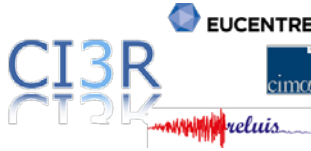




# ROADMAP2

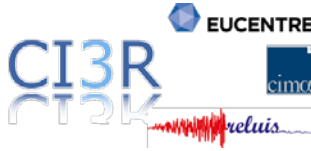
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## Deliverable D5.4 Report on Collaborative Workshops



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

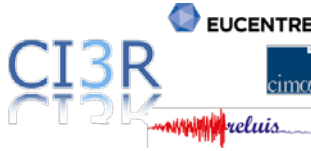
### 1.1 Goal of the deliverable

This deliverable is part of WP5 that fulfils ROADMAP2 project objective 2: “Knowledge building and sharing through a cycle of seminars and collaborative workshops based on good practices and their application in thematic multi-risk scenarios”. The aim of the collaborative workshops was set to discuss the input from WP3 on Good Practices (GPs) in the Knowledge Network. Collaborative workshops, gathering both international CEO experts as well as local expertise from different levels of DRM, explored the GPs identified in the earlier phases of the ROADMAP2 project and discussed their applicability in the example scenarios for GPs assessment.

**During the project, two collaborative workshops have been carried out:**

- **Collaborative workshop in Tartu** (May 2024), focused on the practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society as a partner to civil protection authorities
- **Collaborative workshop in Stavanger** (October 2024), delved into GPs to support the Union Disaster Resilience Goals (UDRGs)

In this deliverable we report the arrangements for the two collaborative workshops and the key discussion outcomes on GPs in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).



## 2. COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP ON ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES FOR CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

### 2.1. Aim and scope of the collaborative workshop

**Where:** Estonia, Tartu, the Cultural Capital of Europe 2024 – theme “Arts of Survival”

**When:** May 6-8<sup>th</sup>, main full working day **7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Host:** University of Tartu Risk & Resilience Research Group (Dr Kati Orru et al.), Estonian Rescue Board Preparedness Bureau (Arvi Uustalu, member of ROADMAP2 CEO)

**Participants:** ROADMAP2 consortium partners from research institutes and expert stakeholders from Italy, Portugal, Norway and Estonia. ROADMAP2 CEO members and other stakeholders. The Project Officer attended in person.

**The aim** of the meeting was to explore the GPs identified in the earlier phases of the ROADMAP2 project and to discuss their applicability in the example scenarios for GPs assessment.

Thematically, we focused on the **practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society as a partner to civil protection authorities**, in building preparedness and response capacities to disasters. The meeting addressed questions on what the practical ways are to engage members of civil society, particularly those in vulnerable situation (e.g. elderly, minors, individuals with impairments, marginalised), and civil society organisations (e.g. umbrella organisations for communities, individuals with impairments, social care etc.) in disaster management planning and response.

### 2.2 Agenda

<b>9.15-09.30</b>	Welcome <b>Daniela Di Bucci</b> – Italian Civil Protection Department, Project Coordinator <b>Juha-Pekka Jäpölä</b> – DG ECHO, Project Officer <b>Kati Orru</b> – University of Tartu <b>Arvi Uustalu</b> – Estonian Rescue Board
<b>9.50-10.10</b>	Practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society in Italy. <b>Daniela Di Bucci</b> – ICPD
<b>09.30-9.50</b>	Practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society in Estonia. <b>Marten Lauri</b> – Estonia, Ministry of Interior
<b>10.10-10.40</b>	Suggestions of good practices by participants.
<b>10.40-11.55</b>	<i>Break</i>
<b>11.55-13.15</b>	Testing good practices in a disaster scenario: Vulnerability assessment in communities. Kati Orru, Arvi Uustalu Estonian Rescue Board
<b>13.15-14.15</b>	Lunch at Chez André Restaurant, Küütri 3, Tartu

