Joint Workshop «Innovation and Technology Showcase»



FireFly («Joint Cross-Border Innovative Protection and Prevention of Forest Fires»), διασυνοριακή πρωτοβουλία στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος Interreg VI-A IPA «Greece – North Macedonia 2021-2027»

6-7-8 Νοεμβρίου 2026
ΔΙΠΑΕ Σέρρες και ΑΕΡΟΛΕΣΧΗ ΣΕΡΡΩΝ

INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

Integrated Preparedness: Strengthening Infrastructure, Protecting Users of Infrastructure & Services, Citizens, and Society. Examples of Actions & Horizon Europe Projects

Ενσωματωμένη Ετοιμότητα: Θωρακίζοντας τις Υποδομές, Προστατεύοντας Χρήστες Υποδομών & Υπηρεσιών, Πολίτες και Κοινωνία. Παραδείγματα Δράσεων & Έργων Ορίζοντα Ευρώπης"

Δρ. Αικατερίνη Πουστουρλή

Προϊσταμένη Τμήματος ΠΣΕΑ ΔΙΠΑΕ

Διεθνής Εμπειρογνώμονας Τυποποίησης σε θέματα Ασφάλειας, Εκτάκτων Αναγκών, Κρίσεων, Ανθεκτικότητας έναντι Καταστροφών, Προστασίας Κρίσιμων Υποδομών και CBRNe threats

European Civil Protection Forum 2026



'When disaster strikes, the first hours can make all the difference.

Every European should know what to do, how to protect their family, and how to help others.

Preparedness starts in our homes, in our schools, in our communities.

That is why we are giving people practical tools to prepare for crises, while strengthening the systems they rely on when emergencies hit.'

European Civil Protection Forum 2026, organised by the European Commission in Brussels on 3-4 November, under the theme "*Preparing today, ready for tomorrow*".

EU Preparedness Day, to be held every 23 October, starting in 2027

The date marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Civil Protection Mechanism on 23 October 2001

From Response to Readiness / Preparedness by design / Integrated Preparedness

A shifting paradigm in European governance, transitioning from reactive crisis management to an active, structurally resilient model capable of navigating complex, overlapping threats

(such as climate change, cyber warfare, geopolitical tension, and pandemics)

The Niinistö report on EU preparedness and readiness highlights the urgent need to reinforce both civilian and military preparedness in areas including health, migration, technological security, climate, defence and the economy. **The report also promotes a new understanding of preparedness, recognising it not only as a national responsibility but as a shared commitment across the European Union.**

Europe's Policy Direction: From Response to Readiness



EU Preparedness Union Strategy (2025): all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

European Commission, Communication on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management, 25 March 2026.

Council of the European Union, Recommendation on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management, 29 June 2026

European Commission, Guidelines on Population Preparedness, 3 November 2026.

EU Civil Protection Mechanism / rescEU: cooperation, response capacity and mutual assistance.

Critical Entities Resilience Directive (CER): resilience of essential services and critical entities.

NIS2 Directive: cybersecurity and resilience of essential entities.

EU Disaster Resilience Goals: Anticipate – Prepare – Alert – Respond – Secure.

UNDRR, Sendai Framework 2015–2030: understanding risk, strengthening governance, investing in resilience and enhancing preparedness.

Joint Workshop «Innovation and Technology Showcase», FireFly

« *Integrated Preparedness: Strengthening Infrastructure, Protecting Users of Infrastructure & Services, Citizens, and Society. Examples of Actions & Horizon Europe Projects », Dr. Aikaterini Poustourli*







Citizens' Report on the European Citizens Panel on Preparedness

EU Preparedness Strategy
Action 28
Action 29
Action 33
Action 27



sability Inclusive Preparedness

New guidelines to strengthen population preparedness (Population Preparedness Guidelines)

- 72-hour self-sufficiency
- Preparedness education:
- Disability-inclusive preparedness.
- Communicating risks and threats

New guidance to support implementation of the Guidelines



Effective, accessible and inclusive Risk Communication



Reaching a Population Self Sufficiency of at least 72 Hours



Preparedness in School Curricula, and Training of Educational Staff

New guidelines to strengthen population preparedness (Population Preparedness Guidelines)

This guidance was drafted together with experts from EU MS and UCPM PS, civil protection authorities, other disaster risk management stakeholders and other relevant stakeholders and builds on the PREPARE EU pilot project and on the recommendations from the European Citizen Panel on Preparedness, organised in March-May 2026 with 150 randomly selected citizens from all 27 Member States.



Preparedness in School Curricula, and Training of Educational Staff

Core Message 1: Preparedness must be integrated directly into everyday school routines from early childhood to build long-term societal resilience without creating fear.

