

UCPM PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS



European Union
Civil Protection

ROMANIA: Thematic Peer Review on disaster risk governance and prevention measures for disaster risk reduction



The UCPM Peer Review Programme

A Peer Review of disaster risk management provides a country 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 Member States to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses, and putting forward recommendations to increase their effectiveness.

Based on an independent analysis, a peer review assists civil protection authorities in improving its DRM capabilities, identifies better approaches to policy and operations, facilitates mutual learning and exchange of good practices, raises awareness among stakeholders involved in DRM in the reviewed country, and proposes concrete recommendations.

Why a peer review in Romania?

The Department for Emergency Situation (DSU), together with the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), has requested to undergo a peer review on disaster risk management in Romania within the UCPM Peer Review Programme 2020-2023 cycle. The aim is to highlight good practices in place and gather recommendations on how to improve the system from independent peer experts.

Romania has recently revised and strengthened its Disaster Risk Management framework through the following strategies and documents:

- ▶ The National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2022-2035, being developed in collaboration with the World Bank, focuses on the whole DRM cycle.
- ▶ The National Risk Assessment, updated in 2020, covers 10 main hazards affecting the Romanian territory.
- ▶ The National Plan for DRM (2020-2027) a range of sectoral/hazard-specific strategies that contribute to the DRM agenda.
- ▶ In 2021, Romania also completed a self-assessment of the National DRM framework.

Objectives and key focus areas of the review

The overall objective is to identify areas for improvements and highlight good practices within the disaster risk management system in Romania. The review specifically focuses on disaster risk reduction governance, disaster risk prevention measures and risk management planning for disaster risk reduction. Crosscutting topics are also included, such as implementing resilience within the DRM cycle. Key focus areas:

Disaster risk reduction governance:

- » Strategic framework for DRR
- » Implementation of the DRR National Plan
- » Mainstreaming DRR into different policies
- » Horizontal-vertical cooperation among entities
- » DRR and Climate Change Adaptation policy coherence

Prevention measures & risk management planning for DRR:

- » Implementation of disaster loss databases compliant with the Sendai Framework Monitor
- » Innovation and knowledge services for DRM
- » Cooperation with civil society in DRM
- » Risk communication

Cross cutting topics:

- » Anticipatory financing and financial capabilities for DRM
- » Engagement of civil society and voluntary services
- » Ensuring a "resilience" approach within the DRM cycle



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The Peer Review in Romania: actors and main steps

General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) and the European Commission identify the key objectives and focus areas of the peer review in Romania and work closely together to prepare its implementation.



Defining the scope

Selecting the peers



Taking into account the agreed objectives, four independent experts (peers) are selected by the European Commission to conduct the review assessment. The peers are often proposed by national civil protection authorities.

On-site mission in Romania lasts one week. The peers conducting the review participate in multi-stakeholders' meetings and collect views and information on managing disaster risk in the country. A desk-research is conducted prior to the mission.



On site mission in Romania

Stakeholders' engagement



Relevant stakeholders with a role in disaster risk management – public authorities, civil society organizations, academic and private sector entities - are invited by IGSU to participate in the review and to provide the peers with relevant information.

Representatives of the European Commission accompany the peers throughout the review mission, though without taking an active part in the drafting the analysis.



Support provided by EC

Draft review report



By the end of the review mission, the peers prepare a first draft report, which will include good practices of the Romanian disaster risk management system, identified through the review, and a list of recommendations to further improve the management of risks.

The final report of the peer review is prepared by the peers after the mission. The final report is handed over to the Romanian government. An indicative date for its delivery is February 2023.



Finalisation of the review



National Contact Point for the Peer Review in Romania
Mr. Francisc Senzaconi
General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, senzacof@mai.gov.ro

UCPM Peer Review Programme contact
European Commission - DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - Prevention and Disaster Risk Management Unit
ECHO-CP-PEER-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu