

**PPRD South Programme
Management Unit**

c/o Italian Civil Protection Department
Via Vitorchiano, 4 - 00189 Rome, Italy
Tel +39 06 6820 2674
Fax +39 06 6820 2811
info@euromedcp.eu

Pierluigi SODDU
PPRD South Executive Director
psoddu@euromedcp.eu

Ronan de SAINT GERMAIN
PPRD South Co-director
rdesaintgermain@euromedcp.eu

Ahmed O. EL KHOLEI
PPRD South Co-director
aelkholei@euromedcp.eu

PPRD South Consortium

Dr. Agostino MIOZZO
*Italian Civil Protection Department
(DPC)*

Colonel Philippe NARDIN
Direction de la Sécurité Civile Française

Major Général Hussein SAIED
*Egyptian Ministry of the Interior,
General Administration of Civil Protection*

Colonel Mustapha EL-HABIRI
Protection Civile Algérienne

Ms. Paola ALBRITO
*International Strategy for Disaster
Reduction, UN/ISDR*

European Commission

Jesús LAVIÑA
*Head of Sector Environment
EuropeAid Co-operation Office*
jesus.lavina@ec.europa.eu

Katharina ERLER
*Programme Manager PPRD South
EuropeAid Co-operation Office*
katharina.erler@ec.europa.eu

pprd
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prevention
preparedness
response
to natural
and man-made
disasters

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The Programme

Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the field of Civil Protection (CP) started in 1998, under the umbrella of the Barcelona Process, with two EU-funded programmes: a 5-year Pilot Programme which aimed at improving cooperation in the area of civil protection between EU Member States and the 12 Mediterranean Partners, and the “Bridge” Programme, whose objective was to improve the reciprocal knowledge of and strengthen political confidence among the regional Civil Protection partners.

Building on the experience of the previous programmes, with a budget of 5 million Euro, the new 3-year EU-funded Euromed Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters (PPRD South) aims at further improving and building on the results achieved by the previous two programmes by contributing, in particular, to the development in the Mediterranean region of a civil protection culture based on prevention rather than response.

PPRD South is a regional programme, launched in March 2009. It is managed by a consortium led by the Italian Civil Protection Authority, together with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) and the Civil Protection Authorities of France, Egypt and Algeria. The Programme works jointly with the National Civil Protection Authorities of the beneficiary countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Turkey, Israel, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and observer countries of Mauritania and Libya.

Programme Objectives

The purpose of the Programme is to contribute to the development of improved civil protection prevention, preparedness and response capacities at international, national and local levels. These objectives will be pursued over 3 years through four broad areas of activity aimed at:

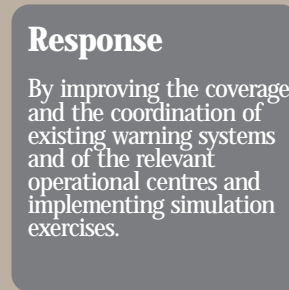
Risk assessment

By developing national and regional risk assessment tools such as risk review, risk maps, CP Operational Manual.



Prevention and preparedness

By organising training workshops, study visits and technical assistance, by sensitising the creation of national platforms for disaster risk reduction and by supporting regional cooperation.



Response

By improving the coverage and the coordination of existing warning systems and of the relevant operational centres and implementing simulation exercises.



Information/communication

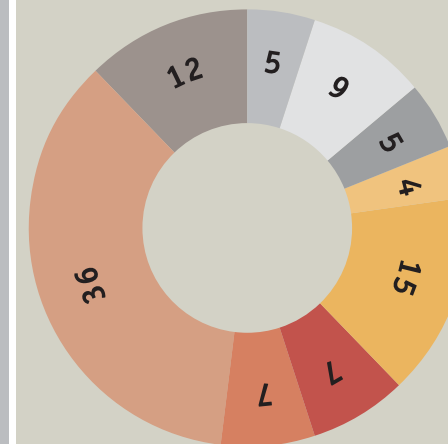
By improving the information and awareness of affected populations regarding risk exposure, prevention and response.

Specific activities aimed at achieving the Programme's goal include moreover the establishment of a network of permanent National Correspondents.

The PPRD South Programme will also contribute to bringing the Mediterranean Partners closer towards the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean in 2008, which states that: “A joint Civil Protection programme [...] linking the region more closely to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism is one of the main priorities of the region”.

As the main priority for the regional civil protection cooperation in the Western Balkan and Turkey candidate countries is their involvement in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the PPRD South Programme aims also to help prepare their full participation in the Mechanism through training programmes, exchanges of experts, simulation exercises and workshops on early warning systems.

Frequency of disasters in the Southern Mediterranean countries*



%

36	Flood
12	Industrial Accident
5	Landslide
9	Storm
5	Wildfire
4	Drought
15	Earthquake
7	Epidemic Insect
7	Extreme Temperature

Mediterranean Landscape

The Mediterranean region is particularly vulnerable and exposed to man-made and natural disasters, which have a devastating impact on the environment, affected populations, resources and infrastructure and could critically undermine the region's efforts towards sustainable development.

It has become clear that climate change is a serious threat which demands an urgent response. The evidence gathered leads to the conclusion that benefits of strong and early action far outweigh the economic costs of inaction.

The most significant risks in the Mediterranean include:

- **Seismic activity**
- **Hydro-geological events such as floods and flash floods**
- **Forest fires**
- **Urban and industrial disasters such as explosions, chemical accidents or toxic gas leakage**
- **Maritime pollution (oil spills)**
- **Tsunami-related risks**
- **Disasters caused by extreme meteorological conditions**

Seismic activity in the Mediterranean region is quite important, with earthquakes of a magnitude higher than 6 or 7 on the Richter scale occurring frequently, causing the death of thousands of people and extensive damage to buildings.

Submarine slope failures and gravity-driven mass movements occur frequently. Droughts and desertification cause coastal flooding and erosion around much of the Mediterranean basin. Frequency of water shortages and a decline in water quality pose new risks of public health. All these aspects could have detrimental effects on food security, economic activities and political security.

* Source EM-DAT: the OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database. <http://www.emdat.be> Université Catholique de Louvain-Brussels-Belgium.