Core Message 2: Effective delivery requires a whole-of-government approach with cross-sectoral collaboration between education, civil protection, local authorities, and families.

implementation-of-population-preparedness-guidelines-on-preparedness-education.pdf

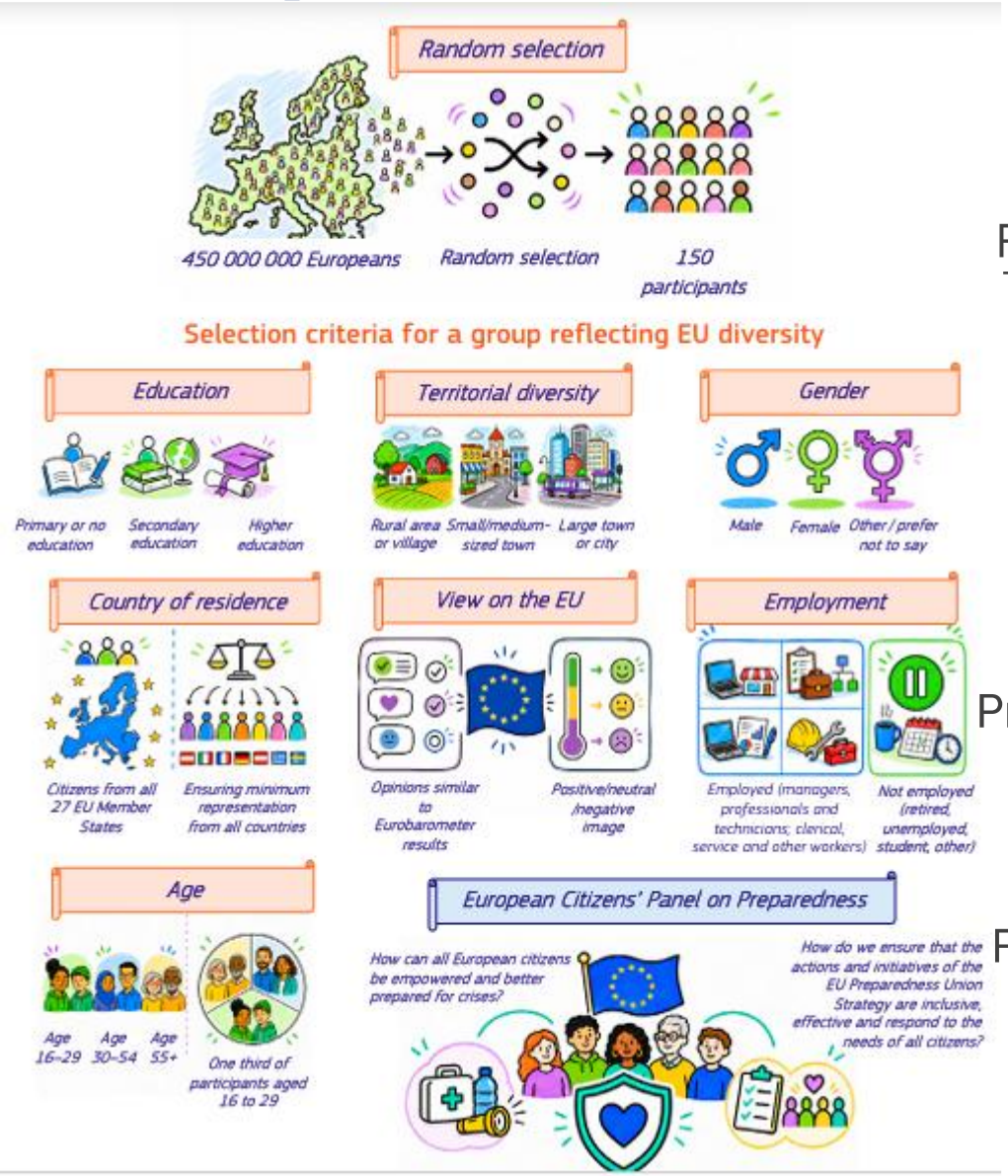
COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Implementation of Population Preparedness Guidelines on preparedness education under the EU Preparedness Union Strategy

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Preparedness: Europe's collective responsibility



Citizens' Panel on Preparedness

Randomly selected citizens from the 27 EU Member States discussed how to implement the Preparedness Union Strategy.

