Cooperation for crisis management

January 2026

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Version: 1.0
Publication date: 29/01/2026
Status of the document: Approved

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Executive summary

We are facing a reality in which climate change and human intervention are causing more and more crisis situations that may affect lives and properties; wildfires are bigger and harder to control, floods are deadlier, critical infrastructures are being targeted by elaborate attacks, and even complex technology failures are affecting emergency response.

So how can regions and countries get international support when needed? You probably know about the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), about the rescEU strategic reserve, about deployments of international teams in regions affected by disasters, or even about the preventive deployments of international teams from the European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) in areas that shall be most likely affected by wildfires in peak season. And there is also an EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and related agencies, but do we really know what they do and how regions and countries can use all these services in face of disaster situations?

Purpose of the document

- List key concepts and organisations involved in crisis and disaster management cooperation
- Showcase recent examples of collaboration
- Provide links to relevant information

1. List of acronyms

- **CECIS**: Common Emergency Communication and Information System
- **DG DEFIS**: Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, which leads the European Commission's activities in the European defence industry and European space sectors
- **DG ECHO**: Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations within the European Commission
- **ECPP**: European Civil Protection Pool
- **EDO**: European Drought Observatory
- **EECC**: European Electronic Communications Code
- **EFAS**: European Flood Awareness Systems
- **EFFIS**: European Forest Fire Information System
- **ERCC**: EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre
- **EUCCS**: European Critical Communication System
- **EUCPT**: EU Civil Protection Team
- **EWS**: Early Warning System (within the UCMP)
- **EWSS:**
- **GDACS**: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
- **GDO**: Global Drought Observatory
- **GloFAS**: Global Flood Awareness Systems
- **GWIS**: Global Wildfire Information System
- **ISCRAM:** Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management - an association
- **JRC:** Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
- **MCX**: Mission Critical Communications
- **MODEX**: Modules field and table-top exercises; EU-MODEX exercises allow modules/teams to test their capabilities in an international setting.
- **MR-IEWS**: Multi-Risk Impact-Based Early Warning System
- **OSOCC**: On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
- **PUS:** Preparedness Union Strategy for the EU Civil Protection
- **PWS**: Public Warning System
- **rescEU**: A strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles, fully funded by the EU
- **TAST**: Technical Assistance and Support Team
- **TFEU**: Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union
- **UCPM**: EU Civil Protection Mechanism
- **UNDAC**: United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
- **UNDRR**: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **USAR**: Urban Search and Rescue

2. Key concepts

Let’s start by understanding where we stand in terms of legislation, standardisation and technology that is relevant in crisis and disaster management, both from the operational and communications point of view.

It is important to bear in mind that Early Warning and Public Warning are responsibilities of Member States, but the European Commission has the obligation to work with Member States.

Legal framework, from a European point of view

- Primary legislation: **Art. 196 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union** (TFEU) -> The EU has a supporting competence in the field of Civil Protection
- Secondary legislation: **Decision No. 1313/2013/EU** -> Repeal proposal on July 2025: European Commission’s proposal to update the Regulation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), integrating financing for health emergency preparedness and response, in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated EU response to crises.
  - ‘RescEU reform’ -> Following a devastating forest fire season in several EU countries
  - ‘2021 reform’ (Regulation No. 2021/836/EU) -> Strengthen the EU crisis management system emerge4nced with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - Support to Public Warning -> Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service

Concerning Early and Public Warning

The European Electronic Communications Code Art. 110 (1) says that “By 21 June 2022, Member States shall ensure that, when public warning systems regarding imminent or developing major emergencies and disasters are in place, public warnings are transmitted by providers of mobile number-based interpersonal communications services to the end-users concerned.”

Concerning Mission Critical Communications

The key actual strategies in this domain are:

- EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence (2023)
- **ProtectEU** Internal Security Strategy (1st April 2026): The Commission will adopt a legislative proposal to establish a European Critical Communications System in 2026.

ProtectEU is the European Commission - DG HOME - approach for the European critical communication system (EUCCS). Its objective is to build an EU and Schengen-wide communication system for cross-border and cross-sectoral use.

- Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen (2024-2029): ‘*Finally, our united approach to security should be centred around a new European Critical Communication System to be used by public authorities in charge of security and safety. This will be part of our work to improve daily operational cooperation in the fight against terrorism and crime and in saving lives in emergency situations.*’
- European Preparedness Union Strategy (26 March 2025): The EU must continue to strengthen its response capabilities and strategic crisis reserves, including stockpiles and deployable assets, to address critical shortages and ensure rapid response, including to hybrid attacks. This includes secure communication channels, and the establishment of the European Critical Communication System

About standards

There are multiple standards applicable in crisis management, so we'll not focus on any of those, which have already been presented in past EENA documents:

- Standardisation on Shared Situational Awareness
- Standardisation on Public Warning
- Standardisation and certification on Mission Critical Communications (MCX)

And it's worth mentioning the ongoing standardisation work linked to the EUCCS, needed for it to be operational by 2030.

3. Key organisations and frameworks

One of the most significant milestones of the year 2025 was the launch of the Preparedness Union Strategy (PUS, a new strategic framework) in March 2025. Setting out 30 key actions supported by a detailed Action Plan, the Strategy established a shared vision for strengthening Europe's ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to future crises.

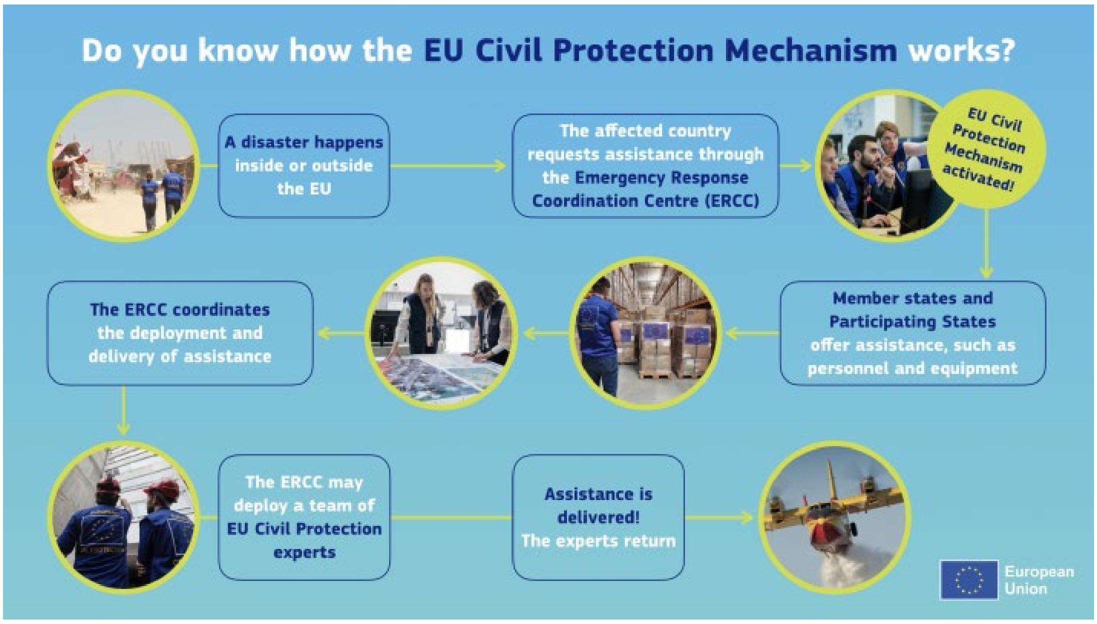
In July 2025 the European Commission proposed to update the Regulation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), integrating financing for health emergency preparedness and response, in order to ensure a comprehensive and integrated EU response to crises.

