

# PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS



European Union  
Civil Protection

A Peer Review of disaster risk management provides a country or a region with an opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and man-made disasters and to identify ways of improving risk prevention and preparedness.

The European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), under the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), supports the Member States, the Participating States, eligible Third Countries and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses and putting forward recommendations to increase effectiveness.

The EU Peer Review programme promotes an integrated approach to disaster risk management by taking a comprehensive look at prevention, preparedness and response actions. Peer

reviews also support a wider policy dialogue across Europe and beyond, improving policy coherence and facilitating the exchange of good practices on civil protection and DRM.

Participating countries form a network of practitioners sharing experiences and lessons learned. To date, 16 countries have benefited from a peer review: (in chronological order) the United Kingdom, Finland, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, Estonia, Malta, Poland, Cyprus, North Macedonia, Tunisia, Serbia, Algeria, Portugal, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova (reports can be found at: [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civilprotection/peer-review-programme\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civilprotection/peer-review-programme_en))



## How is a peer review conducted?

- ▶ The Peer Review programme operates on the basis of a strong, transparent partnership between DG ECHO and the civil protection authorities of the country under review. Countries expressing an interest in enrolling in the 2020-2024 programme discuss objectives and expected outcomes of a peer review with DG ECHO.
- ▶ DG ECHO selects a team of experts (the "peers") with the relevant experience from national civil protection authorities of the countries participating in the UCPM.
- ▶ The peers prepare an initial desk report, summarising the DRM system, along with insights from a survey among relevant stakeholders, selected in close collaboration with the reviewed country.
- ▶ The peer review team travels to the country under review (organised by DG ECHO and the reviewed country), to gain on-the-ground insights into how the DRM is organised and to identify both strengths and potential areas for improvement. The duration of the mission usually is from 5 to 10 days, decided in conjunction with the reviewed country.
- ▶ Based on the knowledge and evidence collected during the mission, the peer review team drafts the report, which includes recommendations. The civil protection authorities will have the opportunity to review and comment on the report during the drafting process.
- ▶ The peer review team formally hands over the peer review report to the civil protection authority. From the review to the final report it generally takes from 4 to 6 months.

## What are the benefits of a peer review?

Based on an independent analysis, a peer review assists civil protection authorities in improving its DRM capabilities, and

- ▶ identifies better approaches to policy and operations,
- ▶ facilitates mutual learning and exchange of good practice,
- ▶ raises awareness among stakeholders involved in DRM in the reviewed country,
- ▶ proposes concrete recommendations.

For further information on the Peer Review programme:  
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The 2020-2024 Peer Review programme is implemented in cooperation with