<b>14.15-15.05</b>	Panel discussion - practitioner experiences and needs in engagement of communities in vulnerable situations. <b>Kadi Soome</b> – Tartu Care Home <b>Monica Lõvi</b> – Estonian Blind Union <b>Helen Kari</b> – Community Developer
<b>15.05-15.45</b>	Group discussion: good practices and lessons learned from engaging those in vulnerable situations in different country contexts.
<b>15.45-16.10</b>	Joint discussion and conclusions
<b>16.10-16.30</b>	<i>Break and transfer to buses. Address Jakobi 1 – behind main building</i>
<b>16.40</b>	Bus ride to Estonian Rescue Board
<b>17.00-18.30</b>	Visit at Estonian Rescue Board <b>Arvi Uustalu</b> and <b>Anni Alev</b> – Board’s practices of engagement in crisis preparedness

### 2.3 List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation
Anni	Alev	Estonian Rescue Board
Christina	Andersson	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
Alessandro	Armanetti	CI3R - Eucentre
Daniela	Di Bucci	Italian Civil Protection Department
Giulia	Fagà	CI3R - Eucentre
Sten	Hansson	Tartu Ülikool
Lucia	Herrera	University of Agder
Piret	Jansons	Maarja Küla SA
Ida	Joao-Hussar	Tartu Ülikool
Juha-Pekka	Jäpölä	European Commission (DG ECHO)
Helen	Kari	Community Developer
Marten	Lauri	Ministry of the Interior
Monica	Lõvi	Estonian Blind Union
Marju	Metsaots	Estonian Rescue Board
Leane	Morits	Estonian Rescue Board
Oliver	Nahkur	University of Tartu
Kristi	Nero	University of Tartu
Kaisa	Niilo	Estonian Rescue Board

Kati	Orru	University of Tartu
Karmen	Paavel	Elva Municipality
Jaanika	Palm	Women's Defense League
Elo	Paluoja	Estonian Rescue Board
Terje	Partsoja	Estonian Rescue Board
Beatrice	Peetsalu	Estonian Rescue Board Ida päästekeskus
Maria	Polese	CI3R - ReLUIS
Chaim	Rafalowski	Magen David Adom Israel
Kerstin	Rei	Kodanikuühiskonna Sihtkapital SA
Tiago	Rodrigues	ADAI
Ingeliis	Siimsen	University of Tartu
Kadi	Soome	Tartu Care Home
Margus	Suvi	Estonian Evangelic Lutheran Church
Tanel	Talve	Eesti Külaliikumine Kodukant
Domingos	Viegas	ADAI
Merilyn	Viin	Development Centre of Voru County

## 2.4 Main takes from the workshop

### *Session 1: presentations on engagement and empowerment practices*

The presentations ‘Practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society in Italy’ by Daniela Di Bucci and ‘Practices of engagement and empowerment of civil society in Estonia’ by Marten Lauri provoked lively discussion. Here are some of the key points from the discussion of the presentations:

- **Knowledge-Action Gap:** People know what to do but fail to act. Despite high knowledge levels, practical implementation is zero (e.g., family contingency plans). Chaim Rafalowski stressed that we should not overemphasise the vulnerability of audience of the risk communication messages, as this will diminish their motivation for positive action.
- **Communication Challenge:** Daniela Di Bucci emphasised that at the beginning, focus was on improving communication, involving experts. Real issue now is understanding and influencing population behaviour, without frightening them. More studies are necessary from social sciences, behavioural sciences, and psychology in understanding and influencing public disaster preparedness and response capacities.
- **Incentive Limitations:** Chaim Rafalowski stressed that monetary incentives may prompt one-time actions but aren't effective for ongoing preparedness. Preparedness needs to become a social norm. He brings as an example that defibrillators are becoming social norms due to positive stories, and they are now a requirement in new apartment buildings.

- **Daily Routine Integration:** Christina Andersson stressed that there are efforts to change mindsets to include preparedness in daily routines. Example: "Get to know your neighbour" message to foster community preparedness.
- 

*Session 2: Testing good practices in a disaster scenario: vulnerability assessment in communities*

The aim of this part was to test a social vulnerability triage approach tailored by Orru et al. (2023) in collaboration with Estonian Rescue Board, to foster systematic consideration of societal aspects of vulnerability, prioritising the affected groups and their support needs to better targeted planning and disaster response. The overarching agenda for the exercise is presented in Figure 1.

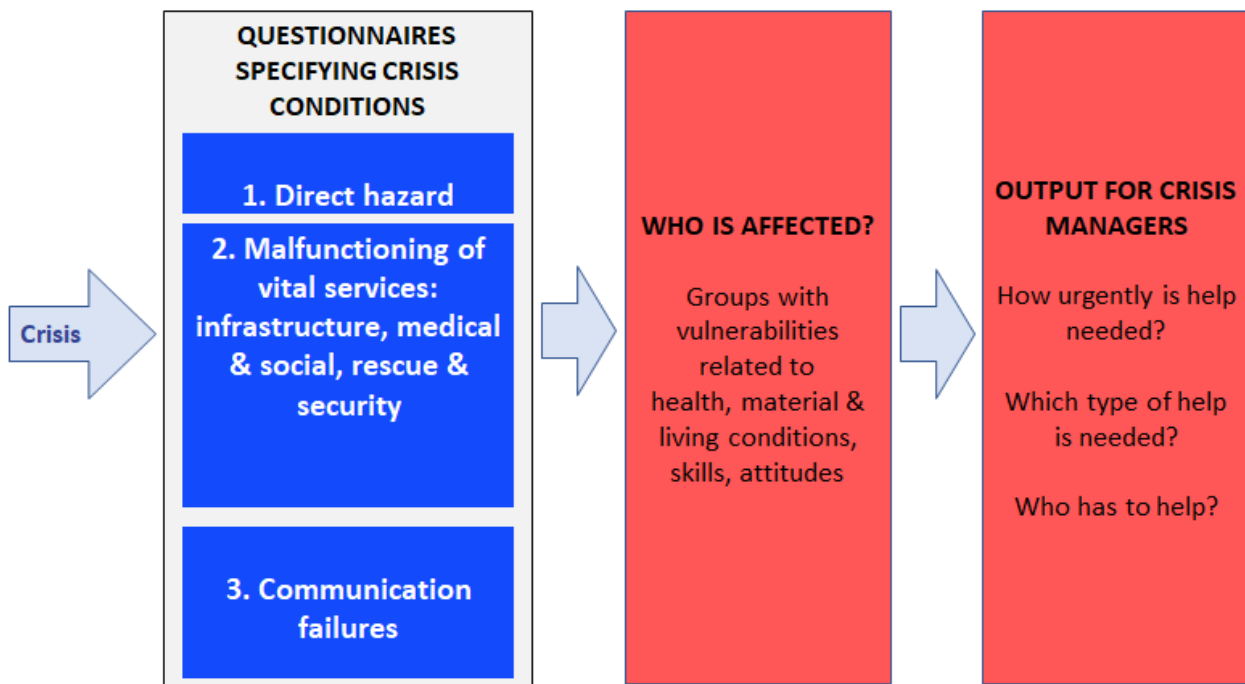


Figure 1 - Phases of the vulnerability triage applied in a worst-case scenario analysis

**Exercise on vulnerability triage revolved around the following CBRNE scenario:** Collision of freight trains carrying dangerous chemicals (liquid fuel, LNG) on the railway (leakage, ignition and explosion of dangerous cargo). Collision happens near a port, where large quantities of dangerous chemicals (ammonium nitrate fertilizer, ammonia, liquid fuels) are stored. This may lead to explosion, bleve, spread of toxic chemicals or combustion gases. People's lives and health would be endangered (breathing difficulties, skin irritation, injuries) and several vital services would be disrupted.

**Danger zone:** in 3,000 m radius around the accident site, from where people need to be evacuated. The danger zone covers 90% of the territory of municipality.

**Complication due to misinformation:** two members of the city council posted an erroneous message on social media claiming that the smoke from the fire is not dangerous and people can continue their normal activities.

