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Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

Call for proposals

Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP)

(UCPM-2026-KAPP-PVPP)

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

ECHO.B – Strategy and Policy
Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of prevention and preparedness projects on civil protection and full-scale exercises under the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 (EU Financial Regulation)[1]
- the basic act (UCPM Decision 1313/2013[2]).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021-2027 Multi-Annual Work Programme[3] and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)**.

The call covers Prevention and Preparedness projects **(UCPM-2026-KAPP-PVPP)**.

Projects funded under the **Full-scale exercise call (UCPM-2026-KAPP-EX)** are invited to refer to the conditions specified in the separate call document.

Each project application under this call must commit to one or several priorities.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular this Call document, the Model Grant Agreement, the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement. The Topic Questions and Answers (Q&As) will also provide useful information and will be updated regularly.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the Call Document outlines the:
    - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results, horizontal principles and dissemination (sections 1 and 2)
    - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
    - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents, sections 5 and 6)
    - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
    - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
    - award criteria (section 9)
    - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
    - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:

[1] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

[2] Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924).

[3] Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 6902 final of 17.10.2025 on the financing of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and adopting a multiannual work programme for 2021-2027, repealing and replacing Implementing Decision C(2024) 7235.

  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant *(including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc)*.

You are also encouraged to visit the DG ECHO website (Prevention and Preparedness Programme webpage) and the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network platform to consult projects funded previously.

1. Background

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) was first established by Council Decision No 2001/792/EC, Euratom of 23 October 2001. Since then, the UCPM has become a comprehensive framework for European cooperation in disaster prevention, preparedness and response. Its legal base is Decision No 1313/2013/EU, amended by Decision (EU) 2023/2671 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023[4].

Currently, 37 states - the 27 EU Member States and Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Türkiye and Ukraine - are participating in the UCPM.

The overall objective of the UCPM is to strengthen the cooperation among Member States[5] in the field of civil protection to facilitate coordination to improve the effectiveness of system for preventing, preparing for, and responding to disasters. Any country in the world overwhelmed by a disaster can call on the UCPM for support. By pooling the civil protection capabilities of the Member States, the UCPM can ensure better protection primarily of people, but also of the natural and cultural environment and of property, thereby contributing to more resilient societies.

The co-financing of projects and exercises has been used by the UCPM as a key instrument for supporting Member States' disaster risk management (DRM) efforts[6].

The Prevention and Preparedness call for proposal is structured around three priorities aligned with the Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) and the Preparedness Union Strategy.

The KAPP call is one of the flagship activities of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN). The Network was initiated to strengthen the connection between all relevant initiatives and stakeholders in the UCPM[7]. It brings together organisations and experts from civil protection and DRM by creating a space in which innovation for more efficient and effective civil protection systems is fostered. The Knowledge Network also ensures that relevant knowledge becomes accessible to all stakeholders. With its online

[4] OJ L, 2023/2671, 28.11.2023
OJ L 185, 26.5.2021
OJEU N° L 77I of 20.03.2019
OJEU N° L 347 of 20.12.2013, p. 924
OJEU N° L 314 of 1.12.2007, pp. 9–19
OJEU N° L 297 of 15.11.2001, p. 7

[5] In light of Article 28(1a) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, where reference is made to Member States, it shall be understood as including Participating States as defined in Article 4(12) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

[6] Article 21 of the UCPM Decision 1313/2013/EU.

[7] Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956 of 10 November 2021 on the establishment and organisation of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network.

platform, it also contributes to an increased degree of sustainability for projects by providing a central source of information on UCPM projects and a knowledge hub that exists independently of project cycles.

A recommendation setting out Union disaster resilience goals[8] in the area of civil protection was adopted by the European Commission in February 2023[9]. The Recommendation identifies a number of areas where further efforts are needed, including increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population; enhancing early warning; and ensuring a robust civil protection system.

In 2025, the **Preparedness Union Strategy (PUS)[10]** was put forward by the the European Commission and the European External Action Service. The PUS is based on an integrated all-hazard, whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, and it aims to boost the EU's ability to anticipate, prevent, and respond to natural, technological, hybrid and human-made risks. The PUS aims to enhance the EU's civilian and military preparedness and readiness for future crises so that all actors are ready and capable to respond quickly and effectively if needed. Key actions of the PUS include foresight and anticipation, resilience of vital societal functions, population preparedness, public-private cooperation, civil-military cooperation, crisis response coordination and resilience through external partnerships.

As one of the key actions of the Preparedness Union Strategy the "**EU stockpiling strategy: boosting the EU´s material preparedness for crises**" was adopted in July 2025. It aims to ensure that during any crises, anywhere in Europe, Member States have enough goods to keep vital societal functions runnung. It adopts a comprehensive approach to stockpiling and addresses its entire cycle, from anticipation to monitoring of supply chains, measures to strengthen supply security, management of stockpiling and deployment.

In October 2025, the Commission published the Apply AI Strategy[11] as the EU's overarching AI sectoral strategy and marks another step towards making the EU an AI Continent. The Apply AI Strategy is designed to enhance the competitiveness of strategic sectors (such as –climate and environment, defense, security and space) and strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty. In line with this strategy, the European Commission published its Contribution to the 3rd meeting of the Global Initiative on Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions on 12 December 2025. This outlines key actions on the future of AI for disaster risk management. Supporting the uptake of AI by relevant actors involved in DRM activities is part of these actions.