20 Recommendations



1 Accessible differentiated multichannel warning systems.



2 A coordinated, multichannel approach to crisis preparedness communication.



3 Establishing and improving local on-site knowledge centres (distribution/information centres).



4 EU crisis preparedness information mechanism.



5 Advance critical thinking in education.



6 Tackling disinformation / false information to be prepared.



7 Strengthening transparency and fact-checking verification.



8 Standardised and universal visual and auditory signal identification.

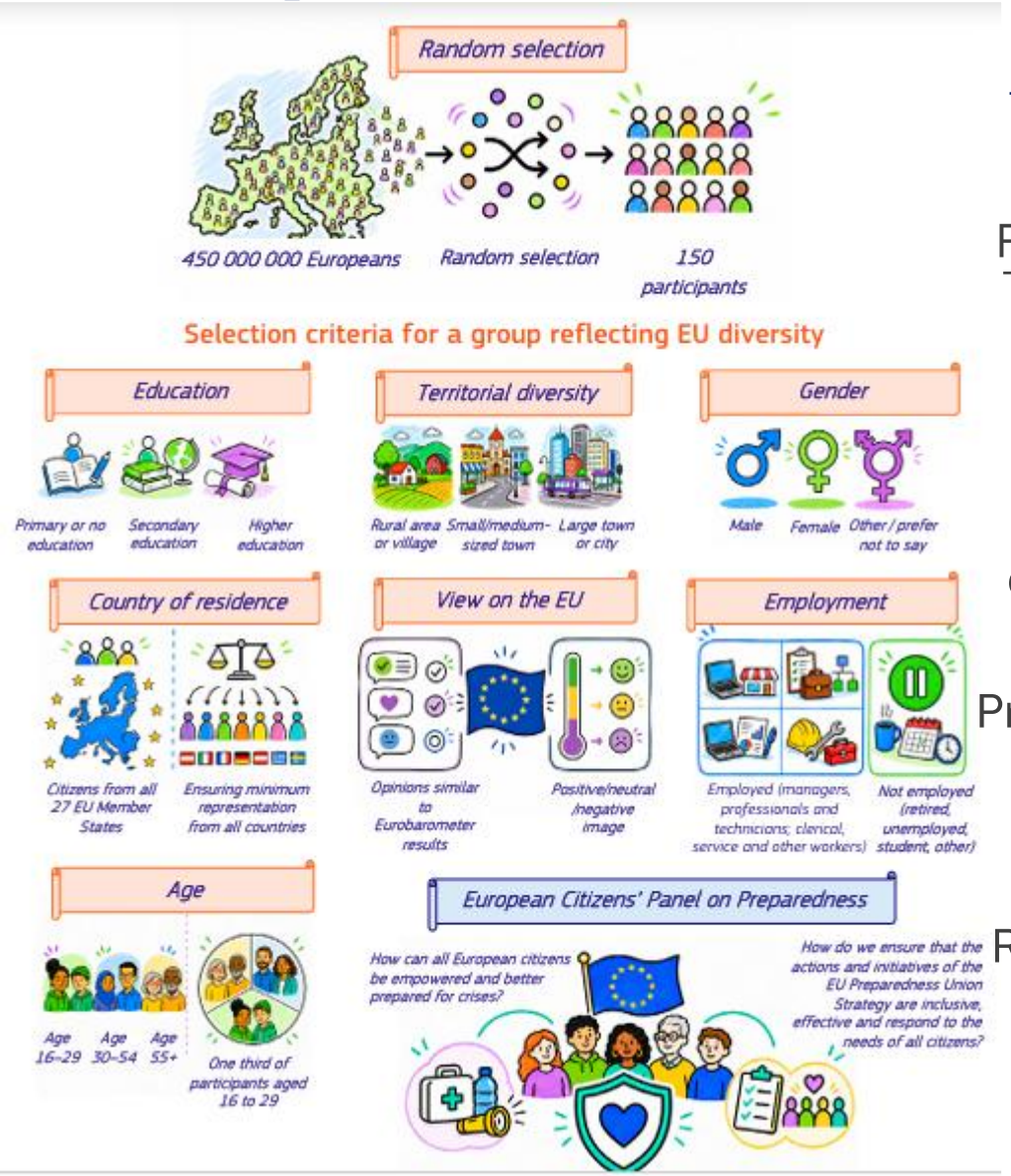


9 Universal and unified design to deliver information related to crises.



10 Engagement of local organisations in coordinating the distribution of 72-hour kits for vulnerable individuals.

Preparedness: Europe's collective responsibility



Citizens' Panel on Preparedness

Randomly selected citizens from the 27 EU Member States discussed how to implement the Preparedness Union Strategy.