### Characterisation of the area:

- Permanent residents: 35,000; during workdays: 43,000 people
- Apartment buildings (mostly stone and panel houses built in 1960, some newer apartment buildings)
- 40% of households in the region are elderly people living alone
- Nursing home (elderly and mentally disabled people, 200 clients)
- Day centre for people with special physical needs (150 visitors per day)
- Tourist centre with people from France, Japan, China, etc. - 3000 people
- 2 mobile operators
- 1 hospital
- 4 ambulance brigades
- 1 rescue command
- 1 police station

Possibilities for communication: SMS emergency notification system (in local language and English), emergency sirens, national crisis hotline, media - national FM radio stations and national television, social media (X, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

The exercise was held in 5 groups (maximum 7 people in a group). Groups worked for 1:30 hours, followed by a joint discussion.

### Key findings from the vulnerability triage exercise:

#### *Vulnerabilities stemming from disruptions of services*

- Potential traffic issues during evacuation, including traffic jams hindering movement and access to gas stations.
- Potential hazards of mass evacuation with personal vehicles, such as traffic chaos and endless jams with thousands of cars.
- Discussions about who should be responsible for evacuation transport; rescue services lack the necessary fleet, and local governments' capacity is questioned.
- Individuals needing daily assistance likely require help during evacuation.
- Social departments may know about vulnerable individuals but might not reach them in time.

#### *Affected groups discussed in more detail*

- Socioeconomic status considered crucial for survival, more so than household composition.
- Concerns about misinformation affecting youth through social media.

#### *Allocation of responsibilities for providing support and self-coping*

- Relatives and the community are often suggested as primary helpers.



- Local governments do not have sufficient information about individuals' vulnerabilities. It was added that local governments have significant responsibilities in such situations, and the exercise highlighted the gap between what is on paper and real-life capabilities.
- Discussions on individual responsibility if notifications and instructions are provided by the rescue service.
- Trust issues were noted as critical to address before a crisis, as it's difficult to tackle during a crisis.
- Questions were raised concerning the compliance with evacuation orders and how local authorities' measure. Chaim Rafalowski stressed that sometimes it's said if people don't follow evacuation orders, first responders won't be sent to risk their lives.

### **Feedback regarding the vulnerability triage practice:**

- Some participants felt that scenario description needs better specification about the timeframe and specific events occurring for a more focused discussion on vulnerabilities.
- Several participants stressed that the scenario was not sufficiently informative regarding logistics according to several participants. Questions were raised regarding evacuation planning and crisis managers' evacuation capabilities. Ask if an official evacuation order has been given and what is analysed in vulnerability assessment.
- It was suggested that conducting such analysis should span different crisis phases. The triage approach can be used in various stages, like during COVID-19, to monitor the evolvement of vulnerabilities and coping.
- The tool can be particularly useful for pre-crisis phases, such as risk analysis. The tested approach was recommended for participatory planning at the local level.
- Another participant highlighted the importance of knowing the location of vulnerable groups and preparing data for geographic input. However, also cybersecurity concerns regarding a comprehensive database where all sorts of vulnerabilities would be mapped.
- An Italian participant agreed the tool is better for planning.
- The European Commission representative commented on the complexity of the topic and recommended multiple runs of such exercises.

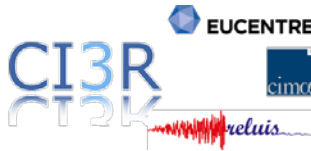
### *Session 3. Discussion on experiences and needs in engaging and empowering individuals in vulnerable situations*

The aim of the discussion in this section was to explore experiences in engaging people in vulnerable situations in building preparedness to respond to crises in your area. Also, questions revolved around the opportunities or risk factors in engagement.

### **Five discussion groups highlighted several important opportunities for engaging and empowering those in vulnerable situations.**

Creating a community crisis plan. This involves mapping out those in need, such as individuals living alone, young families, and young adults leaving care. This initiative often originates from the community and can be coordinated by the civil protection authority.

Community representatives as liaison persons for engagement. The community representatives (also people in vulnerable situations, e.g. elderly care) are very much shaping the attitudes of the care recipients of community



members. Their convictions about crisis preparedness will determine a lot the extent to which preparedness actions are taken.