Other relevant UCPM developments that have taken place during 2025 include:

- The Commission proposal for a new regulation of the UCPM, integrating support for health emergency preparedness and response, published on 17 July 2025[12]. This proposal aims to improve coordination, efficiency and effectiveness in preventing, preparing for, and responding to complex, cross-sectoral crises. It also promotes closer civil-military cooperation and better links between civil protection, health, environment and security, reflecting the all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach set out in the PUS.

[8] In accordance with article 6(5) of the UCPM Decision 1313/2013/EU.
[9] Commission Recommendation of 8 February 2023 on Union disaster resilience goals 2023/C 56/01.
[10] Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Preparedness Union Strategy, 26.03.2025
[11] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – Apply AI Strategy; COM(2025)723 final
[12] COM_2025_548_1 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response

- The European Commission's report on advancing risk management and resilience-building in Europe, published on 29 September 2025. It includes the first report on the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals and the second update on preventing and managing disaster risk in Europe.
- The European Commission's Capacity Progress Report on the Response Capacities of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, published on 6 June 2025. This report outlined a series of recommendations to further increase the effectiveness of the UCPM's response capacities.
- 2024 Report on the implementation of the EU emergency number 112: the Commission adopted the 2024 report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the European emergency number 112 in December 2024. The report shows that progress in the implementation of the 112 number increased significantly compared to 2021, but efforts are still ongoing in many MSs to implement the 112 provisions.

The overall aim of this call for proposals is to identify and co-finance projects aimed at strengthening cooperation among Member States on disaster prevention and preparedness[13]. This call also aims to contribute to the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals and the objectives of the PUS through the development of shared DRM capacity building tools, operational concepts and procedures, and knowledge exchange. Proposals should follow, to the extent possible, a multi-hazard approach, in line with the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030. This general approach should also be reflected in cases of proposals with a focus on a single hazard.

In 2025, 92 proposals were submitted, with a total of over EUR 76 million of requested EU funding. Out of those proposals, 14 projects were awarded for EUR 12 million.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected results

Each proposal must define work packages, outputs and deliverables that contribute to the call's objectives. Furthermore, specific objectives, outcomes, work packages, outputs and deliverables described in the proposals should be linked in a logical and result-driven manner and should demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute to achieving the objectives/priorities set out under the call priorities.

General objectives of this call are (according to the Financing Decision):

1. To support the implementation of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and of the Union disaster resilience goals.
2. To achieve a higher level of protection against disasters by anticipating, by taking action to prevent and reduce their potential effects, by fostering a culture of prevention and preparedness, and by improving cooperation and coordination between the civil protection and other relevant stakeholders at various levels of governance, through a "whole-of-society" approach.
3. To contribute to building new and developing further existing competences, skills, knowledge and expertise in civil protection and disaster risk management at individual, organisational and institutional levels.
4. To strengthen knowledge partnerships and to support the uptake of scientific outcomes for enhanced disaster risk management.
5. To support civil protection organisations and disaster risk management actors in integrating climate adaptation and resilience in their risk assessments, strategies and plans, investments, and overall activities.

[13] Actions falling under Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002 establishing a European Maritime Safety Agency are not covered by this call.

6. To further contribute to raising preparedness and awareness of citizens, local and regional public entities, businesses and other relevant stakeholders on the risks they face and options for reducing their vulnerability.
7. To further improve risk and crisis communication.

2.1 TOPIC: UCPM-2026-KAPP-PVPP — PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

Objectives

The Decision 1313/2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism defines prevention as any action aimed at reducing risks or mitigating adverse consequences of a disaster for people, the environment and property, including cultural heritage. Preparedness is defined as a state of readiness and capability of human and material means, structures, communities and organisations enabling them to ensure an effective rapid response to a disaster, obtained as a result of action taken in advance.

The general objective of the projects within the Prevention and Preparedness topic is to enhance collaboration and cooperation on these phases of the DRM cycle among Member States and between the UCPM and third eligible countries. These projects should seek to strengthen efforts in preventing disasters while improving the overall preparedness of the UCPM, its stakeholders, and the wider population. Through initiatives that address both ongoing challenges and emerging systemic issues, these projects should aim to build resilience and foster a more coordinated response framework.

While cross-border cooperation is relatively well-established in the area of emergency response, cross-border and multi-country cooperation during the prevention and preparedness phases can be further enhanced. Notwithstanding, the response phase could also benefit from streamlined communication protocols and interoperable systems that overcome language barriers in emergency situations.

Disasters know no borders. The ongoing and emerging risks posed by natural and human-induced hazards are cross-border due to their spatial dimension (e.g., earthquakes, fires, severe weather, floods and space weather), as well as the volatility and scale of their impacts (e.g., pandemics, impact of climate change on zoonotic diseases, nuclear/industrial accidents, marine pollution). The human, economic and environmental impacts triggered by these disasters, as well as their likelihood of occurrence exist irrespective of national borders. Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence provide a novel opportunity to address these challenges in a more effective and efficient manner.

Proposals under this topic are requested to align with the civil protection and disaster risk management policy frameworks of the beneficiaries' countries and to integrate the end-users' perspective as much as possible. The integration of actors in consortia should consider their role in the civil protection and disaster risk management fields. Beyond traditional actors, the inclusion of other relevant partners—such as private sector—is encouraged in order to bring innovative perspectives. To maximize the impact and sustainability of proposed activities, it is essential that projects demonstrate a clear connection between these activities and key stakeholders, including technical and political decision-makers, citizens, and other relevant actors.

Stakeholders should tailor proposals to address their identified needs and can either be broad in scope by focusing on gaps across sectors, borders and disciplines or specific to a region, organisation type or hazard. **Central to the proposal should however be the relevance of the activities for the UCPM** and applicability of the results for stakeholders beyond those involved in the consortium.

