



Background paper to Item 3: Key outcomes of the 10 Union-wide disaster scenarios developed under Article 10.1 of Decision 1313/2013/EU

The risk picture facing Europe has evolved significantly over the past years, resulting in an increase in large-scale, cross-sectoral and complex disasters. To improve related risk management planning under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), the 2021 amendment to Decision No. 1313/2013/EU introduced a more evidence-based and forward-looking approach to prevention and preparedness, including via the establishment of disaster resilience goals (Article 6.5) and the development of cross-sectoral, multi-country, transboundary disaster scenarios (Article 10.1).

During the informal meeting of Directors-General responsible for civil protection in Ljubljana under the Slovenian Council Presidency in October 2021, Directors-General agreed on a list of 16 hazards as starting point for the scenario development¹. At the beginning of this year, this resulted in the completion of the development of 10 Union-wide disaster scenarios², carried out in close consultation with experts from EU Member States and UCPM Participating States, and with the support of various Commission services, in particular the Commission's Joint Research Centre. The 10 scenarios cover the agreed 16 hazards in various combinations and resulted in an extensive set of detailed findings in all areas of the emergency management cycle. Furthermore, a comprehensive summary of the main horizontal findings has been shared at the beginning of this year with the national experts who contributed to the development of the scenarios. These findings are now used and discussed at technical level in relevant expert groups, such as in the areas of prevention, early warning and capacity building, to provide agreed planning assumptions and a stronger evidence-base for further UCPM developments in these areas.

In a summarised form, the identified findings can be grouped within the following **5 key recommendations**:

¹ Earthquakes, floods, heatwaves and cold waves, major storms, health threats including pandemics, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, blackouts and energy disruptions, effects of armed conflicts, effects of cybersecurity incidents, effects of terrorist attacks, industrial emergencies, marine pollution, nuclear emergencies, and population displacements in emergencies.

² The 10 disaster scenarios developed cover the above 16 hazards and concern a severe nuclear accident, an extreme heatwave, a severe pandemic, an armed conflict, a terrorist attack, an energy crisis within the EU, inland water and coastal pollution, an earthquake induced tsunami a volcanic eruption and an extreme winter weather with a cyber component.

1. **Enhanced response capability:** There is a need to further enhance the operational response capabilities of the UCPM, including the further development of rescEU.
2. **Cross-sectoral coordination:** There is a need to further strengthen EU preparedness and resilience in strategic areas through an all-hazards approach and cross-sectoral coordination with non-civil protection actors.
3. **Coordinated knowledge sharing:** Further coordination efforts are needed to share knowledge and expertise on risk identification and early warning, including to citizens.
4. **Vulnerable groups:** The needs of vulnerable groups need to be further considered and addressed in existing prevention, preparedness and response arrangements.
5. **Budget reinforcement:** Addressing the analysed cross-sectoral, long-lasting and transboundary disasters will require more flexible and additional use of resources.

The next phase of the scenario building initiative will be dedicated to the implementation of the identified findings and recommendations, e.g., by developing more concrete and practical plans on disaster risk management and resilience, more operational “playbooks” from the existing analysis to support operational planning and by identifying further synergies with existing other work strands in the area of risk analysis, foresight and anticipation. In this context, Directors-General are invited provide strategic guidance on potential national priorities to consider in this implementation phase.

Directors-General are invited to discuss the following questions:

1. Do you see a need to deepen and further elaborate analysis within any of the developed scenarios?
2. Do have an interest to prioritise implementation of findings and recommendations for specific scenarios or emergency management areas based on national priorities and/or risk assessments?