European organisations

The following list summarises the key organisations involved in European Civil Protection:

- **EC European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid department (DG-ECHO)**
    - The European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO) was created in 1992 as an expression of the European solidarity with the people in need across the world.
    - The department first started as the EU's humanitarian aid office and in 2010 it integrated civil protection for a better coordination and disaster response inside and outside Europe, through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCMP) and the work of the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).
    - When it comes to civil protection, the EU assumes a supporting role, coordinating voluntary contributions of in-kind assistance from countries participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

- **EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCMP)**



- In October 2001, the European Commission established the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The Mechanism aims to strengthen civil protection cooperation between the EU countries and 10 additional participating states to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters.
  - **Prevention:** Support Participating States in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies.
  - **Preparedness: T**raining, exercises, exchanges of experts, modules, applied science, anticipation, situational awareness and **Early Warning System.**
  - **Response:** When a country requests assistance, the UCPM via the ERCC facilitates cooperation and coordination in responding to disasters inside and outside the EU.
- Since its launch in 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has responded to over 820 requests for assistance both inside and outside the EU.
- The EU Civil Protection Mechanism coordinates pan-European assistance, ensuring that all participating states receive timely information during crises. When activated by any country worldwide, the Mechanism facilitates the rapid deployment of resources and personnel tailored to the specific needs of each emergency.
- At the operational core of the Mechanism is the European Commission's ERCC, which monitors risks and emergencies in Europe and across the globe, supported by national and European monitoring services such as the EFFIS, EFAS, EDO, etc.
- There is also the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

- **European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)**
  - The European Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism maintains a direct link to civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities in EU Member States enabling a real-time exchange of information whenever resources from different countries are deployed to assist countries/regions in need.
  - The ERCC also acts as the central 24/7 contact point when the solidarity clause is invoked. It provides emergency communications and monitoring tools through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS), a web-based alert and notification application enabling a real-time exchange of information.

- **rescEU**
  - A few years back the European Commission upgraded the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and created rescEU to further protect citizens from disasters and to manage emerging risks. rescEU was established as a strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles (the European Civil Protection Pool), with capacities that are hosted across 22 Member States and participating states (rescEU is fully financed by the EU, covering the costs of purchase, operations, and maintenance):
    - A fleet of firefighting planes and helicopters
    - A medical evacuation plane, and several essential stockpiles including field hospitals, transport assets, energy (power generators) and shelter items (mobile shelters), critical medical supplies
    - Equipment to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) capabilities
    - Emergency transportation means.

- **[European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP)]**

  - The EU created the European Civil Protection Pool to ensure a critical number of readily available civil protection capacities, allowing for a stronger, faster, and more coherent collective response to disasters. It brings together resources from 27 Member States and ten UCPM Participating States, ready for deployment to disaster zones at short notice.
  - These resources may include firefighting teams, experts, or specialised equipment. The ECPP operates on voluntary contributions, which are then assessed and certified by the EU. The final decision to deploy these assets remains with the contributing countries.

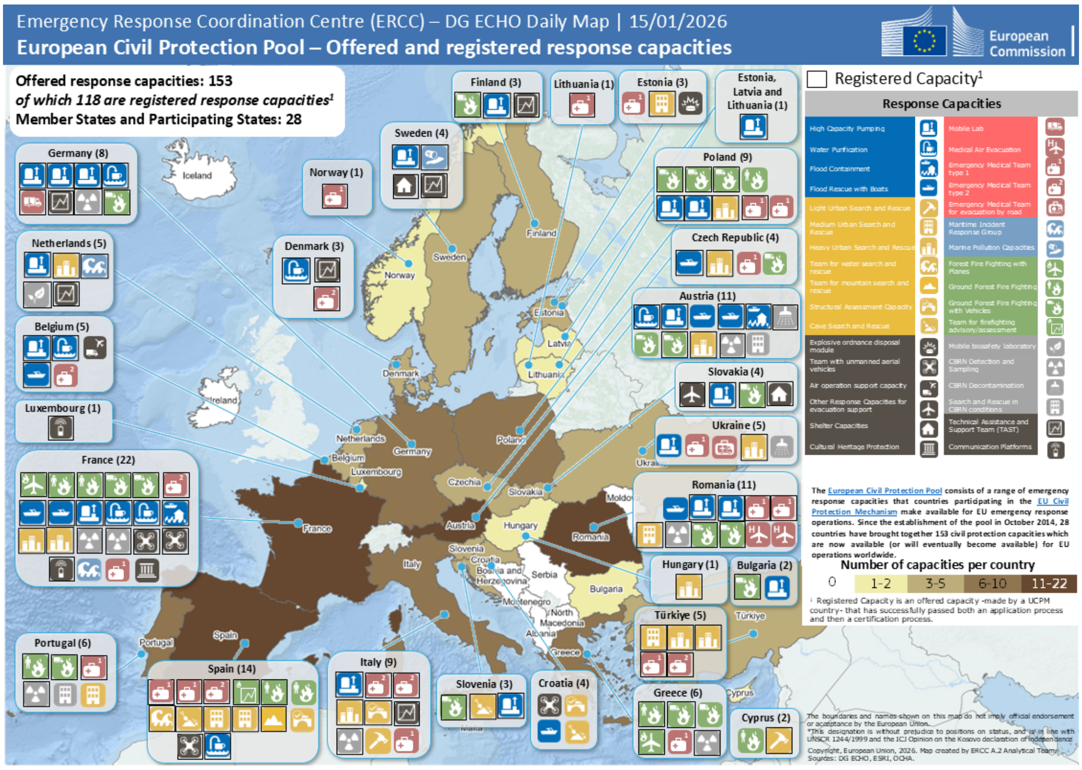


Figure 1 - EUCPP offered capacities

- Should an emergency require additional life-saving assistance, the EU's own strategic reserve, rescEU, can step in to provide extra resources to respond to disasters affecting Europeans.

- **Working group on Early warning systems within the UCMP**
  - Commission's mandate: Early Warning and public warning are a Member States' responsibility. The Commission has the obligation to work with Member States (including work on the GALILEO Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS)).
  - There is a EWS Expert Group, with the following mission:
    - To support the European Commission implementing its obligations in the field of the upstream of an EWS taking stock of latest improvements, identifying gaps and prioritising actions on annual basis.
    - To provide a common platform to ensure an exchange of good practices, lessons learnt and experiences as well as a continuous improvement of EWS as well as Public Warning System (PWS) in line with the cutting-edge technology and with Member States' needs.