20 Recommendations



11 Autonomous energy production and storage in the EU.



12 Prioritising food supplies from within the EU.



13 Development of a safe digital EU infrastructure.



14 EU-wide guidelines on 72-hour kits' components.



15 Improving coordination while having local sovereignty in place.



16 Strengthening volunteer work.



17 European preparedness week.



18 Local citizens' panels for crisis preparedness.



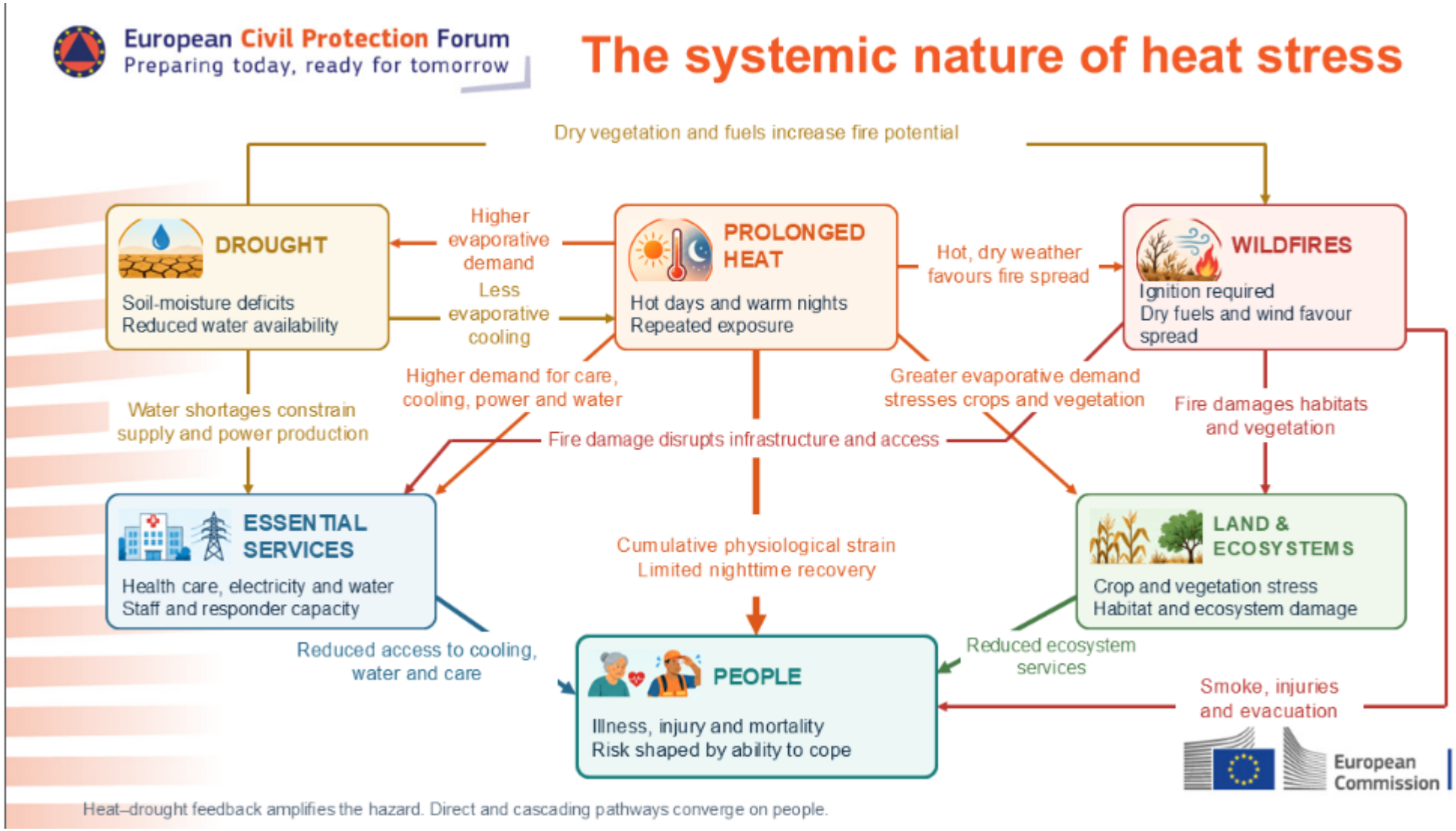
19 Lifelong preparedness education starting from preschool age.



20 Fair and sustainable funding for emergency preparedness education.



Wildfire risk management requires collaboration, shared knowledge and coordinated action



Wildfires are not isolated events, but systemic crises arising from the interaction of climate, ecosystems, human activities, infrastructure and governance, demanding integrated, cross-sectoral resilience

"*Preparing today, ready for tomorrow*".

The challenge of civil protection increasingly becomes a European challenge.

RESEARCH – EC DG JRC

Through the **Copernicus Emergency Management Service**, the **Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC)** and its recently relaunched **Risk Data Hub**, and the **European Crisis Management Laboratory (ECML),** the JRC provides **European-wide risk intelligence, harmonised data and operational tools to support anticipation, preparedness and crisis response**.

Copernicus Emergency, the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC), and the EU Crisis Lab support civil protection authorities with early warning, monitoring, and on-demand mapping.