Activities funded under this topic should **complement or link to European Union or previous UCPM initiatives**, as well as **national, sub-national, and local initiatives,** particularly with challenging dimensions such as emerging disaster risks and the complexities associated with prolonged emergencies or concurrent disasters. Results should be presented in a way to support their adaptation and implementation by other stakeholders. Outputs such as training materials or IT tools should be designed with a low adoption threshold, in mind, thereby encouraging stakeholder uptake.

For an illustration of general and specific objectives, outcomes, outputs and deliverables of this call for proposals, please refer to the logical framework for this topic, which is available in a dedicated space of the UCPKN online platform.

Themes and priorities (scope)

In order to contribute to achieving the above general objective, applicants can select **one or several of the following priorities,** which comprise the specific objectives below:

Priority 1: Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population

Population plays an important role in disaster prevention and preparedness and citizens are usually the first responders to disasters. National, sub-national and local authorities should cooperate, together with the private sector and civil society organisations, to i) increase disaster risk awareness and understanding of the population, ii) foster a culture of risk prevention and preparedness to risks, iii) create favourable conditions for individuals to actively engage in disaster risk reduction/DRM activities, iv) communicate appropriately during emergencies, v) fighting disinformation and information manipulation in the DRM domain.

Evidence-based risk information and communication, as well as education activities, targeted to the public – including vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities– are effective tools to raise risk awareness, preparedness and contribute to response measures. A good understanding of everyone's role in case of emergency will improve adherence to public warnings and instructions.

This priority correlates with the Union disaster resilience goal No. 2: 'Prepare - Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population'.

Priority 2: Enhancing from early warning to early action

Early warning systems are key elements for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in view of the recent extreme weather events and cascading impacts across sectors. Taking into account climate scenarios, and other new risks, the importance of advanced multi-hazard and risk warnings has never been more widely acknowledged. Although in Europe there is considerable experience with early warning systems, especially for weather and climate-related hazards, recent disasters have shown that more effort and collaboration is necessary to bring the alert to the right decision level and up to the individual citizens. This call will support proposals that aim to strengthen the understanding between forecasting institutions and public authorities at various levels (national, regional, local) in order to enable a more rapid action through public warning mechanisms and arrangements, before or after a disaster strikes.

This priority correlates with the Union disaster resilience goal No. 3: 'Alert - Enhancing early warning'.

Priority 3: Ensuring a robust civil protection system by strengthening institutional capacity

Ensuring a robust civil protection system plays a crucial part in efficiently meeting the demands placed on civil protection and DRM authorities, in particular during and after a disaster, when society needs them most. Challenges related to emerging risks, increasing complexities during disasters, changing parameters as a result of climate change and the ever-growing risk of concurrent disasters or prolonged emergencies, require institutions with a role in DRM to adapt and prepare themselves accordingly.

Activities should focus on advancing preparedness, within and between organisations, sectors and borders, especially in the context of applying lessons identified in previous emergencies to existing structures and processes. A "whole of society" approach should be applied by further developing cooperation between public bodies, private sector, communities and other stakeholders. In addition, 'preparedness by design' should be embedded in across policies and investments. Proposals should also facilitate the transfer of knowledge or integration of science and innovation, including AI based tools, in the work of civil protection and other relevant authorities. In addition, this priority will focus on developing skills, expanding relevant knowledge, and improving capacity and performance of organisations or functional groups. As a result, the gained knowledge and experience should be applied nationally, bilaterally or internationally in a way that benefits the UCPM in the disaster risk prevention, preparedness or response activities.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

Under **Priority 1 (Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population)**, this call for proposals co-finances activities that aim to enhance risk awareness, understanding and preparedness of the population, including through increasing the overall level of risk awareness, prevention and preparedness of individuals and communities , improving public access to disaster risk information, and enhancing the culture of risk prevention, self-protection, readiness and pro-active engagement of citizens. Proposals aiming to increase the availability of tools, trainings, and guidelines on raising citizens' awareness on disaster risks, and on fighting disinformation and information manipulation in the DRM domain, are also eligible.

Under **Priority 2 (Enhancing from early warning to early action)**, this call for proposals will co-finance activities that aim to adapt warning protocols to the operational needs of emergency responders and society at large, as well as proposals that strengthen public warning and alert systems. Proposals should also demonstrate that they build on previous efforts or that there is a clear and evidenced identified gap for the action. Joint capacity building activities of forecasting organisations, public administration, critical infrastructure managers, or other relevant organisations, are key to making early warning relevant and understandable for all. Proposals that promote the use of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning, are also encouraged and the same applies for proposals that link up forecasting tools with wildfire behaviour analysis in order to serve national or regional operational needs.

Under **Priority 3 (Ensuring a robust civil protection system by strengthening institutional capacity)**, this call for proposals will co-finance integrated projects that aim to strengthen the ability of institutions tasked with civil protection or DRM to effectively prepare for future disasters and to embed the preparedness-by-design principle across policies and investments. The focus of the activities should lie on expanding knowledge, skills, procedures, and tools in order to strengthen capacity at organisational level. Projects can focus on any or all of the following elements: gathering of knowledge and good practices from different DRM stakeholders, integrating input from science and research institutions into knowledge sharing

activities relevant for DRM, elaboration of methodologies for skill and knowledge transfer. Activities may also focus on integrating lessons learnt from recent emergencies into capacity strengthening initiatives.