Assigning appropriate crisis roles and actions. Mapping vulnerabilities need to be complemented by assigning appropriate crisis roles to individuals as resources rather than just aid recipients. It is important that beyond the acknowledgement of vulnerabilities also, the person is recognised as a resource (e.g. some light physical work in a resilience centre, spreading information door-to-door).

High interest in preparedness topics. There's a high demand for training on crisis preparedness topics among the hearing impaired and elderly.

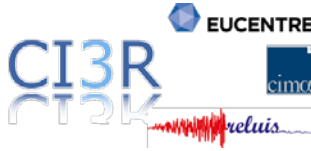
Monetary incentives for communities. An innovation fund (supported by the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Estonia, also in Finland) allows communities to apply for project funding that could support purchasing equipment for people with various needs.

### **Some risks or barriers to engagement.**

Lack of resources to work with people who are in vulnerable situations. There is a lack of expertise to tailor campaigns and exercises following the needs of the vulnerable people. Even consulting them can be difficult.

The stigmatisation of people in vulnerable situations. Acknowledgement of them as people with capacities and needs and equal rights would facilitate their engagement.

Data protection issues. In targeting preparedness-building actions or responses, it would be necessary to know the barriers that any people are facing, who they are and where they live. However, due to data protection issues, more detailed information (e.g., whether they have limited mobility) cannot be shared. Thus, civil protection authorities must act based on random selection.



### 3. COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP IN STAVANGER

#### 3.1. The aim and scope of the collaborative workshop

**Where:** Norway, Stavanger

**When:** October 16 – 18 2024, main full working day **17 October 2024**

**Host:** University of Stavanger (Claudia Morsut and Bjørn Ivar Kruke)

**Participants:** ROADMAP2 consortium and ROADMAP2 CEO members

**Aim:** The second collaborative workshop was titled “Discussing Good Practices to support the Union Disaster Resilience Goals”. The goal of this workshop was to engage the participants in discussions about GPs that serve the goals and objectives of the UDRGs. The discussion was sustained by applying the ROADMAP2 Framework for identifying and assessing GPs in DRM.

#### 3.2 Agenda

##### Day 2 THURSDAY 17.10.24 (working day)

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE</u>
08:45 – 09:00	Arrival at the meeting room at the hotel	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome	Daniela Di Bucci - ICDP, Project Coordinator Claudia Morsut - University of Stavanger
09:10 – 09:15	Short presentation of ROADMAP2 definition of Good Practices and EU Disaster Resilience Goals	Claudia Morsut - University of Stavanger
09:15 -10:30	Following the short presentation, a round table on the topic: <u>Relevance of working with Good Practices for Disaster Risk Management</u>	3 CEO members share their expertise and thoughts Lucia Castro Herrera - University of Agder Norway Geir Ellingsen - DSB Norway Marco Lombardi - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Moderator: Bjørn Ivar Kruke - University of Stavanger Minutes taker: Claudia Morsut - University of Stavanger
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 – 11:15	Good practices in climate change	Stine Bjerga Haga - Department of Preparedness Stavanger Municipality

	adaptation in the Stavanger Municipality Included Q&A	Minutes taker Giulia Fagà - CI3R-Eucentre
11:15 – 11:45	Main takes from round table and the morning presentation	Discussion in plenum moderated by: Bjørn Ivar Kruke - University of Stavanger  Minutes taker: Kati Orru – University of Tartu
	Presentation of the afternoon group work	Claudia Morsut – University of Stavanger
11:45 – 12:45	<i>Lunch at the hotel</i>	
13:00 – 13:45	First round of group discussions	
13:45 – 14:00	<i>Break</i>	
14:00 – 14:45	Second round of group discussions	
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Break</i>	
15:00 – 15:45	Discussion in plenum	Moderator: Daniela di Bucci ICDP, Project Coordinator  Minutes taker: Sten Hansson – University of Tartu
	Filling the Solutions Explorer	Giulia Fagà - CI3R-Eucentre Minutes taker: Armanetti Alessandro - CI3R-Eucentre
15:45– 16:00	Final remarks and end of the workshop	Claudia Morsut - University of Stavanger Daniela Di Bucci - ICDP, Project Coordinator

### **Day 3 FRIDAY 18.10.24**

09:30 - Meeting at the lobby.

