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Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last update: September 2026

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience – Phase 2

Overview

Grant Size	€400,000
Duration	June 2025 – December 2026
Key hazard(s)	Multi-hazard
Key word(s)	Risk preparedness, preparedness education, emergency response, disability-inclusive approaches, awareness and risk communication, guidelines, training, educational bodies incl. schools, persons with disability, prioritisation of measures, risk tolerance, recovery, build-back better

Context

Across the European Union, disaster risks are rising in frequency and complexity due to climate change, changing hazard landscapes, pandemics, and evolving geopolitical threats. In 2025, the European Commission launched the European Union (EU) Preparedness Union Strategy to strengthen the capacity to anticipate, prevent, and manage crises through enhanced coordination, capabilities, and an integrated all-hazards, whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach. Building on the findings of the Niinistö Report, the Strategy includes 30 key actions to advance the Preparedness Union's objectives, as well as developing a 'preparedness by design culture' across all EU policies.

Recent crises, from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerating climate impacts, have exposed gaps in preparedness. EU instruments such as the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and rescEU which serve as a strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles, fully funded by the EU, demonstrated added value. However, critical evidence and practice gaps persist, including inclusive preparedness, embedding preparedness in education systems, and diagnosing systemic preparedness and response gaps at national level. Given the diverse risk profiles, resources, and institutional arrangements across EU Member States and UCPM Participating States, robust comparative analysis, cross-country learning, and cooperation are needed to inform EU and national policymaking, steer investment decisions, and foster a coherent, inclusive, evidence-based culture of preparedness consistent with EU/UCPM legislation and frameworks.

Objective

The objective of this project is to provide targeted technical assistance to the European Commission, as well as to EU Member States and UCPM Participating States. The project combines technical analysis, consultations, and review of international practice to generate practical, actionable evidence to inform policy reform, program design, and investment decisions on prevention and preparedness. With respect to the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the project includes analytics related to two key actions: Action 29, which seeks to develop guidelines for embedding preparedness concepts into early childhood and primary education curricula and to equip educators with the skills and tools needed to teach preparedness effectively; and Action 33, which requires the development of guidelines on how to act in emergencies adapted to all types of disability. In parallel, the project will also generate case studies focusing on two topics relevant across several EU Member States and UCPM Participating States, namely, rapid assessments of emergency preparedness and response capacity and planning for resilient recovery.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project is structured around three key areas.

First focuses on integrating preparedness in early-childhood and primary education by conducting a comparative baseline across EU Member States, selected UCPM Participating States, and global comparators on how preparedness is embedded in early childhood and primary education, including curricula, teaching resources, and teacher education, aligned with Action 29 of the Preparedness Union Strategy. This area identifies good practices, institutional enablers, and barriers; develop recommendations to inform EU-level guidelines on curriculum design and teacher support; and compile a repository of effective resources for dissemination through the UCP Knowledge Network. Key deliverables include an action-oriented Roadmap to mainstream preparedness education into early childhood and primary schooling across the EU. Structured across three stages - curriculum preparation, implementation, and quality assurance, the roadmap translates policy intent into concrete, adaptable steps that countries can apply within their own systems and contexts.

Second focuses on inclusive preparedness and response through the development of guidance and training in alignment with Action 33 of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy. Activities under this area include developing (a) a diagnostic report and a stakeholder map to facilitate consultation and engagement with relevant actors; (b) practical, user-cantered guidelines for first responders (including 112 operators), and guidelines on how to act in crisis for persons with disabilities, and their carers; and (c) training curricula for first responders to recognize disability types and tailor appropriate actions.

Third provides a case study on assessing emergency preparedness and response arrangements, identifying gaps and opportunities across legal and institutional framework, information management systems, facilities, equipment, and personnel, with prioritized recommendations and investment options. A second case study focuses on resilient recovery planning, including risk communication and awareness in the case of prolonged crises or high uncertainty, while discussing the concept of risk tolerance.

In terms of expected results, the findings and recommendations from each area of work provide the European Commission and relevant national authorities with a robust evidence base to inform policy choices, curriculum and training design, investment prioritization, and inclusive operational practice. The process fosters collaboration among education and civil protection stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities, build consensus around practical, scalable solutions, and facilitate knowledge transfer across EU Member States, UCPM Participating States, and global comparators. Ultimately, the technical assistance supports the development of EU-level guidance and tools, strengthen disability-inclusive preparedness and response, embed preparedness in early childhood and primary education, and equip countries with actionable diagnostics, contributing to a stronger culture of preparedness, improved disaster prevention and response, and enhanced resilience across the Union. The developed case studies related to emergency preparedness, resilient recovery, and risk tolerance can serve as a practical model for other EU Member States and UCPM Participating States. Together, they aim to help Member States move from isolated initiatives to a systemic and scalable approach to civil protection.

Sustainability and Coordination

The findings and outputs of this technical assistance will be disseminated among EU institutions, Member States, UCPM Participating States, and relevant international partners, deepening the collective knowledge base on disaster preparedness, inclusive response, and risk-informed education across Europe. This supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen national and EU strategies and facilitates the adoption of innovative, evidence-based practices in education, civil protection, and inclusion. By focusing on curriculum integration, inclusive operational guidance, training, and stakeholder engagement, the project improves the capacity of education systems, DRM and civil protection agencies, to respond to emergencies, ensuring that the benefits of the knowledge endure beyond its completion. Given the alignment with EU and international standards, the approaches, good practices, and lessons learned through this technical assistance are also relevant to other countries participating in the UCPM and the broader international community. Documented experiences and knowledge products can inform similar efforts in neighbouring countries and global comparators, contributing to the global DRM knowledge base and fostering improved coordination and resilience. In this way, the project's outputs will support the implementation of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, the Disaster Resilience Goals, and international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthening preparedness and resilience at national, regional, and global levels.

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