Projects under this priority can include but are not limited to any of the following activities:

- Guidance material, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) templates, surveys
- Trainings for DRM practitioners (modular, training of trainers, pilot trainings, vocational educational training in the area of civil protection and DRM) ,
- Exposure and exchange visits and other mobility activities, coaching and mentorship,
- Development, testing and support to uptake of new or adaptation of existing technologies and IT tools, including those reducing the environmental impact of civil protection activities,
- Workshops, seminars and conferences,
- Small scale exercises to test methods/solutions, simulations,
- Developing new tools or trainings linked to the implementation of the EU Host-Nation Support Guidelines;
- Development of new tools for an effective application of stockpiling principles at various governance levels.

For the above priorities, the active involvement of end-users in the proposal conception and implementation is recommended. End-users may be DRM authorities at various levels, civil society organisations, private companies, and other stakeholders in the eligible countries.

Expected results

Priority 1. Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population

Project activities and outputs should lead to the achievement of **at least one of the following outcomes**:

- Enhanced personal and household preparedness for disasters across the EU.
- Enhanced evidence-based knowledge, understanding and awareness of disaster risks.
- Improved sharing of risk information and development of a culture of risk prevention and preparedness at citizen’s level
- Strengthened participation of volunteers and civil society in DRM, including youth, vulnerable groups, and persons with disabilities.
- Enhanced availability of tools and guidelines on increasing risk awareness.
- Strengthened community engagement in the process of disaster resilience building.
- More aware citizens, able to identify disinformation and information manipulation in the DRM field.

The project **outputs** shall be chosen from the following list:

- Improved or new multi-risk awareness raising methodologies for various DRM stakeholders.
- Compilation of good practices and knowledge in the field of risk communication, risk awareness, engagement of local communities, and fighting disinformation.
- Awareness raising and risk education products, such as media campaigns, including

social media, open-source platforms, augmented reality, simulations, study visits, or other.

- Awareness raising and risk education platforms, applications, and events (virtual and face-to-face).
- Training modules, tools, guidelines, and methodologies aimed to improve individual and household preparedness.
- Training and educational modules, tools, guidelines, and methodologies aimed at raising risk awareness and enhancing the culture of preparedness amongst the population, for the general public or specific groups, including vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities.

Priority 2. Enhancing from early warning to early action

Project activities and outputs should lead to the achievement of **at least one of the following outcomes**:

- Improved multi-country early warning and information systems and linkage with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS).
- Strengthened integration of early warning systems in decision making at various levels, including at individual and organisational levels.
- Stronger link between early warning systems and wildfire behaviour analysis at an operational level.
- Increased understanding of early warning messages among the general public or specific groups, including vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities.
- Enhanced availability of tools and guidelines on improved risk communication, and of effective public warning systems.
- Improved integration of community needs and behavioural characteristics into early warning systems.

The project **outputs** shall be chosen from the following list:

- Improved systems for hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, including through the use of new technologies.
- Mechanisms and procedures for information sharing with the ERCC and for a better integration of early warning systems (such as the ones of the Copernicus Emergency Management System) in decision making at various levels.
- User manuals for early warning systems, co-developed by relevant organisations.
- Tools that use early warning systems' products in order to support wildfire behaviour analysis for direct use in firefighting planning and operations.
- International standards and protocols for warnings.
- Tools and guidelines on crisis communication and public warning, considering specific needs of the population (for instance, multi-lingual communities, vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, etc.).
- Guidelines on the implementation of an "all-of-society" approach in early warning.

Priority 3. Ensuring a robust civil protection system by strengthening institutional capacity

Project activities and outputs should lead to the achievement of **at least one of the following outcomes**:

- Development of solutions to integrate lessons learnt, at organisational and/or individual level, and other strategic documents (including of an economic nature) into existing structures and processes.
- Development of a culture of risk prevention and preparedness at all levels of governance, which also includes efforts to reduce the overall environmental impact of disaster risk management.
- Integration of a broader range of stakeholders such as science and research, political and technical decision makers or the general public into preparedness and capacity strengthening activities.
- Enhanced cooperation, coordination, interoperability, capability, and exchange of knowledge in the area of civil protection and disaster risk management in EU Member States, UCPM Participating States and other beneficiaries. while broadening the communities' reach into other sectors.
- Facilitated transfer of research and innovation outcomes into civil protection and DRM planning and operations through agile learning and feedback mechanisms.
- Development and sharing of knowledge and capabilities at organisational and systemic levels or at individual level, against critical/common risks (floods, wildfire, earthquakes, CBRN, medical emergencies and marine pollution), new emerging risks (conflict and hybrid threat), prolonged emergencies or concurrent disasters.
- Identification and showcasing of relevant capacity-development activities at national, sub-national and local levels that could be applied in other contexts. Improved rapid response teams or modules.

The project **outputs** shall be chosen from the following list:

- Analyses, data collection, feasibility studies, background studies, ex-ante evaluations for scenario-based capacity-development, for applying a preparedness-by-design in various policies and investments..
- Scenario frameworks, manuals, guidelines, planning and decision-making tools, action plans, evaluation reports, trainings and other analytical products for various disaster risk scenarios.
- Development of training modules and corresponding training materials to build relevant skills for changing work environment in DRM, and for reducing the overall environmental impact of disaster risk management.
- Guidance material for translating lessons learnt, policy recommendations and/or good practices into existing learning initiatives or operations.
- Guidance material for the integration of innovative capabilities in response capacities, including innovative technical, methodological, organisational, or procedural approaches.

2.2 Horizontal principles and dissemination

While proposals pursuing funding under the Prevention and Preparedness topic have their own priorities they can choose to focus on, the elements described below are relevant for any proposal submitted under any of the priorities under this topic.