09:45 - Departure from hotel by taxi bus.

10:15-11:15 - Visit to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Sola.

### 3.3. List of participants

Name	Surname	Organisation
Merilyn	Viin	Development Centre of Voru County
Arvi	Uustalu	Estonian Rescue Board
Marco	Lombardi	Univeristà Cattolica Sacro Cuore
Gavriil	Xanthopoulos	Research Director at Hellenic Agricultural Organization DEMETER, Inst. of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems
Geir	Ellingsen	DSB Norway
Christina	Andersson	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
Lucia	Castro Herrera	University of Agder

Massimiliano	Pittore	Eurac Research
Alessandro	Armanetti	CI3R-Eucentre
Daniela	Di Bucci	Italian Civil Protection Department
Giulia	Fagà	CI3R-Eucentre
Sten	Hansson	University of Tartu
Kati	Orru	University of Tartu
Domingos	Viegas	ADAI
Claudia	Morsut	University of Stavanger
Bjørn Ivar	Kruke	University of Stavanger
Stine	Bjerga Haga	Stavanger municipality
Irene	Casarico	Expert in communication and problem solving in areas of crisis

### 3.4. Main takes from the collaborative workshop

#### *Round table on the topic: Relevance of working with Good Practices for Disaster Risk Management*

Three members of the CEO had the task to discuss the relevance of working with GPs for DRM by addressing four questions:

1. In your work, how much are GPs relevant?
2. What are the sources of the GPs you use or work with (i.e. experiences from the field, scientific research, guidelines from your institution or external guidelines?)
3. How do you think academia can contribute to shape a common understanding of GPs among practitioners? Which challenges do you deem are the most difficult to overcome in achieving a common understanding? Is this the only “problem” (common understanding)?
4. How do you think academia can increase GPs sharing among practitioners? Which means do you deem can be effective?

The main takes of the round table are the following:

- Use of a practice concerns not only for the target population, but also for the institution that uses the practice.
- Need to learn more from what went wrong, rather than from what went well.
- GPs should be actionable principles that people can adapt since they are context dependent.
- Trust is a key element when implementing a practice.
- Need to share a common understanding of crisis.
- Focus more on the planning process where there is a lot of learning. Planning involves people and different actors, and they need to be involved in one way or another.
- Need to constantly test plans, conduct simulations.
- Focus more on cultural dimensions of a population to customize a GPs to be used in a specific environment.
- Understand relations and culture and the expertise a population can bring in the crisis.
- Reflect more on the sources of good practices.

- Need to go into the field with a theoretical idea on how to manage the situation, but at the same time it is important to acknowledge when to be more practical and when to be more theoretical.
- Avoid the divide academia/practitioner, since it sounds so black and white. It is more an issue of intersectionality, the need for different competencies and mindsets, including thinkers.
- Need to empower diversity in the teams and different backgrounds and a different perspective to have a more competent team and responsible organisations.
- Good definition of GPs in ROADMAP2 as effective, reachable and environmentally sustainable, but how to also cover diversity?
- Information sharing is the basis of a GP.

### *Good practices in climate change adaptation in the Stavanger Municipality*

Stine Bjerga Haga introduced the Stavanger Municipality in terms of extension and population and after explaining the Municipality structure. Stavanger is ranked in Norway as the most climate-adaptive municipality. Climate change is identified as a big challenge for the municipality and climate change adaptation is a goal under the so-called Green Spear Heads strategy, which sets the goal for the whole organisation. Stavanger has a department that works on climate change adaptation (Department of Preparedness). The main climate risks for Stavanger are: (i) the sea level rise and (ii) the more frequent and severe rainfall. Some preventive measures implemented are:

- Land use plan with some provisions that consider nature-based solutions, special planning, analyses from experts and frequent discussions.
- Permanent protection solutions such as flood walls
- Mobile flood protections to protect the main square (Torget).