EU Space IS LINKED WITH Galileo's upcoming Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS) and IRIS², the EU's future secure connectivity constellation, THAT make crisis management more effective and efficient.

THE SUNSHINE project coordinated by DG DEFIS, you can then put this into practice: step into the shoes of a crisis team facing multiple disasters in a fictional country, and discover at each step which EU Space services can help.

A Wildfire Is Not an Isolated Emergency



One hazard. Multiple cascading consequences.

- Threats to human life, health and safety
- Damage to critical infrastructure and essential services
- Disruption of transport, energy, water and telecommunications
- Environmental, economic and social consequences
- Increased exposure of vulnerable people and communities
- Cross-border risks requiring coordinated action

Key message: The impact of a wildfire can extend far beyond the area directly affected by flames.

Wildfire risk management requires collaboration, shared knowledge and coordinated action

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

A substantial European investment in knowledge and innovation

€1.24bn, Horizon 2020, 2014–2020 security research funding allocation, **340** EU-funded projects in the reported security research categories

€1.596bn, Horizon Europe – Cluster 3, 2021–2027 allocated budget for Civil Security for Society, Research addressing disaster-resilient societies, protection, security and cybersecurity.

Together: approximately €2.84 billion in reported funding allocations across these two programme frameworks.

Figures refer to different programme periods and accounting bases; they should not be interpreted as a single amount already spent.

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Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

INTERREG 2021–2027 · IDENTIFIED NATURAL-DISASTER PREVENTION PROJECTS, €363 million

EU funding formally committed to 467 identified projects. **€148.8m, Fire-related risks, 202 projects · 41% of the funding**

€214.6m, Floods and landslides, 265 projects · 59% of the funding.

Interreg's overall 2021–2027 ERDF allocation is approximately €9.07 billion in current prices. The €148.8 million is therefore a subset, not the total disaster-related Interreg investment.

What about Greece and North Macedonia? The current Interreg VI-A IPA Greece–North Macedonia programme includes several projects addressing fire prevention and protection.

Project	Total project budget	EU contribution
FireFly	€1,343,490.00	€1,074,792.00
Wild-A	€1,454,420.45	€1,163,536.36
Combined	€2,797,910.45	€2,238,328.36

SOURCE: European Parliament study published in March 2026,

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

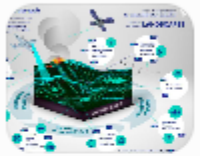
Illustrative examples from the European research and innovation landscape



SILVANUS

Integrated technological and operational solutions for forest-fire management, prevention, detection and response.

Website: silvanus-project.eu



FIRE-RES

Integrated approaches to living with and managing extreme wildfire events, including landscape and community resilience.

Website: fire-res.eu



TREEADS

Technology-driven solutions supporting prevention, detection, response and restoration in wildfire management.

Website: treeads-project.eu



ANYWHERE

Multi-hazard early-warning and decision-support approaches for reducing the impacts of extreme weather events.

CORDIS

CLUSTERS

COMMUNITIES

KNOWLEDGE
VALORISATION POLICIES

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

Focus Group for CER Resilience Compliance & Maturity Guide (CEN/TC 391 WG3)

Member of the Dedicated group EU Space Programme capabilities group, EC DG ECHO, The Union Civil Protection (UCP) Knowledge Network

CEN Workshop on 'Guidelines for Disaster Risk Preparedness Solutions' , CMINE

PROACTIVE "PReparedness against CBRNE threats through cOmmon Approaches between security praCTItioners and the VulnerabIE civil society" (H2020), PROACTIVE Rieti CBRNe Training Exercise - YouTube



ODYSSEUS H2020 Preventing, Countering, and Investigating Terrorist Attacks / Explosive Precursors

STRATEGY's Liaison Representative and Senior Scientific Advisor on European Crises Management Standardization and Interoperability challenges.