Horizontal principles

Proposals are invited to highlight their contribution to the Commission's horizontal commitments as appropriate to the proposal's particular focus and structure. Horizontal issues include: the reduction of climate impacts associated with project implementation as well as the broader concept of greening in civil protection[14]; the promotion of gender balance and equality in project implementation and output; as well as the consideration of needs and perspectives of vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities.

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to enhance the way disaster risk management prevention and preparedness operations are carried out. To support this transformative potential, the use and operationalisation of AI solutions is encouraged under the priorities of the call. AI here is viewed as a tool and not a standalone solution. When AI solutions are proposed, an emphasis on operational uptake, explainability and trustability of solutions by end-users are encouraged. In case AI solutions are proposed, they should anticipate developments regarding the AI Act[15] and ensure that solutions fulfil possible requirements of the AI Act upon its full entry into force.

Relevant community of stakeholders, communication, and dissemination channels

Proposals should attempt to connect to existing initiatives in the subject area of their respective focus, including within the framework of the UCPM. Efforts should already be made in the proposal design phase to avoid an isolated project implementation.

Proposals are invited to use the UCPKN tools and activities to strengthen their dissemination and engagement efforts. At the time of publication of this call, the UCPKN online platform provides all UCPM-funded projects with a dedicated working space with features enabling communication and dissemination, as well as collaborative interaction with other users of the platform (discussion fora). With time, additional features may be developed, including based on needs identified by project consortia during implementation stage.

Proposals submitted for this topic should foresee either the establishment of, or the link to, a community of practice in the UCPKN related to the central subject of the proposal. If no community of practice is being established or none is available to link to, the deliverables of the proposal should be in a format that will encourage the uptake of the products by stakeholders in the future. Sustainability and long-term availability of the project results should be an integral part of the proposal and should use the resources made available through the UCPM, such as the UCPKN online platform.

As part of their initial needs assessment, every proposal should include a mapping of relevant past and present initiatives in the eligible countries, especially if the initiatives received UCPM funding. In cases in which relevant initiatives exist, applicants should explain how they will pursue synergies with ongoing initiatives or incorporate existing results from past initiatives into their project implementation. In case it is not possible to build on existing results or promote synergies, this should be adequately justified.

Proposals should commit to developing and following an end-user and stakeholder

[14] A recent report prepared by PPRD East project could be used for inspiration.

[15] Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence

engagement plan. This would include, inter alia, a strategy for end-users and stakeholders, during and after the project; a dissemination and exploitation plan; and an assessment of end-users' capacity to effectively incorporate project results (e.g., through specific questionnaires for end-users and stakeholders).

Access to project outcomes

Data acquired or developed by the project must be made available to end users open source and free of charge.

3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 10 600 000**.

The Commission reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the topics, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation or to lower the available funding in case of overriding public interests that necessitate a change of UCPM priorities.

Funding from this call can constitute up to 90% of any budget proposal and is capped at EUR 1 000 000 per project regardless of the overall budget proposal.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	18 February 2026
Deadline for submission:	19 May 2026 – 17:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	May-September 2026
Information on evaluation results:	October 2026
GA signature:	February 2027

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** *(see timetable section 4)*.

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project *(to be filled in directly online)*. **(Important:** Please note that in 'Section 1: General Information', under 'Free Keywords,' applicants are encouraged to use keywords from the 'List of Keywords for the UCPM

2026 Calls for Proposals' (available in the UCP Knowledge Network platform) where possible. Additional keywords reflecting the proposal's specific characteristics may also be included.

- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project *(to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system)*

- Mandatory annexes and supporting documents *(templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded as PDF files/included in Part B)*:

  - Detailed budget table *(mandatory excel template available in the Submission System)*

  - CVs (standard) of core project team

  - Activity reports of last year (all participants) (not applicable to public bodies, Member State authorities, international organisations, private higher education institutions that have been established for more than 5 years)

  - List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) *(dedicated section included in Part B)*

  - Letter of support from the competent national civil protection authority of the **country of each partner participating in the consortium that will receive the EU grant, namely, beneficiaries and affiliated entities**. Participants which themselves are the national authority or which are international organisations are exempted from submitting this document. Only letters submitted from the competent civil protection authority acting at national level will be accepted. This requirement also applies to proposals dealing with a particular hazard (for instance, marine pollution), for which authorities other than the national civil protection authority may be responsible. Guidance on the information to be provided to the national authority when seeking endorsement is available in the section dedicated to this call on the KAPP webpage (specific word template available in the Submission System)

  - Annex of key performance indicators (KPIs). To help measure outputs and impacts of the Commission's intervention through this Call for proposals, a set of common project indicators have been defined. The set of KPIs is available in the section dedicated to this call on the KAPP webpage. Applicants are requested to provide their targets to those indicators relevant for the proposal and submit the filled in form with the application. The chosen indicators must be coherent with the description provided in sections 1.2 and 2.5 of the application form. Data on realised indicator values will be collected from beneficiaries as part of one deliverable in the last month of the project execution.

Please note that the amounts entered in the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

Proposals requesting more than EUR 1 000 000 as an EU contribution are not admissible.

At proposal submission, the project coordinator will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants (Part A of the proposal). Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each

beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable**, **accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum **50 pages** (Part B), excluding annexes. Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents *(for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc)*.

For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the Online Manual.

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - UCPM Participating States[16]:
    - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine (list of participating countries)
  - Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) beneficiary countries not participating in the UCPM: Kosovo(*)[17]
  - European Neighbourhood Policy countries not participating in the UCPM: East (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia[18]) and South (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the Participant Register — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc. *(see section 13)*.

