UCPM PEER REVIEW OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

European Union Civil Protection

Czechia: 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 Czechia?

The existing crisis management system in Czechia was established in response to the extensive floods of 1997. Since then, it has undergone numerous tests of its effectiveness. In particular, specific crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022 and the refugee crisis in 2022, resulting from the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, have examined its resilience from multiple perspectives.

Although the system has proven fundamentally functional, there is a recognised need within the Czech Republic to modernise it and adapt it to current risks. From this standpoint, a peer review can help identify areas that remain robust as well as those where improvements would be appropriate.

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 Czechia. Good practices from other UCPM countries will also be highlighted for inspiration. The review will be mainly focused on the following key areas:

- **Disaster risk governance**
  - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework
  - Disaster risk reduction strategy and policy coherence
  - Whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach
  - Disaster risk financing
  - Innovation and knowledge services
- **Risk assessment**
  - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework
  - Risk identification, analysis and evaluation
- **Disaster risk management planning**
  - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework
  - Identification and prioritisation of measures
  - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
  - Participatory process and local knowledge
  - Cross-sectoral policy coherence
- **Preparedness**
  - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework
  - Early warning systems
  - Risk awareness and population preparedness

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The peer review in Czechia: actors and main steps

The authorities of Czechia and the European Commission identify the key objectives and focus areas of the peer review in Czechia 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 Czechia 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. Desk research is conducted prior to the mission.

On site mission in Czechia

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 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 Czechia, 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 Czechia in the second half of 2026.

Finalisation of the review

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