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 Plan for DRM (2020-2027) a range of sectoral/hazard-specific strategies that contribute to the DRM agenda.

- The National Risk Assessment, updated in 2020, covers 10 main hazards affecting the Romanian territory.
- 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
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
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.

Selecting the peers
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
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.

Stakeholders’ engagement
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
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.

Draft review report
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

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