Specific cases and definitions

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

[16] See Articles 28(1) and 4(12) of the UCPM Decision 1313/2013.

[17] Kosovo (*) - This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

[18] Following the conclusions of the European Council of 2024 expressing serious concerns about political developments in Georgia and a de facto pause of its EU accession process, the European Commission has suspended financial assistance directly benefiting Georgian authorities until further notice. Georgian civil society organisations and other non-state actors remain eligible to apply and participate in the consortium as a partner.

European groupings of territorial cooperation (EGTC)[19] — They are composed of public entities of different Member States under a new entity with full legal personality. Through an EGTC Member State public authorities can set up a single joint structure to implement projects, investments or policies in the territory covered by the EGTC, whether co-financed by the EU budget or not. EGTC members can be Member States, regional or local authorities, associations and any other public body.

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them. Please pay attention to properly identify international organisations as such in the Part A.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons[20].

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'[21]. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participation in the programme (see list above) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities *(e.g. entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[22])*. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092[23] Such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). Currently such measures are in place for Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain (see Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022).

ℹ For more information, *see Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

[19] Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)

[20] See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

[21] For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

[22] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

[23] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium consisting of **at least three beneficiaries** from a **minimum of three different eligible states**.

The project coordinator must be an entity from a UCPM Member/Participating State.

In order to strengthen the relevance of KAPP projects for public authorities, the consortium must include at least one civil protection or DRM public administration organisation, as a beneficiary or associated partner. This organisation may be a national, regional or local authority (+30,000 inhabitants).

Affiliated entities are not counted towards the minimum consortium requirements.

Reminder: Only entities from EU Member States, UCPM Participating States, IPA States, European Neighbourhood States and International Organisations[24] are eligible. International organisations may work in cooperation with entities from EU Member and UCPM Participating States but cannot act as lead consortium partner nor does their participation count for the "minimum number of entities" above-mentioned.

The proposal needs to show that a meaningful contribution to the project is made by all of the beneficiaries participating in the consortium, which ensure that the minimum eligibility criteria are met, and to demonstrate that activities and results will be developed jointly in partnership. All the proposals, regardless of the composition of the consortium, must demonstrate relevance and added value for the UCPM.

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above. In addition, projects must comply with EU policy goals and priorities (such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc). Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities *(such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc)*. Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*).

While research alone is not eligible, projects with a research component should move from prototype, knowledge, and methodology into action and operationalisation. In case projects are a follow-up to Horizon Europe, their technological readiness level (TRL)[25] must be at least 6 out of 9 at the time of application.

Non-eligible activities

The following activities are not considered as eligible for funding under the Prevention and Preparedness topics:

- Online platforms: To avoid duplication with the UCPKN online platform, proposed projects should make use of the existing features and tools available on the platform for their project activities. If relevant, outputs and activities should be linked to the

[24] International Organisations are invited to pay attention to the general conditions of the Model Grant Agreement (MGA), in particular Article 43.1 on applicable law. The clause that will appear in the grant agreement is generated automatically by the system based on the option selected by the beneficiary under the Beneficiary-Specific Legal Information Tab ('do not accept any applicable law', OR 'would accept an applicable law clause but not the standard clause').

[25] See p. 5 on https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/249072ec-92a9-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en.

UCPKN platform and shall **not** replicate or foresee the development of similar online platforms. It is possible that several project outputs may be selected to become integrated into the UCPKN online platform.

- Full-scale exercises should apply through UCPM-2026-KAPP-EX - Full Scale Exercises topic and are therefore not eligible under the Prevention and Preparedness topic.

- Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries *(see above)*. The need to conduct activities in a country other than a country of a consortium participant must be duly justified.

The areas/countries targeted by an action submitted must be clearly identified in the application form under section 1.3 *European added value & impact on non-EU countries* of *Part B - Technical Description of the action* (if applicable).

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the Participant Register during grant preparation *(e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc)*. The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- **public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations**
- **if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.**

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities *(see below, section 10)*
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees *(see below, section 10)*

or

- propose no prefinancing

– request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For more information, *see* *Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

– general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project

– description of the consortium participants

– applicants' activity reports of last year

– list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate[26]:

– bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)

– in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)

– guilty of grave professional misconduct[27] (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

– committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human

[26] See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

[27] 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted[28] an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that[29]:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria *(see sections 7 and 9)* and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

1) The ex aequo proposals within the same action budget envelope will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores

[28] 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

[29] See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.

2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

3) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different action budget envelopes in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

⚠ No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc*.

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access *(see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions)*. Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The award criteria facilitate the evaluation of proposals in relation to the set objectives and priorities. They enable the selection of proposals which the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities.

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

Relevance (min. 30. / max. 40 points):

Background and general objectives (min. 5 / max. 10)

[box 1.1 Background and general objectives* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- How relevant is the proposal to the general objectives of the call and the objectives of the selected topic? (max. 5 points)
- How does the action contribute to the specific outcomes of the selected call topic, including through its thematic focus? (max. 5 points)

Needs analysis (min. 10 points / max. 20)

[box 1.2 Needs analysis and specific objectives* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Does the proposal demonstrate a clear need for the intended action, for instance, through a reference to existing needs analysis that had been conducted previously or an intent to quantify a realistic and perceived need? In case the proposal is a sequel of a previous UCPM co-funded project, is there a sufficient justification for why more permanent sources of funding cannot be secured for the intended project? (max. 7 points)
- Does the initial needs assessment logically align with the specific objectives of the action? (max. 3 points)
- Have you involved civil protection and/or DRM end-users not participating in the consortium in your needs analysis and in the formulation of the proposal? (max. 5)
- Are the expected outcomes and outputs consistent with those included in the call document? (max. 3)
- Are the indicators chosen to monitor the activities and listed in the KPI annex properly explained and justified in the proposal? (max. 2 points)