B-prepared; PANTHEON, HolozCan,

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

B-prepared

B-prepared offers a cost-effective

solution for building

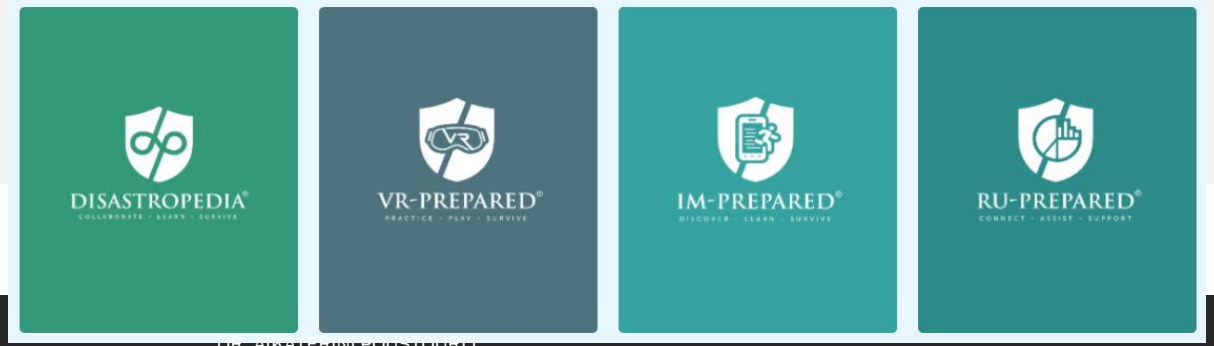
a culture of disaster preparedness

with a multi-actor approach

in realistic historical scenarios









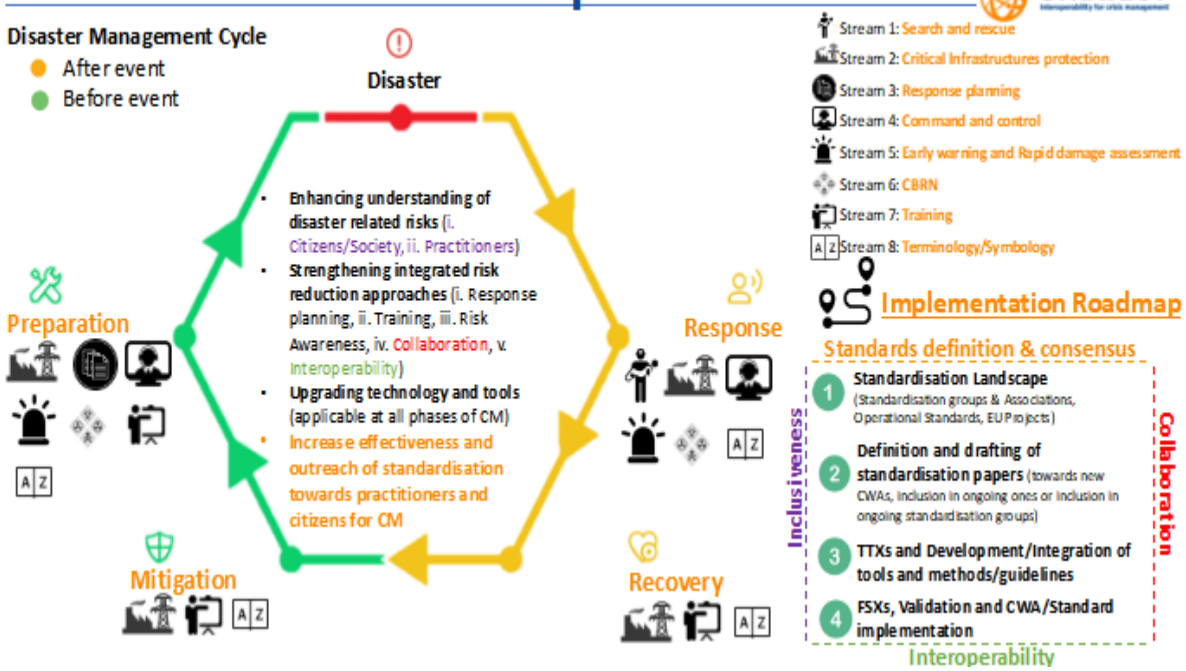
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STRATEGY's Liaison Representative and Senior Scientific Advisor on European Crises Management Standardization and Interoperability challenges.

