



## PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

### ECHO FACTSHEET

#### Facts & Figures

**132 projects supporting prevention and preparedness measures across Europe co-financed by the EU since 2007.**

**€47 million: EU investment in prevention and preparedness activities in 33 European countries.**



EU-funded project "Informed-Prepared-Together" implemented by EU Red Cross

### Protecting lives together

#### KEY MESSAGES

Natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism, technological, radiological and environmental accidents know no borders. One country alone can be overburdened. Experience shows that cooperation in civil protection between European countries saves lives.

The EU facilitates cooperation between the 28 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia towards a common goal: to protect people, the environment and property against disasters. Turkey has also signed in May the agreement to join the Mechanism.

The EU's financial support enables these countries to work together effectively in the event of major disasters and to respond to emergencies quickly and efficiently. This is achieved by:

- **Awareness-raising** on how to prepare for disasters;
- **Training** civil protection staff and volunteers;
- Civil protection **exercises**;
- Improving **cross-border cooperation**;
- Developing **new tools** such as early warning systems and weather forecast systems.

The Civil Protection legislation adopted in December 2013 enables further enhancement of EU preparedness and prevention. It envisages more training for civil protection personnel operating outside their home countries, more exercises for civil protection response capacities, and more exchanges of civil protection and prevention experts.

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#### BACKGROUND

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism covers the three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. It finances training activities, exercises; studies and projects on prevention and preparedness; as well as transport of in-kind assistance to the country affected by a disaster.

A [call for proposals for prevention and preparedness](#) is published once per year and available on the website of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO):

Projects are co-financed up to a maximum 75%. Public and private entities as well as international organisations are eligible to submit proposals.

## How does it work in practice – examples

### PREVENTING AND PREPARING FOR MARINE POLLUTION



#### Shoreline clean-up and wildlife polluted by oil

This project is run jointly by Italy, Belgium and France and is working towards to the harmonisation of procedures used when responding to shoreline pollution following a spill at sea. A training package and guidelines have been delivered for the preparation of NGOs and volunteers to be able to work promptly and safely to support authorities in charge of the response operations in case of a spill. (<http://www.posow.org>)

#### BE-AWARE Project

This project undertook risk assessment of marine pollution in the Greater North Sea (on the continental shelf of Northwest Europe) and developed an area-wide marine pollution prevention policy. The successor to this project is BE-AWARE-2 where partners cooperate to produce an assessment of the future vulnerability of the coastline and offshore areas to marine pollution. Among others, the project will assess the impact of predicted spills for each scenario and address response capacity. (<http://beaware.bonnagreement.org/>)

### AWARENESS-RAISING

#### Raising Awareness and Improving Effectiveness of Cave Rescue (EU PROTEUS)



There are almost 20 000 known and registered caves in Slovenia and Croatia. Numerous attractive caves mean that there are frequent visits for tourism and for research which increases the risk of accidents in caves. The main goal of the EU Proteus project was awareness raising and improving cross-border cooperation of the cave rescuers in both countries. The project has developed a Cave Rescue Manual and Brochure for safe entering and working in caves including basic information for visiting Slovenian and Croatian caves. (<http://eu-proteus.eu/>)

#### Aware and Resilient

Individuals are often not aware of the contribution they can make in disaster prevention. Several tools to raise awareness of the population of disaster preparedness and to strengthen community involvement have been developed by individual Red Cross Societies. The aim of [the Aware and Resilient project](#), by Austrian Red Cross, is to raise the awareness of citizens, particularly younger persons, of the value and benefits of disaster prevention and preparedness. The main objectives are to inform citizens of the main pillars of disaster preparedness and the role they can play to protect themselves and others; to improve the link between relevant stakeholders at community level; and to share, translate and adapt awareness raising tools that have been developed by individual Red Cross Societies for use in other European countries. The project is carried out in Austria, Bulgaria, France, Latvia and Romania using innovative e-learning applications.



## IMPROVING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

### Preparedness for evacuation in case of a nuclear accident

In case of a nuclear accident, preventive evacuations as precautionary measures are crucial for saving lives. This Preparedness for Evacuation project aims to address crisis communication of cross border procedures between Slovenia and Croatia to ensure a level headed reaction from the population and competent bodies during evacuation. The [project](#) reviews existing acts, plans and procedures in both countries so that in the event of an accident members of protection and rescue forces can work better together.

*"The project has established a closer operational cooperation of all those who are in the event of a nuclear accident included in the system of rescue and protection, contributed to the exchange of knowledge and best practices and brought new considerations about cross-border effects of the accident."* Mayor of Krško, Miran Stanko, 02.2013

### Implementation of the EU Host Nation Support Guidelines

This project is to improve the effectiveness of host nation support – i.e. the support in receiving international assistance in the event of a disaster which overwhelms national capabilities - among Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia and Poland. Law and regulations in these countries will be examined in order to see how they promote or hinder the speedy and effective flow of cross-border assistance in disaster situations. Each country level study will result in the production of a report identifying good practice, existing disparities in domestic legislation and guidelines from the EU Guidelines on Host Nation Support, and recommendations for national legislators and civil protection agencies in ensuring improved alignment of national law and regulation. This will contribute into a more efficient cross border cooperation.

### European Assistance Team for Citizens in Areas of Evacuation



Together with the Government of Styria, Austria, a humanitarian organisation Johanniter started the project EURACARE with the aim of developing a multinational assistance team for the care of European citizens and other beneficiaries on evacuation spots in crises areas world-wide.

This team will be able to respond flexibly in the area of evacuation standby by not only providing basic medical but also psychosocial and logistical support as well as assistance in terms of information management and consular issues. The EURACARE team will be immediately deployable and self-sufficient.

## EARLY WARNING



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## Near-Field Tsunami Early Warning and Emergency Planning

The EU co-financed a project addressing the issue of providing early warning for near-field tsunamis in the very short time span between an earthquake and the arrival of the first tsunami wave on shore. There is an urgent need to investigate technologically advanced ways for such a near-field tsunami warning in the North East Atlantic and the Mediterranean (NEAM) region. Calculating wave travel times can save lives. The project will map all potential zones and will act in synergy with the NEAMT warning system by UNESCO. This will close the gap between the regional possibilities and the local needs of coastal zones threatened by near-field tsunamis. An early warning system for near-field tsunamis will be constructed on Rhodes Island, Greece. The system will serve as a pilot for other areas threatened by near-field tsunamis in NEAM and beyond.

## Hazard Assessment based on Rainfall European Nowcasts (HAREN)



Precipitation is one of the agents leading to natural hazards that have very serious impacts on people's life and goods by causing floods, debris flows, landslides, etc. The [HAREN](#) project has developed an efficient system for precipitation monitoring and forecasting which can be used for used for decision-making in Civil Protection agencies all over Europe.

**[A complete list of the co-funded prevention and preparedness projects can be found here](#)**

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/financing-civil-protection-europe/selected-projects\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/financing-civil-protection-europe/selected-projects_en)