International frameworks and organisations

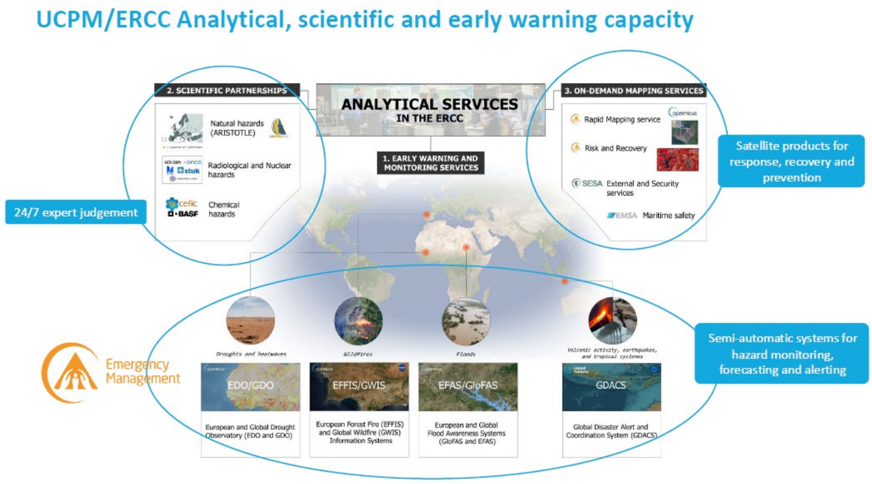
International frameworks exist in this domain, like Sendai, IPCC, SDG and Floods Directive. We'd like to highlight some relevant organisations as well:

- **United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)**
- **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**
- **Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM) association**

4. About technology

Diverse technologies are used nowadays in crisis and disaster management in Europe, both for early warning and monitoring and for response support.

- Within the UCPM/ERCC analytical, scientific and early warning capacity, and more specifically as part of the Copernicus EMS, we find:
  - On-demand mapping services like the Rapid Mapping Service or Risk and Recovery mapping, through satellite products for prevention, response and recovery. In 2025 the Copernicus service for emergencies delivered 851 maps!
  - Semi-automatic systems for hazard monitoring, forecasting and alerting, with tools like:
    - European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) –> Focused on Wildfires, with its global equivalent GWIS
    - European Flood Awareness Systems (EFAS) –> Focused on Floods, with its global equivalents GloFAS/GFM
    - European Drought Observatory (EDO) – Focused on droughts and heatwaves, with its global equivalent GDO



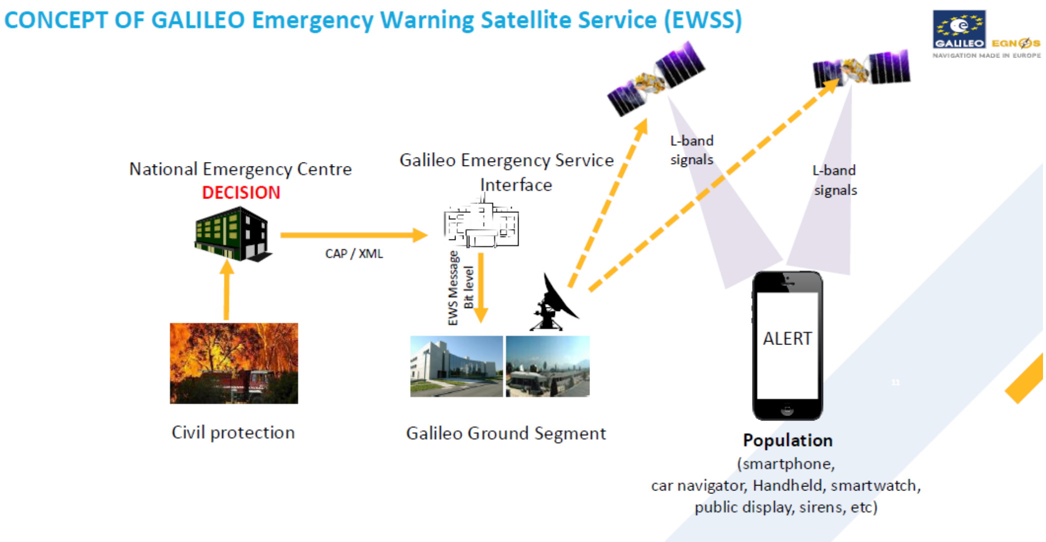
- The Meteoalarm Weather forecasting service, which is connected to National Meteo Agencies across Europe, provides map-based alerts.
- Also, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) provides a multi-hazard Early Warning System including volcanic activity, earthquakes and tropical cyclones.

Ongoing work on Early Warning

In March 2022 the UN Secretary-General launched the **Early Warnings for All initiative** which called for every person on Earth to be protected by early warning systems by 2027.

The European Commission has a mandate to develop and better integrate existing transnational detection and early warning systems to mitigate the impacts of disasters, and its key technology is the **GALILEO Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS)**.

- A coordination between DG DEFIS (Defence and Space) and DG ECHO (Civil Protection) is required.
- With the concept clearly defined, the current situation includes in-field demonstration campaigns already performed and the specification of the messaging format in numerous languages being already available (in collaboration with Japan)
- Next steps include:
  - Issuing a new version of the messaging format.
  - Introduction of the capacity in the Galileo system (contract signatures, service declaration, etc.)
  - National level efforts required:
    - Introduce the capacity in the EU Member States
    - Introduce the capacity in the user devices (Android + IoS smartphone apps are already available in the EU as of 2025)



Let's not forget that the channels used nowadays for Public Warning include Sirens and Mobile devices, but work is being done to include also information panels and more.

There are also EU Projects, like the ones EENA is taking part in and others, involved in these efforts:

- **AWARE** **(2023-2025)**: The AWARE project (enAbling EWS/GAlileo maRket uptake in widEspread PWS solutions) is a visionary initiative which will enable alert messages sent using Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service (Galileo EWSS) to be seamlessly integrated into a wide array of fixed devices: digital display panels, long-range acoustic devices (LRADs), and indoor warning systems.

- **SUNSHINE** **(2025-2027)**: The objective of the EU-funded project SUNSHINE is to promote the use of the EU space services, such as the Galileo Emergency Warning Satellite Service (EWSS) and the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS), by EU civil protection authorities.

- **PPRD Med**, Prevention, Preparedness, Response to natural & man-made Disasters in the Southern & Eastern Mediterranean; creating a collaborative early-warning platform using satellite imagery.

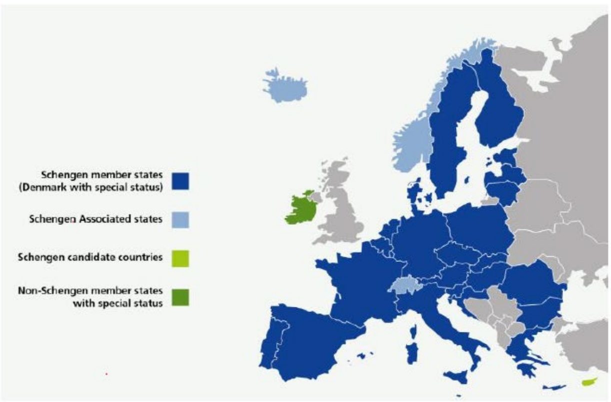
- **GoBeyond**, a 4-year long European innovation action under the Horizon Europe framework programme aiming to develop a state-of-the-art Multi-Risk Impact-Based Early Warning System (MR-IEWS), moving from hazard detection to impact prediction for vulnerable populations and infrastructure. They are developing multi-risk early warning tools with high-precision flood and wildfire assessment, leveraging services offered by Copernicus Emergency Management Services (CEMS), European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), and European Drought Observatory (EDO).