STRATEGY Main Challenges 1/4



STRATEGY Main Concepts



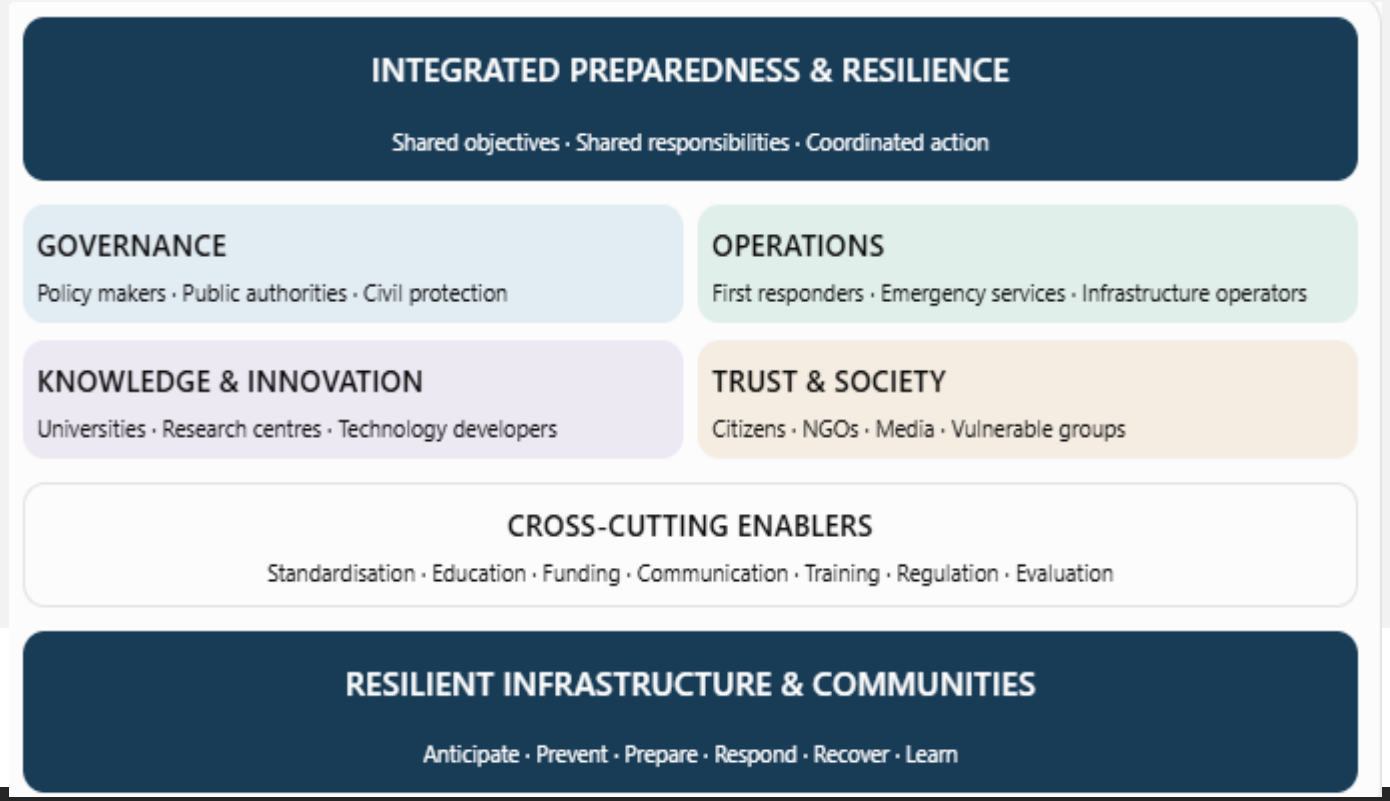
Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

STRATEGY's Liaison Representative and Senior Scientific Advisor on European Crises Management Standardization and Interoperability challenges.

- CEN/WS CER "Collaborative Emergency Response – Communication and sharing of operational information among multiple public safety agencies";
- CEN/WS IICDM "International and interinstitutional crisis and disaster management – Guidelines for the mapping of terminology and icons";
- CEN/WS SITAC "Management of forest fire incidents – SITAC-based symbology";
- CEN/WS CMEx "Implementation Guidelines for evaluation and assessment reporting of exercises for crisis management";
- CEN/WS RDA "Emergency Management - Rapid damage assessment of buildings and alerting protocol";
- CEN/WS ERP "Structuring the emergency response plans of public safety agencies focusing on incidents such as CBRN and waste disposal plants emergencies";
- CEN/TS Societal and citizen security — Digital Chain of Custody for CBRNE Evidence — Part 2: Data Management and Audit;
- CEN/TS Societal and citizen security — Digital Chain of Custody for CBRNE Evidence — Part 1: Overview and Concepts
- ISO/TC 292/WG 3 "Emergency management" (managing and sending the compiled & consolidated comments on the ISO 22361, ISO 22324, ISO 22351, ISO 22398, ISO 22350, ISO 22328, which were selected by the whole consortium of experts).

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

Stakeholders : Stakeholders are not all the same as end-users. First responders and civil protection authorities may be operational end-users of FireFly solutions; citizens are beneficiaries and participants; standardisation bodies are enabling stakeholders; and policy makers are decision-makers and potential funders.