Complementarity with other actions and EU added value (min. 5 points / max. 10)

***[box 1.3 Complementarity with other actions and innovation — Geographic focus — European added value — Impact on non-EU* countries in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)]**

- Does the proposal include a mapping of relevant past and present initiatives? Does your proposal meaningfully explain the synergies between them and the current proposal? (max. 4 points)
- Is there a clearly identifiable added value for the UCPM and its stakeholders beyond the parties involved in the proposal? (max. 4 points)
- Are climate actions addressed as objectives of the proposed project? (max. 2 points)

Quality (min. 20 / max. 30 points):

Concept and methodology (min. 5 / max. 10)

[box 2.1 Concept and methodology* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- How does the project methodology support the work packages? Are the work packages and tasks clearly and logically connected? In view of the above, how coherent is the overall design of the action? To what extent are the activities and the expected project results clearly described, appropriate and realistic? (max. 10 points)

Consortium set-up and project team (min. 3 / max. 6)

[box 2.2 Consortium set-up and box 2.3 Project teams, staff and experts* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Could you describe the participants and explain how they will work together to implement the project? How each of them will contribute to the project? (max. 2 points)

- To what extent does the consortium partners have the necessary resources to ensure the implementation of the proposed action? (max. 1 points)
- Could you describe the composition of the project teams and their main tasks? (max. 2 points)
- In case the consortium plans to use outside skills or resources, such as subcontracting of experts, seconded staff, etc., is this properly justified? (max. 1 point)

Consortium management and project management (min. 4 / max. 8)

[box 2.4 Consortium management and decision-making, box 2.5 Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy and box 2.7 Risk management* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Could you describe the organisational structure and procedures within the consortium? Please specify how effective decision-making and communication and coordination will be ensured. (max. 3 points)
- Please specify your evaluation methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative indicators from the KPI annex) to monitor and verify progress of the project, including methods to ensure good quality, monitoring, planning and control. (max. 2 points)
- Is the implementation action plan clear and feasible, and the timeframe realistic, given the resources available? (max. 2 points) Does the project description identify and assess potential risks to the implementation of the proposed action? How appropriate are the mitigation measures? (max. 3 points)

Cost effectiveness (min. 3 / max. 6)

[box 2.6 Cost effectiveness and financial management* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- How well are the activities reflected in the budget, and is the ratio between the estimated costs and the results satisfactory? (max. 2 points)
- Has the consortium proposed realistic measures to ensure sound financial management of the project and cost-effectiveness of its activities? (max. 2 points)
- How well is the subcontracting of activities justified, and is the amount proposed reasonable? (max. 1 points)
- Does the proposal include measures that contribute to EU-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts (e.g., reducing the number of travels, green procurement, etc.)? (max. 1 points)

Impact (min. 20. / max. 30 points):

Impact and ambition (min. 6 / max. 12)

[box 3.1 Impact and ambition* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Are the target groups of the project properly identified? (max. 5 points)
- To what extent are the short, term and long-term effects of the project properly identified, as well as their impact on target groups? (max. 4 points)
- To what extent does the proposal envisage building upon outputs of the action to generate a deeper, broader impact on investments and/or policies (for

instance, through private, national, EU and other multilateral programmes)? (max. 3 points)

Communication, dissemination and visibility (min. 3 / max. 6)

[box 3.2 Communication, dissemination and visibility* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Is the communication and dissemination strategy clear, targeted, and adequate to communicate on the project results and to reach the identified target groups, stakeholders and the general public? (max. 6 points)

Sustainability and continuation (min. 6 / max. 12)

[box 3.3 Sustainability and continuation* in the Application Form Part B (technical description of the project)*]

- Does the proposal incorporate a strategy for ensuring that the achieved results remain accessible and usable after the action has concluded? Does the proposal reflect on the resources needed to sustain the outcomes? (max. 4 points)
- Does the proposal foresee initiatives to ensure sustainability of the project's results and their financial sustainability? (for instance, links with other public or private stakeholders) (max. 4 points)
- Are the results replicable and lend themselves to future exploitation in other geographical areas and/or sectors? Is replicability already envisaged? (max. 4 points)

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	30	40
Quality	20	30
Impact	20	30
Overall (pass) scores	**70**	**100**

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds per sub-criterion: 50%+ (rounded up to nearest full score).

Individual thresholds per criterion: 30/40 and 20/30 points respectively.

Overall threshold: 70%, that is 70/100 points. The overall threshold is not the result of the addition of the minimum pass scores per award criteria.

Proposals should meet simultaneously three requirements: (1) to reach the minimum pass score per award sub-criteria, (2) to reach the minimum pass score per award criteria, AND (3) to reach at least 70 points in total for the three award criteria. Only proposals passing those three thresholds will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents.

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 1)*. Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date. A fixed starting date may be proposed for duly justified reasons. The fixed starting date cannot be later than 1 April 2027, except if otherwise communicated during the grant agreement preparation phase.

Project duration: the initial duration of the project cannot exceed 24 months. Extensions will be possible only exceptionally, for duly justified reasons and through an amendment.

Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables are mandatory for all projects:

- Progress reports: all projects at month 9, for projects of 20 months or over an additional report at month 17.
- Mapping of relevant initiatives within UCPM including an evaluation of potential synergies between ongoing initiatives or incorporation of existing results within first 6 months.
- Dissemination plan that includes an end user and stakeholder analysis as a deliverable within the first half of the project implementation period (exact month to be specified in proposal by consortium). Reflections on the implementation of engagement plan should either be made in a separate deliverable or a section within each progress report.
- Deliverable on key performance indicators. It shall contain the data on realised indicator values. One of the indicators refers to the number of national civil protection authorities that have been informed about the project public deliverables before the end of the project. This deliverable shall be submitted in the last month of the project duration. A template is available in the section dedicated to this call on the KAPP webpage.
- Executive summaries in English of most important deliverables, if those deliverables are not prepared in English or if they are categorised as "sensitive". Executive summaries are expected to be "public" reports, so the executive summaries of sensitive deliverables will have to be presented as separate public deliverables (in case there are several sensitive deliverables in a work package, it will be sufficient to produce, as a public deliverable, one executive summary comprising all the sensitive deliverables).

- A minimum of five high quality photographs or visuals, which the Commission may publish to illustrate the project's results,
- A snapshot of the project's results uploaded by the consortium on the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network platform,
- Layman report (publishable summary) summarising the work of the project for a general audience. Layman's reports clearly and concisely outline the achievements of the project and its long-term benefits, thereby being more likely to attract the interest of journalists and policymakers, along with those experts and stakeholders focusing on similar issues to those addressed by the project.

Please note that only the dissemination levels 'public' and 'sensitive' can be used under this call for proposals for deliverables, and projects are expected to make the majority of their deliverables public.

The project activities must be organised with the following mandatory work packages:

- WP 1 – Project management
- WP 2 – Dissemination and visibility

Additional work packages should be added according to activities and expected results.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters *(maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc)* will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5)*.

EU contribution: **Up to EUR 1 000 000** per project co-financed under all call topics. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested, with a minimum of EUR 400 000.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement *(see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a)*.

The costs will be reimbursed at a **maximum funding rate of 90%**.

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount *(see art 22.3)*.

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement *(e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc)*.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2)*.

Budget categories for this call:

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons

- A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Civil protection intervention unit costs

E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:
  - average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)[30]: Yes
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost: Yes
  - volunteers cost: No
- travel and subsistence unit cost: Yes[31]
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
  - costs for translation of the reports and summaries of the deliverables: eligible
  - costs for financial support to third parties: not allowed
- civil protection intervention unit costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices) [32]: No
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-C, except volunteers costs, and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: VAT is NOT eligible
- other:
  - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
  - Kick-off meeting: the costs incurred to attend the kick-off meeting (introductory meeting) organised by the granting authority are eligible as travel and subsistence costs (for maximum 2 persons, return ticket to

[30] Decision of 19 March 2025 authorising the use of unit costs based on usual cost accounting practices for actions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Programme.

[31] See EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6 on eligible costs: travel and subsistence costs must be declared using the unit cost according to Annex 2a of the grant agreement. If a particular instance of travel, accommodation or subsistence in the action is not covered by one of the unit costs mentioned in the version of Decision C(2021)35 applicable by the launch of this call the actual costs may be used.

[32] Decision of 19 March 2025 authorising the use of unit costs based on usual cost accounting practices for actions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Programme.

Brussels and accommodation for one night) only if the meeting takes place after the project starting date set out in the Grant Agreement; the starting date can be changed through an amendment, if needed

- project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible
- other ineligible costs: No

Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22)*.

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** corresponding to **70%** of the maximum grant amount to start working on the project (exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There will be no additional **prefinancing payments** linked to a prefinancing report.

In addition, you will be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

⚠ Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement *(see art 22)*.

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4)*. The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement *(art 23)*.

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the grant agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24)*.

A Certificate on the Financial Statements (CFS) must be provided for each beneficiary and affiliated entity when the requested EU contribution at interim or final payment is EUR 325 000 or more.

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4.4 and art 22).*

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up* to their maximum grant amount
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- limited communication and visibility to protect persons involved: Yes
- visibility in field operations outside the EU: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- zero tolerance: Yes
- transfer of assets at the end of the action: No
- EU restrictive measures: Yes

Other specificities

Consortium agreement: Yes

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

For more information, *see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement*.

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) **create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to create an EU Login user account.

Once you have an EULogin account, you can register your organisation in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) **submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online.
- Part B (technical description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF files.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** *(see section 5)*; excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the IT Helpdesk webform,

explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the Online Manual. The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- Online Manual
- Q&As on the call page (for call-specific questions)
- Portal FAQ (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address:

ECHO-CP-KAPP@ec.europa.eu.

Questions on submission must:

- be sent at the latest **7 days before** the submission deadline (*see section 4*).
- indicate clearly the reference of the **call** and **topic** to which your question relates *(see cover page)*.

13. Important

IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end —** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions *(e.g. congestion, etc)* will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System —** By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.
- **Registration —** Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the Participant Register. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles —** When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

  The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.
- **Coordinator —** In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is mandatory to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.
- **Balanced project budget —** Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully *(e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc)*. You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).

- **No-profit rule —** Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.

- **No double funding —** There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared to two different EU actions.

- **Completed/ongoing projects —** Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).

- **Combination with EU operating grants —** Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice *(see AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E).*

- **Multiple proposals —** Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).

  Organisations may participate in several proposals.

  BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- **Resubmission —** Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.

- **Rejection —** By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.

- **Cancellation —** There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- **Language —** You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, *see section 12*).

- **Transparency —** In accordance with Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the Europa website.

  This includes:
  - beneficiary names
  - beneficiary addresses
  - the purpose for which the grant was awarded
  - the maximum amount awarded.

  The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection —** The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement.