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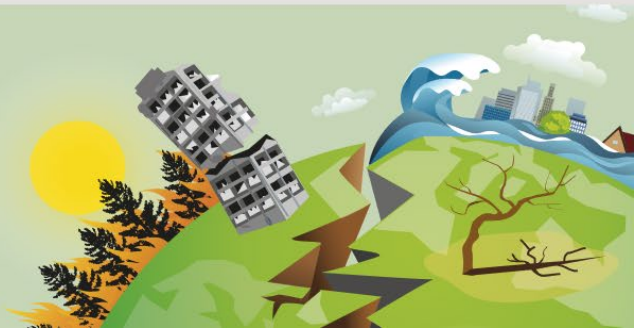
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 2: Knowledge and capacity building



Last updated: September 2026

Enhancing Policy and Investments for EU Disaster and Climate Resilience

Overview

Grant Size	€250,000
Duration	September 2024 – December 2025
Key hazard(s)	Earthquakes, wildfires
Key word(s)	Governance of disaster risk management; policy coherence, systematic resilience, resilient infrastructure, prioritisation of measures

Context

Europe faces escalating risks from natural hazards. The continent warms faster than any other region in the world, translating into potentially more frequent and more impactful events. Wildfires are growing more frequent, intense, and widespread, while earthquakes, though less visible in public debate, remain a persistent threat. Together, they expose critical vulnerabilities in Europe's infrastructure, economies, and communities, underscoring the need for stronger, long-term investment in disaster preparedness.

Countries in the EU have been taking steps to enhance their disaster and climate resilience, guided and supported by European Union's policy, funding, and technical assistance instruments. However, preparedness across Europe remains uneven. Building resilience requires sustained investments in climate- and seismic-resilient infrastructure, robust early-warning and response systems, and stronger public awareness. This is the moment to reflect on how to refine policy and funding frameworks to better promote strategic, risk-informed, performance-oriented, and sustainable investments that deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits. It is also worth exploring ways to incentivise reforms that address key bottlenecks for effective risk management and investments.

Objectives

The objective of the project was to summarize and generate knowledge to enhancing policy and investments for disaster and climate resilience. This was done by focusing on two elements: first, sharing good practices and provide recommendations for incentivising effective investments in disaster and climate resilience through the right framework conditions, and second, providing evidence to support a risk-informed approach to investments, particularly in wildfire and earthquake risk management, offering guidance on potential actions and investments.

Key Activities and Expected Results

The project comprised two activities:

First, under 'Incentivising impactful investments in disaster resilience – setting the right framework', research was conducted to support discussions related to existing and future policies and instruments that can foster disaster and climate resilience, such as specific conditions and incentives, along with methods to track progress towards strengthened disaster and climate resilience.

Second, under' Investing in disaster resilience in the EU: identifying needs and priorities', a series of EU-wide and country case study analytics was developed focusing on wildfire and earthquake risks, with relevant examples and recommendations going forward.

Outputs: A series of eight reports, complemented by dissemination materials, sets out practical measures to strengthen Europe's preparedness for wildfires and earthquakes.

- *World Bank. 2025. Management of Wildfire Risk in the European Union,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Croatia - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Cyprus - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Romania - Management of Wildfire Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Management of Earthquake Risk in the European Union,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Croatia - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Cyprus - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- *World Bank. 2025. Romania - Management of Earthquake Risk,* Link.
- World Bank. 2025. 'From Risk to Resilience: Strengthening Preparedness for Wildfires and Earthquakes in Europe', Article, Link.

In terms of results, this project provided evidence, good practice examples, and recommendations to inform ongoing and future efforts to strengthen disaster and climate resilience in the EU. The findings aim to provide insights that can guide the refinement of policies and tools at both the EU and Member State levels in the current and forthcoming multi-annual financial framework. Drawing on case studies from Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania, the findings offer insights for governments worldwide on how to allocate resources more effectively and build disaster resilience in the decades ahead. Opportunities are clear: integrated governance can link wildfire prevention to land-use with land-use and natural resource management, while seismic retrofitting can be paired with energy-efficiency and other multi-hazard upgrades. Better data and predictive tools can sharpen decision-making. Community engagement—from evacuation drills to public campaigns—can help foster a culture of preparedness. Improved post-disaster planning and innovative financing, including improved contingency funds and insurance, can ensure resources are quickly available after disasters strike.

Sustainability and Coordination

The project considered and coordinated with other ongoing academic research, technical assistance (including other TAFF projects or other EU-funded grants), as well as initiatives led by the European Commission that could be leveraged to deepen understanding of the EU's earthquake and wildfire risk profile and risk management capabilities. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge generated through collaborations between government counterparts, the World Bank, and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

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