

Disaster Risk Management Assessment Framework

Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF)

Expert workshop

24th June 2025, 09:30-16:30 CEST

European Commission - DG ECHO premises, ERCC Auditorium
Access via Rue Joseph II 79, Brussels (Metro Station Maelbeek)

Participants

Invited experts: Karl Topping (SE CP), Carlos Mendes (PT CP), Sofia González López (ES CP), Eduard Plana (CTFC, ES), Daniela Di Bucci (IT CP), Scira Menoni (Politecnico di Milano, IT), Claudia Berchtold (Fraunhofer, DE), Albrecht Beck (PPI, DE), George Boustras (CERIDES, CY), Lisanne Siebel-Achenbach (DE CP), Ferdinand Hörmann (DE CP), Stephane Lagarrique (Meteo France, FR), Néstor Alfonzo Santamaría (OECD), Rosalind Cook (UNDRR), Zuzana Stanton-Geddes (World Bank), Peter Moore (FAO), Simon Clark (EGU), Hans-Martin Fussel (EEA).

European Commission - JRC: Marzia Santini

European Commission - DG ECHO: Gaetano Vivo, Cristina Brailescu, Bella Nestorova, Laura Indriliunaite, Guillermo Griem, Helene Bonvin, Spyros Afentoulidis, Hector Alfaro Fernandez, Claire Kowalewski, Philippe Bartholme, Juha-Pekka Japola, Juan Galvan Montero, Judith Sorensen.

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC): Veronica Casartelli, Angelica Marengo, Dana Salpina, Jaroslav Mysiak.

Agenda

Time	Topic
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome and introduction - DG ECHO <i>Presentation of objectives and expected results of the workshop.</i>
09:35 – 09:50	The context – DG ECHO: The EU Preparedness Strategy Key UCPM initiatives on disaster risk management - DG ECHO
09:50 – 10:00	The UCPM Peer review programme – DG ECHO <i>Brief presentation of the Peer Review Programme</i>
10:00 – 10:15	The <u>Peer Review Assessment Framework</u> – CMCC <i>Introduction of the key reference documents (Guidelines and PRAF; presentation of the Assessment Framework and presentation of its draft structure.</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Consultation process and timeline – DG ECHO
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 11:00	Introduction to the World café session – DG ECHO and CMCC <i>The experts are divided into 3 break-out groups. Each group analyses and discusses the draft structure of the PRAF, addressing specific key focus areas in each break-out session. Facilitators guide the discussion in each group.</i> <i>World café format with facilitators from CMCC/DG ECHO by topic</i>
11:00 – 12:00	3 Break-out groups: 1. Disaster risk governance, Risk management planning. (Group A) 2. Risk assessment, Prevention, Recovery and Lessons learnt. (Group B) 3. Preparedness, Emergency response. (Group C)
12:00 – 13:00	Light lunch
13:00 – 14:00	3 Break-out groups: 1. Disaster risk governance, Risk management planning. (Group C) 2. Risk assessment, Prevention, Recovery and Lessons learnt. (Group A) 3. Preparedness, Emergency response. (Group B)
14:00 – 15:00	3 Break-out groups: 1. Disaster risk governance, Risk management planning. (Group B) 2. Risk assessment, Prevention, Recovery and lessons learnt. (Group C) 3. Preparedness, Emergency response. (Group A)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break – wrapping up key results from parallel discussion
15:30 – 16:00	Presentations by the facilitators <i>One facilitator from each group presents the outcomes of the discussion in plenary</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Final open discussion moderated by DG ECHO and next steps <i>Closing discussion and survey circulation</i>

Concept note

1. Introduction

In the current fast-changing risk and policy context, assessing disaster risk management (DRM) capabilities is crucial to increase resilience and foster comprehensive preparedness. The European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) [Peer Review Programme](#), supports the 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. Peer reviews promote an integrated approach to DRM and support a wider policy dialogue across Europe and beyond, improving policy coherence and facilitating the exchange of good practices.

Developing a robust methodology for assessing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capabilities is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness, comparability, and consistency of peer reviews. The Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF, 2021) and the Wildfire PRAF (2023) have proven effective in supporting comprehensive and holistic analysis during the 2020-2024 Peer Review Programme cycle, and their use now extends beyond peer reviews.

The PRAF is currently being revised and updated to support upcoming peer reviews scheduled for the 2025-2027 cycle. A preliminary draft has already been prepared by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (the contractor assisting DG ECHO with peer review implementation). DG ECHO intends to consult a small group of experts to gather suggestions for further improvement.

2. Purpose and overall objectives of the workshop

The workshop aims to present the draft structure of the disaster risk management framework and gather expert feedback and suggestions. Insights from the workshop will directly support the framework's finalization. Subsequently, the advanced draft of the framework will be shared with the Disaster Prevention Working Group (UCPM) for broader consultation.

3. Structure of the workshop

The full-day workshop is structured in three main parts:

- An **introductory session** provides an overview of the key ongoing initiatives at European level, focusing on the EU Preparedness Strategy and key UCPM initiatives on disaster risk management. The Peer Review Programme and its key reference documents (PRAF and Guidelines) will also be briefly presented, along with the draft structure of the new disaster risk management framework.
- A World Café session structured into three **breakout sessions** (one in the morning and two in the afternoon) represent the core part of the workshop. The experts are divided into 3 groups to analyse and discuss the draft structure of the PRAF, addressing specific *key focus areas*¹ in each break-out session. A facilitator guides the discussion in each group with the support of guiding questions. Each group moves from table to table, providing feedback on every key focus area within the framework.
- A **closing session** focuses on the insights gathered during the break-out discussions. One (or more) facilitator(s) from each group presents the key results. A brief open discussion follows the presentation and a timeline for the next steps is agreed upon.

Coffee breaks and a light lunch are organised by the European Commission at the meeting venue.

¹ Disaster risk governance, Risk assessment, Risk management planning, Prevention, Preparedness, Emergency response, Recovery and Lessons learned (the hexagons of the PRAF).

4. Meeting documents and useful links

- [EU Preparedness Union Strategy](#)
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism ([DG ECHO website](#))
- EU Peer Review Programme ([Knowledge Network portal](#), [factsheet](#))
- [Peer Review Assessment Framework \(current version\)](#)
- [Wildfire Peer Review Assessment Framework](#)
- [Peer Review Programme Guidelines](#)
- Draft structure of the Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF) – ***it will be circulated two weeks ahead of the workshop.***