### *Afternoon group work*

In the afternoon, the work was organised by dividing the participants into 3 groups according to three UDRGs: Goal 1 Anticipate; Goal 2 Prepare; Goal 4 Respond.

In Round 1, each group was presented with one EU DRG and the areas of relevance from ROADMAP2, ROADMAP2 definition of GPs, template to document GPs, 1 example of GPs compiled according to the template.

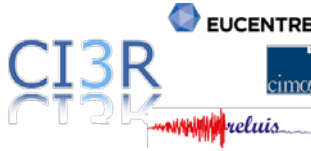
The goal of the group work was discussing, gathering, and formulating GPs related to the UDRG and discussion using the template, especially the assessment part

The moderator (member of the consortium) kicked off the discussion, while the minutes taker (member of the consortium) took notes and compiled the documents.

In Round 2, the moderators and the minutes takers changed group to present the results of the discussion to another group.

The group change allowed discussing about the work done in each group according to the following:

1. The minutes taker presented the work done
2. The moderator kicked the discussion along these lines:
  - a. Is there something missing in the GPs?
  - b. Are there other GPs that can be proposed?
  - c. Reflections, comments, feedback etc.



The minutes takers continued to take notes.

### **Main takes of the meeting of Group 1 on EU DRG 1 Anticipate (both round 1 and round 2)**

For the Anticipation goal, it was proposed that possible future and unexpected threats, including multi-risk and cascading effects, should be assessed, considering and involving the persons potentially affected. A suggested GP would be to promote a group of experts thinking out of the box to assess such risks.

Anticipation was associated with the practice of early warning that can be risk specific, as the capacity to predict or anticipate a storm, a fire or a flood is different from that to forecast a volcanic eruption or the impacts of an earthquake. The anticipation should involve the preparedness of the communities to react adequately to the early warning according to the hazard level.

It is recognized that a good understanding of the risk is a pre-condition to prevent or mitigate the adverse consequences of disasters. Therefore, it was recommended that a GP would be the analysis of the main risks in all its components of hazard, impact, resilience and recovery, as well as all the main factors that affect them and how they can be modified or managed to reduce the risk. A recommended GP was performed in the FirEUrisk project in the assessment of wildfire risk in a very general form, including all temporal and spatial scales.

### **Main takes of the meeting of Group 2 on EU DRG 2 Prepare (both round 1 and round 2)**

Much of the discussions were about citizen engagement and involvement, to nurture and use the capacity of the community and citizen engagement and a participatory approach. However, in a risk-based approach, there is the need to start with actor and resource mappings to raise awareness among response actors of the capacities of the citizens. Citizens need to be involved in preparedness planning and exercises and included in communication systems, in order to become a valuable resource in a contingency. Citizens' engagement was also a matter of sharing expectations among relevant actors and communicating public expectations in citizen preparedness engagement in contingencies. Knowledge was considered a vital resource in contingencies. The so-called expert knowledge is often thought of, whereas citizen knowledge is not discussed to the same degree. Another important aspect related to knowledge are the arenas where local and expert knowledge could meet.

### **Main takes of the meeting of Group 3 on EU DRG 4 Respond (both round 1 and round 2)**

The discussion revolved around the challenge to work with different civil protection systems and different organisation of different states. Coordination, support mechanisms, understanding who the relevant actors are given the different organisation of different States, was considered very relevant. To understand how different civil protections can work together, there is the need to have a kind of state-of-the-art profile for each member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to enhance cooperation, a sort of overview of the structure and the system of the host country, when the response comes from several teams from other countries. In addition to the organisation of the State, it could be necessary to include a profile of the equipment available, in order to be able to cooperate more closely. Operational integration courses (OIC) were considered a GP in this sense. Another GP mention was updates on country profile, fact sheets with information to include also pictures and visualisations which can overcome language barriers. In response, Situational Awareness Information Systems were considered a GP as well. Their integration across states should be a task of the Mechanism. The use of international accepted standards like INSARAG were deemed a GP to promote cooperation and create general

guidelines that everyone can follow. However, it was discussed that too much standardisation could lead to a loss of specific knowledge on the issues that characterise a country. Cross-border exercises were considered essential to enhance cooperation and mitigate communication problems due to contextual and cultural differences.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