EU whole-of-society approach

Europe Has Invested Billions in Civil Security Research and Innovation

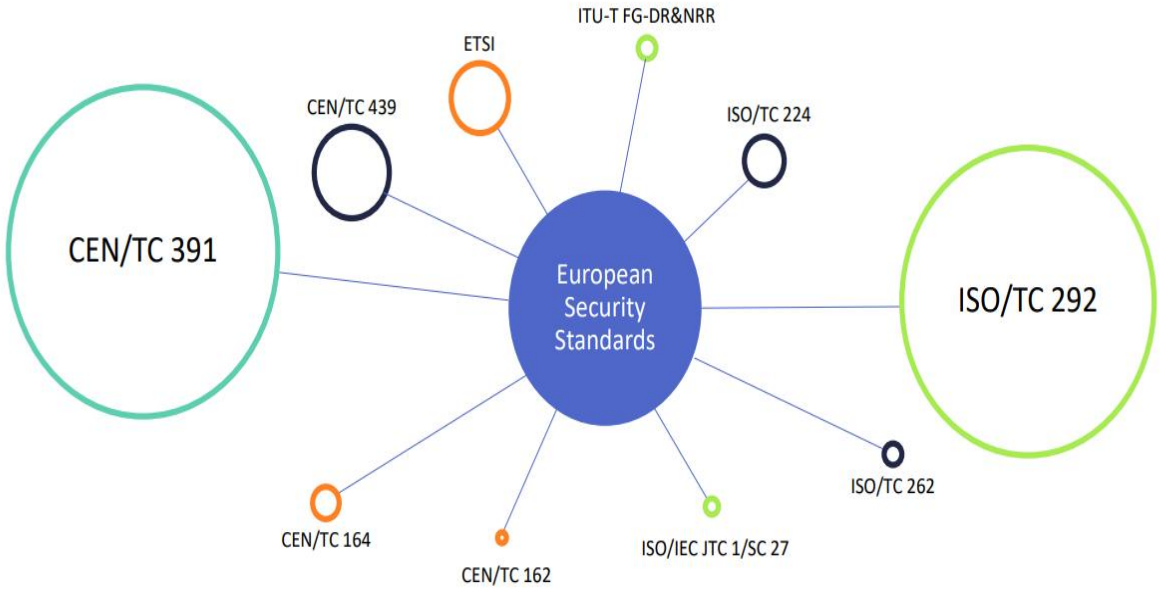
Stakeholders :

Priority	Stakeholder group	Main contribution
1	Civil protection authorities, both countries	Coordination and preparedness
2	Fire and rescue services	Operational response
3	Forest and environmental authorities	Prevention and forest management
4	Municipalities and regional authorities	Local planning and community protection
5	Infrastructure operators	Continuity of essential services
6	Meteorological and research organisations	Forecasting and risk assessment
7	Technology developers	Detection, monitoring and decision support
8	Universities and training institutions	Education, testing and exercises
9	Standards bodies	Interoperability and common requirements
10	Citizens, NGOs and volunteers	Awareness and community preparedness
11	Vulnerable groups and their representatives	Inclusive preparedness
12	Media and communication authorities	Reliable public information

Whole-of-society approach!

Several Technical Committees

SECTOR FORUM ON SECURITY



CEN CENELEC

European and International Standardisation Ecosystem - Relevant TCs

CEN/TC 391 Societal and Citizen Security

CEN/TC 391/WG Healthcare Facilities
CEN/TC 391/WG 2 High risk hazards and CBRNE
CEN/TC 391/WG 3Risk, resilience and emergency/crisis management

ISO/TC 292 Security and Resilience

ISO/TC 292/SC 1	Emergency management
ISO/TC 292/CAG	Chair's Advisory Group on Strategic development
ISO/TC 292/CG	Communication group
ISO/TC 292/WG 1	Terminology
ISO/TC 292/WG 2	Continuity and organizational resilience
ISO/TC 292/WG 4	Authenticity, integrity and trust for products and documents
ISO/TC 292/WG 5	Community resilience
ISO/TC 292/WG 6	Protective security
ISO/TC 292/WG 7	Guidelines for events
ISO/TC 292/WG 8	Supply chain security
ISO/TC 292/WG 9	Crisis management
ISO/TC 292/WG 10	Preparedness



Together, we are stronger than the risks we face. Together, we turn preparedness into resilience, and resilience into a safer future for all. Together for a Prepared and Resilient Europe

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΠΣΕΑ ΔΙΠΑΕ, FB

Thank you very much!

Questions?

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Integrated Preparedness: Strengthening Infrastructure, Protecting Users of Infrastructure & Services, Citizens, and Society. Examples of Actions & Horizon Europe Projects

BIBLIOGRAPHY - LINKS

INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC UNIVERSITY

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EU Preparedness Union Strategy

European Civil Protection Forum 2026

25 years - EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Preparedness: Population Preparedness Guidelines

Recommendation on Operational Continuity and Stress-Testing

Preparedness - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Wildfires - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Six Decades of Risk Research: A Review of Key Publications, open-access book here: https://lnkd.in/eCiyGvP2



SPRINGER EDITION "*Standardization and Research Instruments in Support of the Regulatory Framework for the Enhancement of the Critical Infrastructure Resilience: European Case Studies*", Aikaterini Poustourli, Georgios Sakkas, Aleksandar Jovanović & Nikolaos Kalapodis