Ongoing work on Critical Communications

The **European Critical Communication System (EUCCS)** – as part of ProtectEU Internal Security Strategy and Preparedness Union Strategy - is currently under development, with a target for being operational by 2030 (according to the EUCCS Operational Plan released on May 2025).

- Its objective is to build an EU and Schengen-wide communication system for cross-border and cross-sectoral use, establishing an EU-wide, mission critical communication system for law enforcement and emergency responders, build on three principles:
  - Strong resilience
  - Operational mobility
  - Strategic autonomy
- EUCCS will connect the communication networks of all public security and public safety authorities

Scope of EUCCS



European Commission

Full-scale exercises

The EU MODEX and other full-scale field exercises are periodically executed with multi-national teams in them.

- The **EU MODEX 2023-2026** program includes:
  - Field exercises for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), medical capacities, other response capacities, the EU Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) and Technical Assistance and Support Team (TAST): With an integrated approach for consequence management in case of serious structure collapse to private and public settlements as well as damages to the medical facilities mainly due to the strong earthquakes when USAR modules and EMTs are essential.
  - Field exercises for water-related, forest firefighting, CBRN-related capacities and the EUCPT and TAST.
  - Specific field exercises for EUCPT and TAST, to better prepare them for missions.
  - Table-top exercises for key personnel of Modules, EUCPT and TAST, with both "inside EU" and "outside EU" exercises.

- Several full-scale exercises have very recently finished or are still ongoing:
    - **FloodNorthALB**: Managing Complex Floods in North Albania through Cross Border Host Nation Support and Joint Cooperation.
    - **MAGNITUDE**: Full-Scale Earthquake Response Exercise in the cross-border-region of southwest Germany.
    - **DEMONAX**: Strengthening the Large-Scale Earthquake Resilience of Cyprus by Implementing Joint Planning and Response Operations facilitated by the UCPM.
    - **CROSSFLOOD**: Full-scale Exercise Cross Border Flood Response Exercise in a Post Conflict Environment.

Artificial Intelligence in Emergency and Crisis Management

> Artificial intelligence can significantly enhance emergency and crisis management across Europe through applications like early warning systems, damage assessment, and analytical support, but requires careful ethical oversight, human control, standardized data frameworks, and recognition of its limitations in novel or morally complex situations
>
> https://scientificadvice.eu/advice/ai-in-crisis-management/

The Scientific Advice Mechanism to the European Commission issued on 11th December 2025 the Scientific advice on "Artificial Intelligence in Emergency and Crisis Management" requested from DG ECHO.

- A Scoping paper was released: This defines the specific questions that are asked to the Scientific Advice Mechanism. It is developed by the European Commission in consultation with the Commission services responsible for the policy area in question.
- A SAPEA Rapid Evidence Review Report on "Artificial Intelligence in Emergency and Crisis Management"was released in December 2025.
    - This report addresses the main questions posed by DG ECHO:
    - Based on the evidence, what are the characteristics, opportunities and risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence in crisis preparedness and response?
    - According to the literature, how can these risks be mitigated?
    - The Report also put forward a range of evidence-based options for policy:
    - Option 1. Establish a European Crisis Management Data Preparedness Framework
    - Option 2. Provide AI literacy and training for crisis management
    - Option 3. Develop dedicated AI evaluation frameworks and establish knowledge-sharing platforms
    - Option 4. Build European strategic autonomy for Crisis AI
    - Option 5: Ensure full compliance with the AI Act and GDPR in crisis contexts

- Option 6. Clarify legal responsibilities in cross-border and public-private operations
- Option 7. Address legal and ethical gaps in non-EU humanitarian operations
- Option 8. Strengthen human oversight, transparency, and bias mitigation in AI tools
- Option 9. Operationalise ethical AI through strategic data governance and coordination

- A series of recommendations based on the best available scientific evidence were also issued by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors on 12th December 2025.

5. Use cases

NOTE: The source for the content below has been obtained in part from the EU UCMP LinkedIn publications

The map below highlights the major natural hazard events across Europe in 2024:

- Floods, wildfires, and extreme weather claimed 298 lives across Europe in 2024.
- Copernicus Emergency was activated +50 times to provide maps for emergency response, recovery, and risk assessment.
- Southern and central Europe faced prolonged dry spells, with up to 70% of 10-day periods affected by drought.
- High-alert events ranged from Germany and France in January to Türkiye and Spain in October–November.

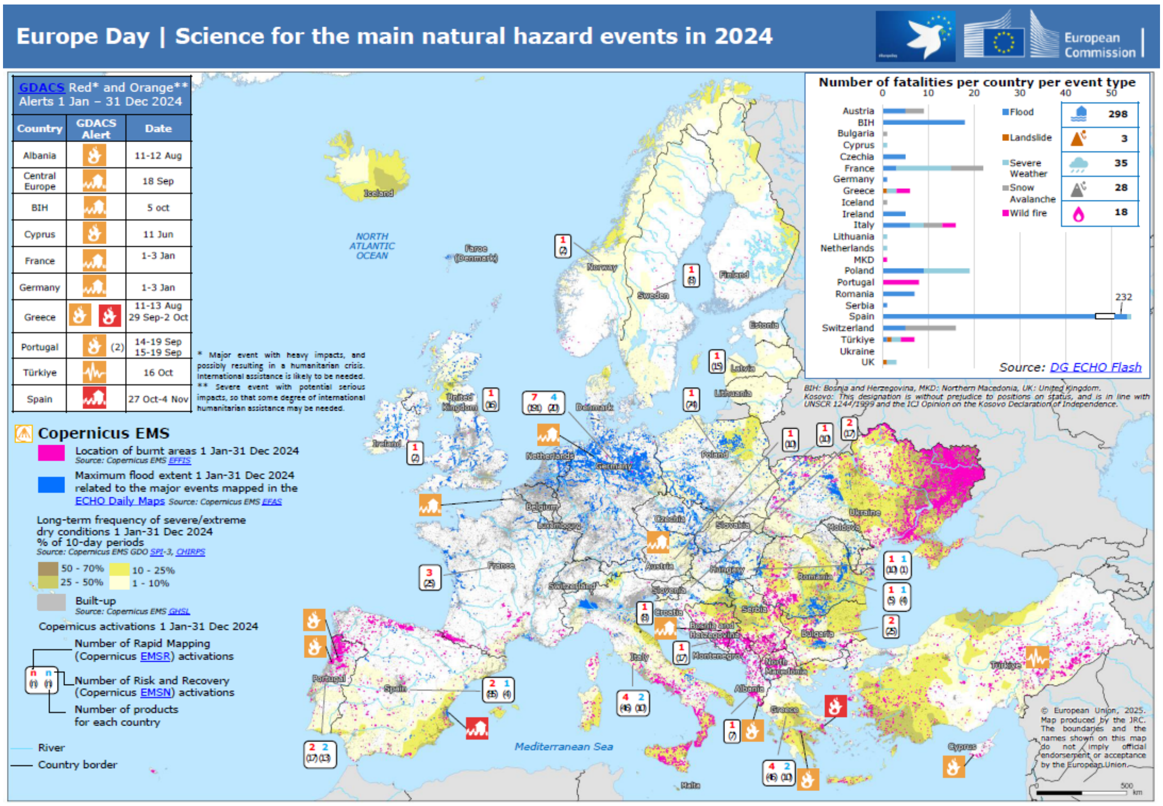


Figure 2 - Major natural hazards across Europe in 2024

Extreme weather

NOTE: The source for the content below has been obtained in part from the EU UCMP website and their LinkedIn publications.

