

GREECE: thematic peer review on wildfire risk management



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 disaster risk prevention, preparedness, and response.

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.

Wildfire peer reviews are a strategic tool for strengthening resilience against wildfires at the European, national, and sub-national level, with the primary objective to exchange knowledge through independent analyses conducted by experts from UCPM countries.

Why a wildfire peer review in Greece?

After the devastating wildfire events occurred in recent years, in September 2023 the General Secretariat of Civil Protection, Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of Greece, requested a peer review of wildfire risk management capabilities under the UCPM Peer Review Programme. The peer review represents an opportunity to identify good practices and areas that should be further strengthened, focusing in particular on the overall risk governance as well as prevention, preparedness and response phases. The General Secretariat of Civil Protection will work closely with the Ministry of the Environment and the Hellenic Fire Corps to support the review process.

The Peer Review will produce recommendations on how to advance the wildfire risk management based on insights from independent peer experts, who will participate in the peer review mission in Greece.

Objectives and key focus areas of the review

The overall objective is to identify areas for improvements and highlight good practices within the wildfire risk management and civil protection system in Greece. Good practices from other UCPM countries will also be highlighted for inspiration. The review will be mainly focused on the following key areas:

Governance of wildfire risk management:

- » Overall governance framework
- » Wildfire risk management strategy
- » Institutional framework
- » Coordination and partnership
- » Wildfire risk financing
- » Systemic resilience

Wildfire prevention:

- » Landscape management
- » Innovation & Knowledge services
- » Awareness and risk communication

Wildfire preparedness:

- » Training, exercises & international exchanges
- » Response capacities

Wildfire emergency response:

- » Response operations
- » Response coordination



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The wildfire peer review in Greece: actors and main steps

The Greek authorities together with the European Commission identify the key objectives and focus areas of the peer review in Greece and work closely together to prepare its implementation.



Defining the scope

Selecting the peers



Taking into account the agreed objectives, five 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 Greece lasts one week. The peers conducting the review participate in multi-stakeholders' meetings and collect views and information on managing wildfire risk in the country. A desk research is conducted prior to the mission.



On site mission in Greece

Stakeholders' engagement



Relevant stakeholders with a role in wildfire risk management (public authorities, civil society organizations, academic and private sector entities) are invited 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 Greek wildfire 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 Greek government. An indicative date for its delivery is May 2024.



Finalisation of the review



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