All in all, the workshop format proved a suitable way of engaging local stakeholders, academics and representatives of CEO in a deep discussion on DRM practices. Local stakeholders were inspired by international high-level expertise and vice versa, international experts received local reflections on the fitness of the approaches and practices from the root-level perspective. Based on the discussions during the collaborative workshops, the key take-away messages regarding the UDRGs are:

**Goal 1 Anticipate:** Improve risk assessment, anticipation, and disaster risk management planning to identify vulnerabilities and anticipate hazards and threats.

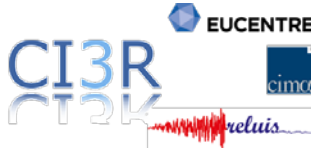
1. Engage Diverse Experts in Risk Assessment: Establish a group of experts (including also experts from social care and representatives of diverse society) who think creatively to assess potential future threats, including multi-risk and cascading effects. Involve individuals who may be affected by these risks to ensure comprehensive and inclusive evaluations.
2. Implement Risk-Specific Early Warning Systems: Develop and enhance early warning systems tailored to specific risks, such as storms, fires, floods, volcanic eruptions and earthquake impacts. Ensure community preparedness to respond appropriately to these early warnings based on the level of hazard.
3. Conduct Comprehensive Risk Analysis: Perform thorough analyses of main risks, considering their hazard, impact, resilience, and recovery components. Identify and manage the factors influencing these risks to reduce their impact, as demonstrated by the FirEURisk project's comprehensive wildfire risk assessment.

These practices aim to improve anticipation for various disaster risks, enhancing community resilience and response capabilities.

**Goal 2 Prepare:** Increase risk awareness and preparedness of the population to reduce the impact of disasters.

1. Community Crisis Plans: Developing community crisis plans is vital, with a focus on identifying and supporting vulnerable individuals like those living alone or young families. These plans are often community-initiated and coordinated by civil protection authorities.
2. Recognise the Role of Community Representatives: Community representatives, who may also be vulnerable individuals, play a crucial role in shaping the preparedness attitudes of others. Their influence can significantly impact the community's readiness for crises.
3. Assigning Crisis Roles: It is essential to not only map vulnerabilities but also assign appropriate crisis roles to individuals, recognizing them as valuable resources rather than just aid recipients. This includes tasks like light physical work or spreading information.
4. High Demand for Preparedness Training: There is a strong interest in crisis preparedness training, especially among the people in vulnerable situations e.g. hearing impaired and elderly, highlighting the need for targeted educational initiatives.





5. **Monetary Incentives and Innovation Funds:** Innovation funds supported by governmental bodies, provide financial incentives for communities to enhance their preparedness, including purchasing equipment for those with specific needs.

These points underscore the importance of community involvement, tailored roles, training, and financial support in enhancing disaster preparedness for vulnerable populations.

**Goal 4 Respond:** Enhance the EU Civil Protection Mechanism's response capacity to provide timely assistance and fill critical gaps during disasters.

1. **State-of-the-Art Profiles and Equipment Overviews:** Developing comprehensive profiles for each member of the Civil Protection Mechanism, including organizational structures and available equipment, to enhance cooperation and understanding among international response teams.
2. **Operational Integration Courses (OIC) and Country Profile Updates:** Implementing OICs and regularly updating country profiles with detailed information, including visual aids, to facilitate better coordination and overcome language barriers.
3. **Situational Awareness Information Systems and Cross-Border Exercises:** Integrating situational awareness information systems across states and conducting cross-border exercises to improve cooperation, communication, and the effective implementation of internationally accepted standards like INSARAG.

These practices aim to enhance coordination, understanding, and operational efficiency in disaster response efforts across different countries.