Data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service show that in 2025 Europe had its warmest summer on record. The period from **June to August 2025 was the warmest ever on a global scale**, with temperatures 0.7 °C above the 1991-2020 average.

The Fennoscandian Peninsula experienced Europe's most pronounced above-average air temperatures in July 2025, with heatwave conditions especially affecting Sweden and Finland, where there were 15 days of temperatures above 30°C.

Southeast Europe also faced heatwaves and wildfire activity, and a national record temperature of 50.5°C occurred in Türkiye on 25 July, the first time a temperature above 50°C was observed in the country

In last months of 2024 and beginning of 2025, several Storms hit Europe causing deadly floods - like Storm Boris in Central Europe in September and the terrible DANA in Western Spain in October – or like Storm Éowyn that hit Ireland and the UK in January 2025, with huge impact on power outages that required EU assistance in the form of emergency power generators from Denmark, Luxemburg and RescEU srockpiles.

And beyond European borders during the last months of 2025 there were also hurricanes (i.e. Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba) and cyclones (i.e. tropical-cyclone Ditwah in Sri-

Lanka that caused severe flash-floods) that received emergency assistance and relief support from Europe.

In all cases, the Copernicus EMS rapid Mapping Service and the Meteoalarm red alerts were also used.

Floods

The year 2024 brought more destructive floods than 2025, with a tragic personal toll and several billions in damages:

- Floodings in Southern Germany and in Switzerland during June
- Floods due to Storm Boris in mid-September in Central Europe (Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Germany and Hungary), caused by a record heavy rainfall, and even unseasonable snowfalls with some avalanches.
- Torrential rain / DANA (‘*Depresión Aislada en Niveles Altos*’, directly translated as 'Isolated Upper-Level Depression' or also known as ‘cut-off low’ or ‘cold drop’) in Western Spain on October 29th. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in Spanish and European modern history.

In all those occurrences regional, national and international support was used, and red and orange Meteoalarm and/or national meteo-agency flood warnings were issued, and so did Copernicus EMS rapid mapping services.

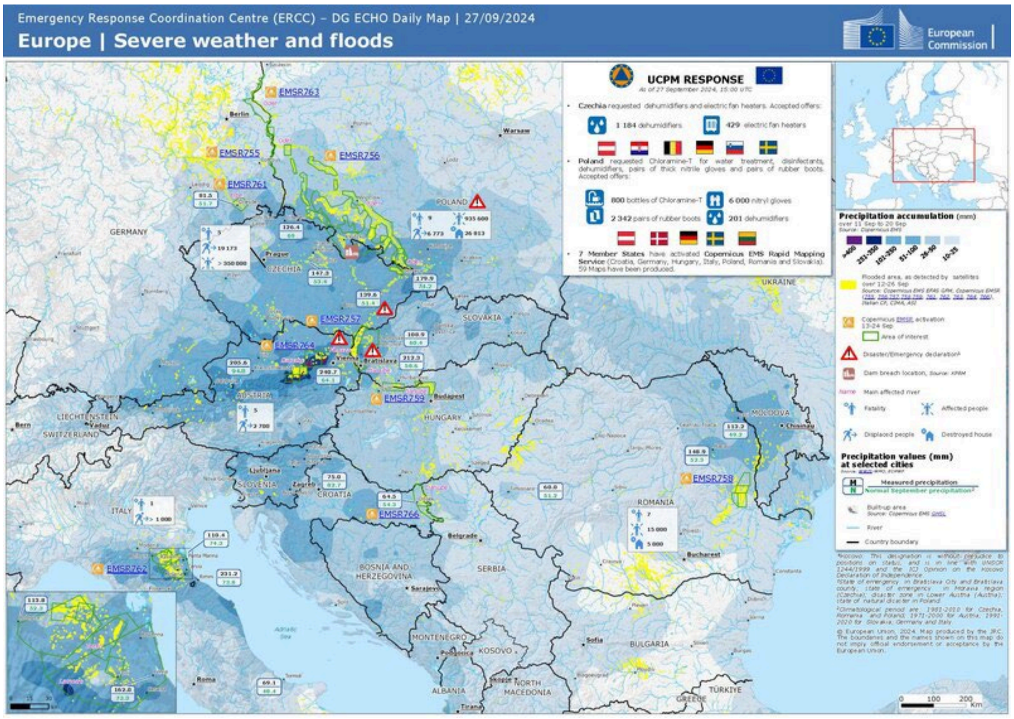


Figure 3 - ECDM 20240927 Central Europe Floods

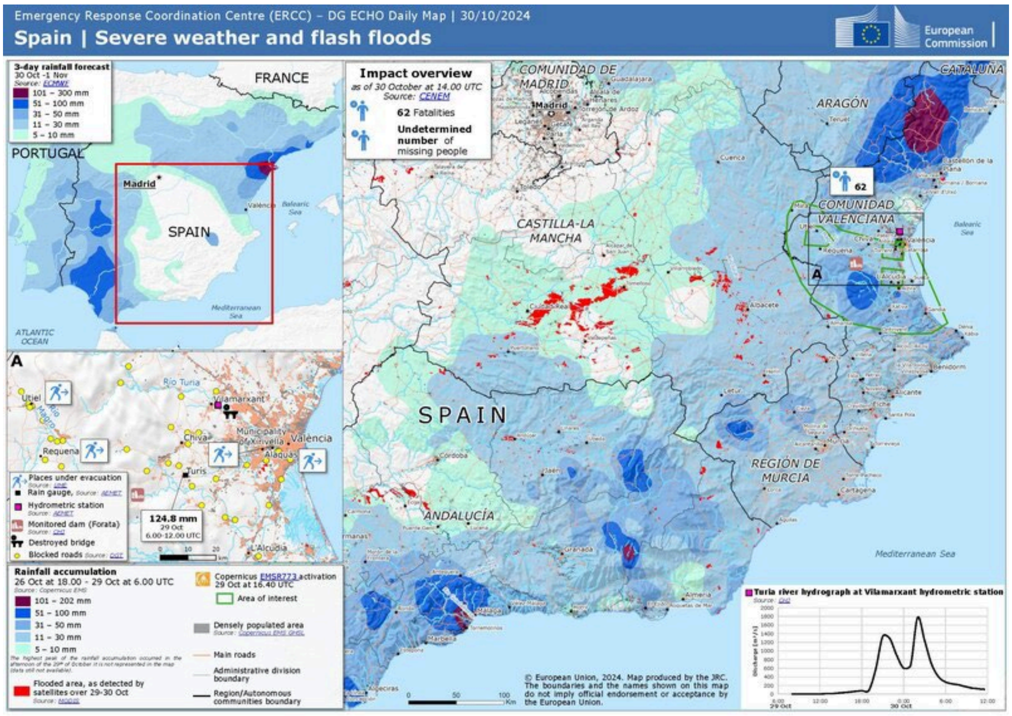


Figure 4 ECDM 20241030 Spain floods

Of course there were also Public Warning messages issued, yet with grave issues during the event in Spain due to delays in triggering them.

