# UCPM PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

European Union

# KOSOVO[1]: peer review on disaster risk management

## The UCPM Peer Review Programme

A Peer Review of disaster risk management provides a country or a region with an opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and human induced hazard-related disasters and to identify ways of improving prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

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, the Participating States, eligible Third Countries and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses and putting forward recommendations to increase 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 Kosovo?

Considering the changes in the security environment and the effects of climate change, Kosovo faces various challenges, particularly stemming from natural hazards-related disasters. In this context, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) submitted a formal request for support to DG ECHO for a peer review of Kosovo's civil protection system.

The peer review is driven by a range of operational and institutional challenges, including:

- Coordination limitations between central and local authorities;
- Incomplete implementation of national emergency communication systems, including the operationalisation of the unified emergency number (112);
- Challenges in coordinating international aid requests due to the absence of effective connection and alignment with relevant international communication and coordination systems;
- Limited capacity to effectively manage large-scale emergencies;
- Lack of a proper citizen notification system;
- Adapting existing risk management frameworks and the structural model of EMA for aligning with European Union standards.

## 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 governance in Kosovo. 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 disaster risk reduction

Governance framework; disaster risk reduction strategy; institutional framework; coordination and partnership; disaster risk financing; systemic resilience.

### ➢ Risk prevention

Risk awareness and communication.

### ➢ Emergency response

Response coordination; Post Disaster Needs Assessment procedures.

[1] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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## Actors and main steps

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

**Defining the scope**

**Selecting the peers**

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

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

**On site mission in Kosovo**

**Stakeholders' engagement**

Relevant stakeholders with a role in disaster risk management (public authorities, 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 European Commission**

**Draft review report**

By the end of the review mission, the peers prepare a first draft report, which will include good practices of the disaster risk management system in Kosovo, 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 and handed over to the authorities of Kosovo in early 2026.

**Finalisation of the review**

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