reinforcing early warning tools.
- EU has health security framework for serious cross-border threats to health. (Decision 1082/2013/EU).

Other UCPM Activities

(1) Training and Capacity Building

- *Underpinning ethos*: (a) Prevention/preparedness activities mitigate disaster effects on lives, property, environment; (b) well-trained teams more effective in disaster response.
- Training programme for Participating States' civil protection experts ensures compatibility and complementarity between intervention teams.
- Large-scale exercises such as to train capacities for specific disasters each year.
- Eg MODEX 2018 - largest medical exercise ever conducted in the framework of UCPM; over 1000 people mobilised with medical teams from 8 nations.

Other UCPM Activities

(2) Peer Review

- Mechanism a tool for EU Member States/ neighbourhood countries to facilitate exchange of good practice, improve disaster risk management policy and planning, enable mutual learning, etc to consequently improve consistency in UCPM coordinated responses.
- Programme involves experts from other countries examining set-up/operation of reviewed country in risk management area(s).
- Reviews based on EU guidelines/frameworks.
- Participation on a voluntary basis, for both reviewed and reviewing countries - peer-to-peer learning, not top-down review.
- The resulting reports include recommendations for improvements and highlight areas of good practice.

Key Challenges and Solutions

(1) Availability of Necessary, Deployable Assets

- UCPM dependent on voluntary contribution of assets.
- Often Member States unable to commit assets (e.g., multiple Member States facing same disasters simultaneously; own capacities reached their limits dealing with other national issues).
- Low incentives for Member States to offer assistance via UCPM -EU budget only finances % transport (not operational) costs.
- Not all requests for assistance met (in 2017, 10 out of 17 for forest fire assistance).
- Key lessons learnt regarding: UCPM limits; need for increased capacity for multiple/frequently recurring events; robust incentive structure needed for functioning solidarity mechanism.

Key Challenges and Solutions

Solution

- Increased efforts for more integrated, holistic approach to EU DRM efforts, from prevention 9 (‘as duty, not a choice”) to response.
- **rescEU** proposal - reinforce EU’s/Member States’ collective ability to respond to disasters, and address recurrent/emerging capacity gaps through dual system to: (1) strengthen available deployable capacity; and (2) improve EU’s operational agency:
- Dedicated reserve of response capacities, with UCPM command and control;
- More effective and dynamic contribution from Member States through a European Civil Protection Pool;
- Complement existing national response capacities (as measure last resort);
- Assets leased via EU arrangements/acquired with EU financing;
- Activation normally limited to 90 day period.

Key Challenges and Solutions

(2) Challenges of Cross-Border Cooperation

- Two key aspects:

(1) differences in the way national civil protection has been organized; and
(2) issue of sufficient trust existing within/between involved entities.

- Established key challenges to interoperability/cooperation include important differences in administrative responsibilities, legal frameworks, operational practices, diverging traditions and cultures between the different national systems, as well as e.g. quality of these systems.

Key Challenges and Solutions

Different models within EU Member States of civil protection:

- Federal systems with decentralized and localized bottom-up arrangements (e.g., Germany, Austria).
- Largely decentralized bottom-up systems, with some strong, variable, elements of centralization (e.g., Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, and Sweden).
- Fairly centralized systems with some elements of decentralization (e.g., Croatia, France).
- Fully centralized systems (Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania).

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- Fully centralized systems (Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania).
- Additional hurdles inc: different threshold for 'crisis'/'disaster'; diverse lines of authority and designation of responsibilities; different constitutional/legal requirements, etc.
- Questions too regarding nature/extent EU role.

Questions?