And unfortunately there were also very public cases of information manipulation and misinformation seeking to distort reality, misrepresent intentions and create division within communities in crisis.

Mega-wildfires

Climate change-fuelled extreme wildfire seasons result in more frequent and intense events across Europe.

Between 2007 and 2024, ~20% of all requests for assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism were in response to wildfires.

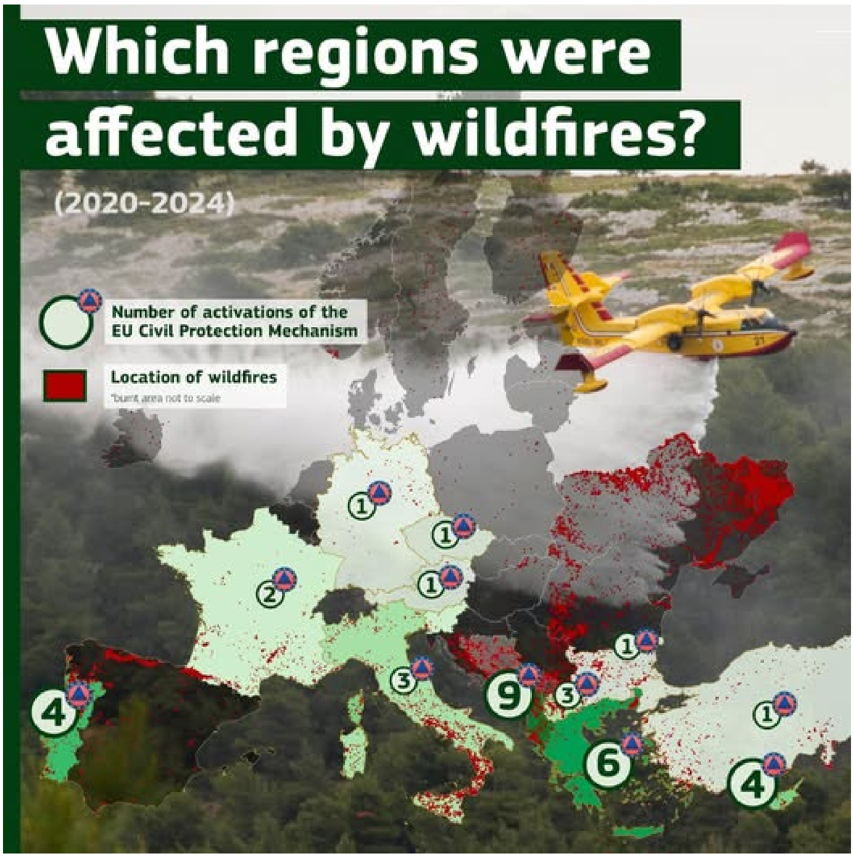


Figure 5 - © European Union, 2025

In hindsight, in [2025 there were record-breaking wildfires in Europe]() and beyond, with 19 requests of assistance and 11 countries providing it with airplanes, helicopters and personnel.

To prepare for the increased wildfire risk during the 2025 summer months, the EU put together teams of firefighters and aircraft to help European countries affected by wildfires.

To quickly support local fire brigades, throughout July and August, almost **650 firefighters** from **14 European countries** were strategically positioned in key high-risk locations in **France, Greece, Portugal, and Spain** to boost the number of firefighters in each country.

In addition, **22 firefighting airplanes** and **4 helicopters** were stationed in **10 Member States** to intervene in case of need. Coordinated and co-financed via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, these resources would help mitigate risks and enable a faster and more robust crisis response. These assets came on top of national capacities.

Overview of EU supported summer 2025 fleet:

- France: Four medium amphibious airplanes and one helicopter.
- Greece: Four medium amphibious airplanes.
- Croatia: Two medium amphibious airplanes.
- Italy: Two medium amphibious airplanes.
- Spain: Two medium amphibious airplanes.
- Sweden: Four light planes.
- Portugal: Two light planes.
- Cyprus: Two light planes.

- Czechia: Two helicopters.
- Slovakia: One helicopter.

On top of all that, further 19 ground firefighting teams, of around 30 firefighters each, and one advisory and assessment team, were ready to be mobilised by the EU in close collaboration with Member and Participating States via the Mechanism. And a dedicated wildfire support team was established at the EU's 24/7 Emergency Response Coordination Centre to monitor risks, analyse scientific data.

The **2025 wildfire season** set new records for scale and intensity, becoming the most severe in the past two decades. By August, over one million hectares had burned across the EU, with major fires affecting Greece, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal.

The season also demonstrated the extent of European cooperation. Through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, 16 wildfire activations were coordinated within Europe, mobilising more than 1,000 first responders, supported by rescEU aircraft, prepositioned teams and Copernicus (CEMS–EFFIS) monitoring.

Between 8 and 19 August, the estimated total burnt area in both Portugal and Spain was **over 500,000 hectares**, according to EFFIS, making it the countries' highest value of burnt areas ever recorded in mid-August, comparable to almost twice the size of Luxembourg. Public Warning messages were often issued to prompt people evacuation or confinement in focused areas.

Cyprus, Germany, and Slovakia have also reached their highest value of burnt areas ever recorded in mid-August.

The fire risk is expected to further increase due to climate change. Europe's wildfire season will increasingly be characterised by massive fires that claim lives and burn areas requiring longer recovery periods.

In addition, the wildfire risk has expanded to areas not previously exposed, moving well beyond the Mediterranean region to affect countries such as:

- Czechia
- Germany
- Sweden

This shift poses new challenges and results in significant societal, environmental, and economic losses across Europe.

Other mass-casualty-incidents

In 2025, the UCMP was triggered after a nightclub fire in North Macedonia in March, and again on the 1st day of 2026 after the fire in the Valais Canton in Switzerland.

In both cases, patients with severe burn injuries were evacuated and treated in collaboration with several European countries.

