



EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Mehanizam Unije za civilnu zaštitu

Some of first serious beginnings in the area of civil protection on the global level date back to 1985, at the ministerial meeting in Rome, after which certain steps have been made related to preparedness in the case of emergency, that is, establishing mutual mechanism for solving crisis which included terrorist threats. This idea came to life through establishment of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in 2001, so that Mechanism could support mobilization of emergency assistance in case of big disasters inside and outside of the European Union.

European Union has dedicated a lot of attention and seriousness in this area, which is why two main mechanisms have been developed, through which Union wants to realize the goals in field of civil protection and those are:

- Community Action program which supports important projects, workshops and courses in the field of prevention and protection, preparedness and response to natural disasters on the ground and in the sea.
- EU Civil Protection Mechanism involves participation over 34 European countries (with all their resources, intended for civil protection) whose potential and resources can be available to disaster affected countries.

Legal framework

Legal framework which defines European civil protection system on the area of Union is based on two main legal regulations. Those are Council Decision with which EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been established (2007/799/EZ, Euroatom) and Council Decision by which Financial Instrument for civil protection has been made (2007/162/EZ/Euroatom).

Main role

Main role of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism is to facilitate cooperation between member states in intervention of civil protection in case of disasters.

Purpose and main goals

Program is supporting the member states' efforts oriented towards primarily people protection but also material goods and environment protection, including cultural aspects, in case of natural and other disasters (technological or ecological disasters of big proportions).

There are three phases of disaster management within EU Civil Protection Mechanism and those are:

- *prevention,*
- *preparedness and*
- *response in case of disasters.*



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Activities

Within EU Civil Protection Mechanism, these activities are funded:

- *Prevention projects contributing to the development of disaster prevention policies, connecting participants and policies through disaster management cycle and improving efficiency of existing policy instruments for disaster prevention.*
- *Preparedness projects (identification, education, binding, exercises, mobilization of professionals and experts) that contribute to improving the efficiency of fast and effective action by promoting preparedness and awareness of civil protection forces, supporting efforts to protect people, environment and material goods in case of natural and other disaster, facilitating cooperation in the field of sea protection against pollution.*
- *Exercises of civil protection forces.*

Structure of the program

Financing EU Civil Protection Mechanism activities are conducted through call for applications:

- *Grants (prevention projects and preparedness projects, exercises of civil protection forces and civil protection units, etc)*
- *Public purchase (tenders, exercises for civil protection modules and teams for technical assistance, etc)*

Main beneficiaries

Having in mind the variants of project proposals, different and potential beneficiaries can participate in the program (with note that the project should not generate profit):

- *National authorities, local government, international institutions, universities and colleges, nongovernmental organizations and commercial legal entities.*

Individuals can not participate.

Partners (applicants and coapplicants)

For application procedure it is necessary (depending on the type of call) to have two partners from EU member states, while national partners can be: national authorities, local government bodies, universities, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and commercial companies (legal entities), including small and medium companies.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is not immune to natural and other disasters, which is notable from previous period. Bosnia and Europe as well are facing increasing security and natural disaster challenges. Practices so far have shown that solidarity is key factor which contributes to successful rescue, where the best example is year of 2014, which demonstrated solidarity inside of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as regional solidarity of Europe countries.