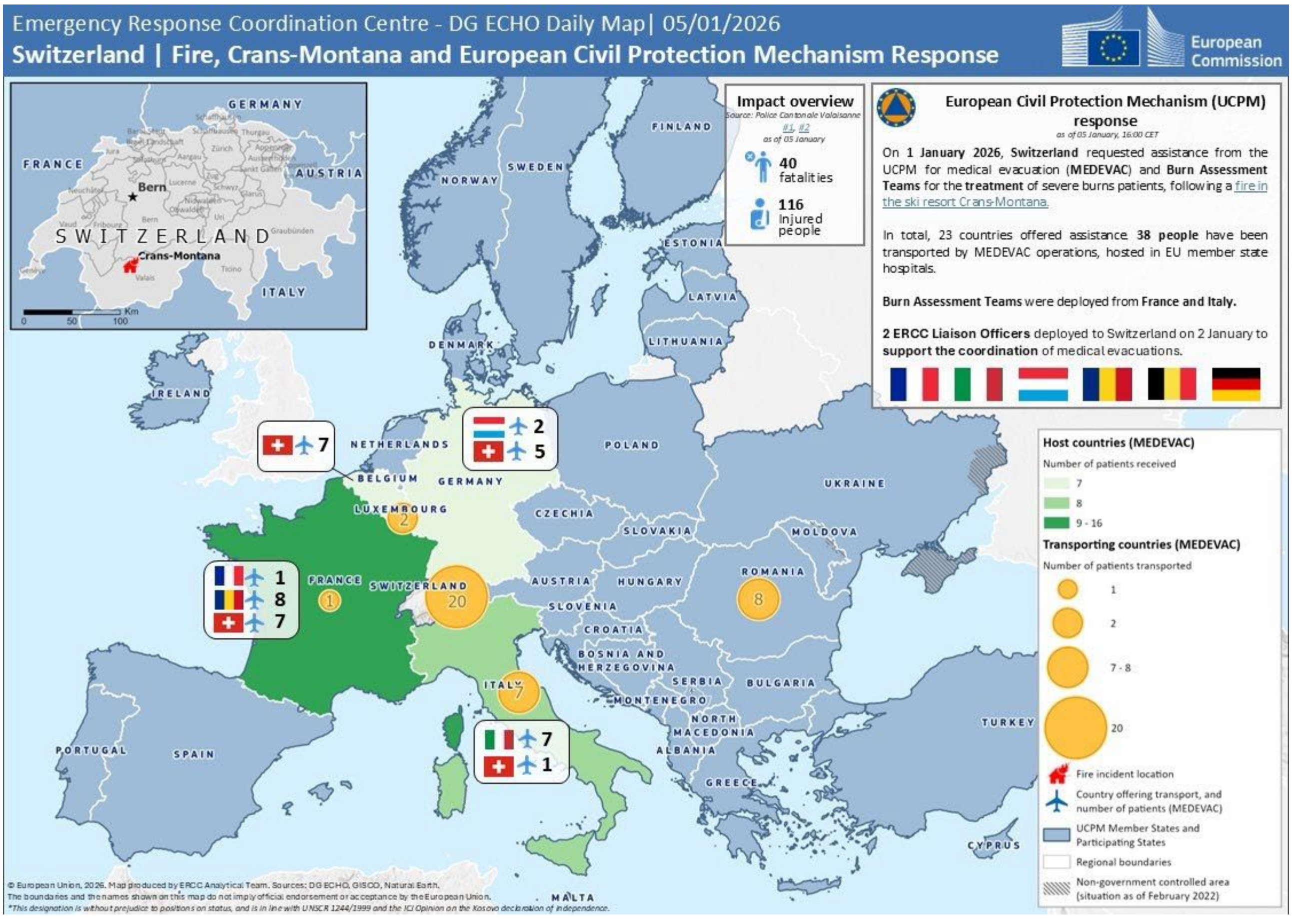


Figure 6 - Source: ERCC

Seismic activity in 2025

As an example, assistance was provided beyond European borders after the earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025, for which assistance was channelled from 7 EU countries, with EU Civil protection experts and with a specialised medical care team deployed together with over 1000 tons of aid items delivered on board of 16 EU humanitarian air bridge flights.

Also, in response to the fatal earthquake that hit Afghanistan on 31st August 2025, the EU approved €1.5 million in emergency funding and organised 6 flights bringing over 440 tonnes of essential supplies donated by the EU's humanitarian stocks.

Map of earthquakes globally in 2025

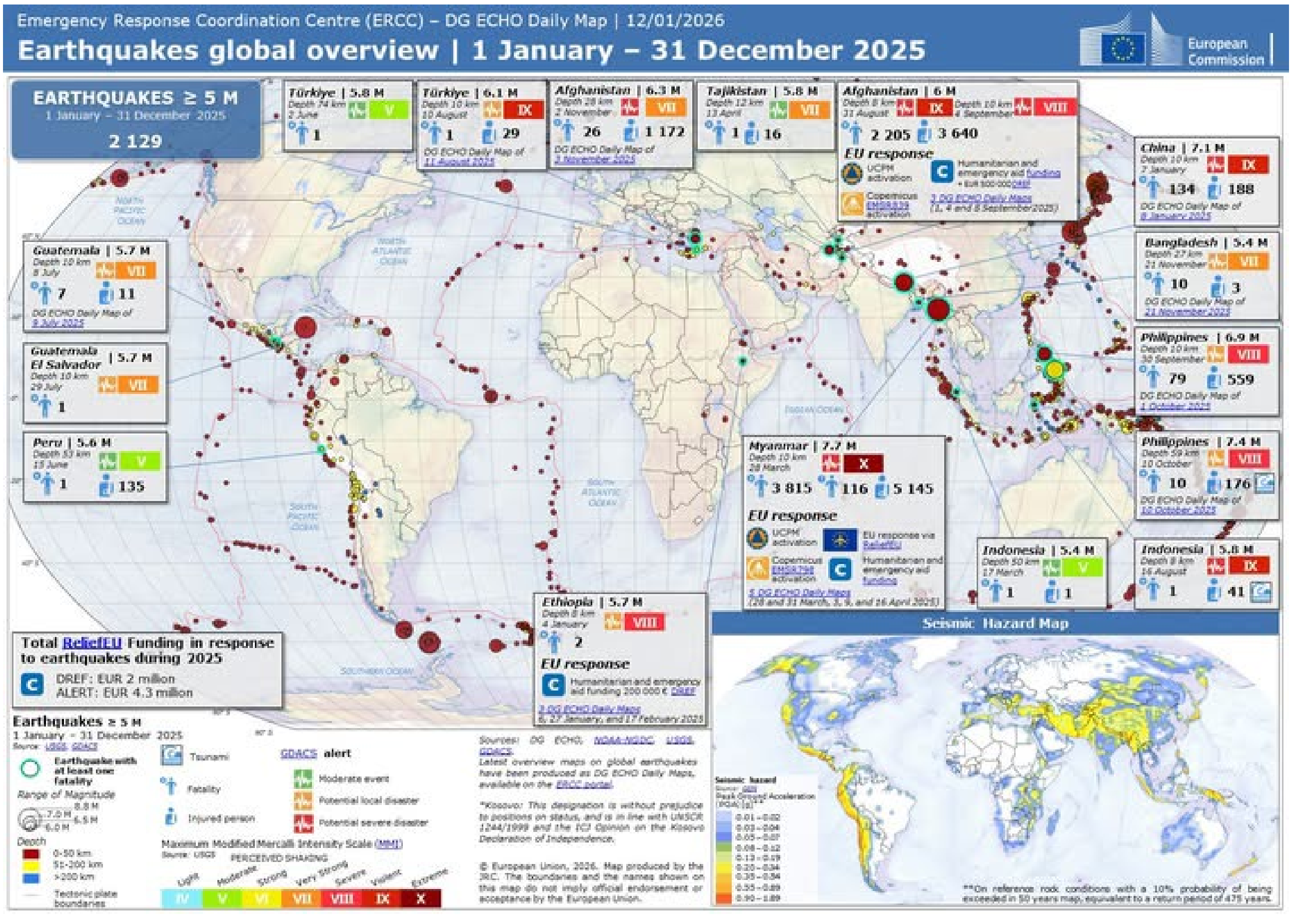


Figure 7 - Map of earthquakes globally in 2025

6. Conclusion & recommendations

About international cooperation:

- Have a clear and improved strategy and funding for the UCPM.
- Share data across borders for risk forecasting, best-practices and lessons-learnt. Most countries have their own forecasting systems, but without sharing mechanisms, risks remain fragmented.
- Share common preparedness across regions; participate in full-scale field exercises as much as possible.
- Provide clear and uncomplicated mechanisms to request assistance in a timely manner, be it as preventive measures or in response to ongoing crisis situations.
- Inform periodically about the solidarity from countries and regions providing resources to the EUCPP and hosting RescEU stockpiles.

About Public Warning:

- Implement multi-channel technologies with extensive testing and comprehensive and inclusive communication to the community, so everyone is prepared when needed. *"[Warnings are only effective if they are received, understood, trusted and acted upon – by everyone](#)".*

- Define clear and uncomplicated procedures to trigger alerts to the population, in collaboration with all relevant parties.

About critical infrastructures and communications:

- Document and map all elements in the emergency and crisis response that may be affected by power outages (due to extreme weather situations, attacks or other technical issues) and make sure backup systems exist and are triggered when in need.

About information manipulation and misinformation during crisis:

- During emergencies, misinformation often stems from misunderstandings, poor communication, or the rapid circulation of unverified content, which needs to be rapidly tackled.
- Seek support from volunteer organisations specialised in social networks and general data analytics to flag information manipulation and malicious content publication.

About the use of Artificial Intelligence in Emergency and Crisis Management

- Even if there is a potential for a significant enhancement of emergency and crisis management through applications of AI in several areas, a careful ethical oversight, human control, standardised data frameworks, and recognition of limitations in novel or morally complex situations is required .
- Access to trustworthy data for feeding AI applications / using for AI analysis is key. Without proper data sources AI may create false sense of safety.

Additional points:

- Be aware of private-public cooperation options during disasters, such as the ESRI DRP that can provide free mapping resources.
- Work on preparedness with vulnerable population, i.e. using gamification for risk awareness.

7. Additional resources

About strategy

- 2028-2034 MFF: Civil protection, preparedness and crisis response by the **European Parliamentary Research Service**

  Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment *(Published by EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service Author: Irmgard Anglmayer Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit PE 774.713 – December 2025 EN)*

  This briefing provides an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the proposal for a Regulation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the financing of health emergency preparedness and response.

About preparedness

- **Proactive crisis management**: Lessons from Sweden's command and control centre - Contact: Björn Skoglund - Operations Specialist 112 & Crisis Preparedness at SOS Alarm

- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Handbook (June 2024)
    - The Handbook is divided into nine main themes that are broadly aligned with the functions of an On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC).

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Publications:
    - **Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems 2025** - In its third year since the global call for Early Warnings for All (EW4All), more than 60 per cent of all countries – and more than half of the countries in each region – have reported the existence of MHEWS.
    - Disasters that never happened: Six preventive actions
    - Rapid Post-Disaster Needs Assessment survey for media institutions
    - Polycrisis and systemic risk: Assessment, Governance, and Communication
    - Complex Adaptive Disaster and Emergency Management (CADEM) Framework
    - Gamifying risk awareness: How a French region is teaching disaster preparedness

- Operational guidelines for planning civil protection interventions for people with specific needs - Useful information for the relevant administrations to ensure proper response to populations with specific needs during emergencies:
- Best practices in using technology to protect vulnerable populations in crisis and danger (GREECE):
    - In this webinar, you will discover how 'The Smile of the Child', a leading Greek organisation dedicated to protecting children and supporting vulnerable groups, has enhanced its nationwide services through technological innovations.
    - Focused on safeguarding children at risk and vulnerable adults, the organisation has developed tools to support emergency response during natural disasters, crises, and search and rescue operations, in collaboration with state authorities.
    - Key solutions include the European Missing Alert Automated System, enabling rapid issuance of disappearance alerts (Amber Alert Hellas & Missing Alert Hellas), a state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center that autonomously coordinates real-time search and rescue efforts, and a National Digital Autonomous Communication Network ensuring secure, two-way voice and data communication with GPS tracking.
    - In the webinar you will learn, how these innovations allow the organisation to respond effectively and independently, even when conventional infrastructure is compromised.

Other interesting documents

- Information manipulation and misinformation
- Counting the Cost 2025: A year of climate breakdown. Christian Aid – 27th December 2025. Authors: Joe Ware & Oliver Pearce.

- [Forest](#) fires in Latin America in 2024. EU Science, Research and Innovation:
    - This is the second annual report on forest fires in Latin America published by the Joint Research (JRC) of the European Commission and the Group of Experts on Forest Fires in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEFF LAC).
    - This report analyses the fire situation in South America and Mexico during 2024. For each country, two national reports are provided, one prepared by GEFF LAC experts in the country, and a second obtained from statistics available in the Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS). This report includes a description of fire.

AI-related materials

- **Artificial Intelligence in Emergency and Crisis Management**: Rapid Evidence Review Report (11 December 2025, by the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the EC) :
    - New scientific evidence on AI in crisis management delivered to the European Commission
    - As part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism, SAPEA has delivered independent evidence on artificial intelligence in emergency and crisis management to the European Commission's DG ECHO. The report examines where AI can enhance crisis response and where human oversight remains essential. It addresses critical questions around ethical safeguards, data preparedness, and the need for common European standards.
    - Key findings include:
        - AI performs best on standardised, data-intensive tasks typical in frequent disasters such as floods, wildfires, and droughts
        - A European crisis management data preparedness framework could bridge current fragmentation across Member States
        - Benchmarks, practical guidelines and sandbox environments are needed before full AI deployment in crisis management

- Framing the risks and opportunities of AI use in crisis management - Statement by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisor of the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the EC.

- AI as a new frontier in disaster risk management

- **The new disaster frontier: AI in crises** - Dmitry Erokhin and Keith Paolo C. Landicho – 10 December 2025 - RSIS – IDSS Paper.
    - Key takewas highlighted:

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Crises now unfold simultaneously in the physical and digital domains, making the management of information just as critical as managing the disaster itself.
- AI offers powerful opportunities, but without trust, transparency and regional cooperation, it risks undermining rather than strengthening crisis response.
- ASEAN's focus on leveraging AI for enhancing predictive analytics for disasters is insufficient; the region must broaden its vision to address information threats as well.