



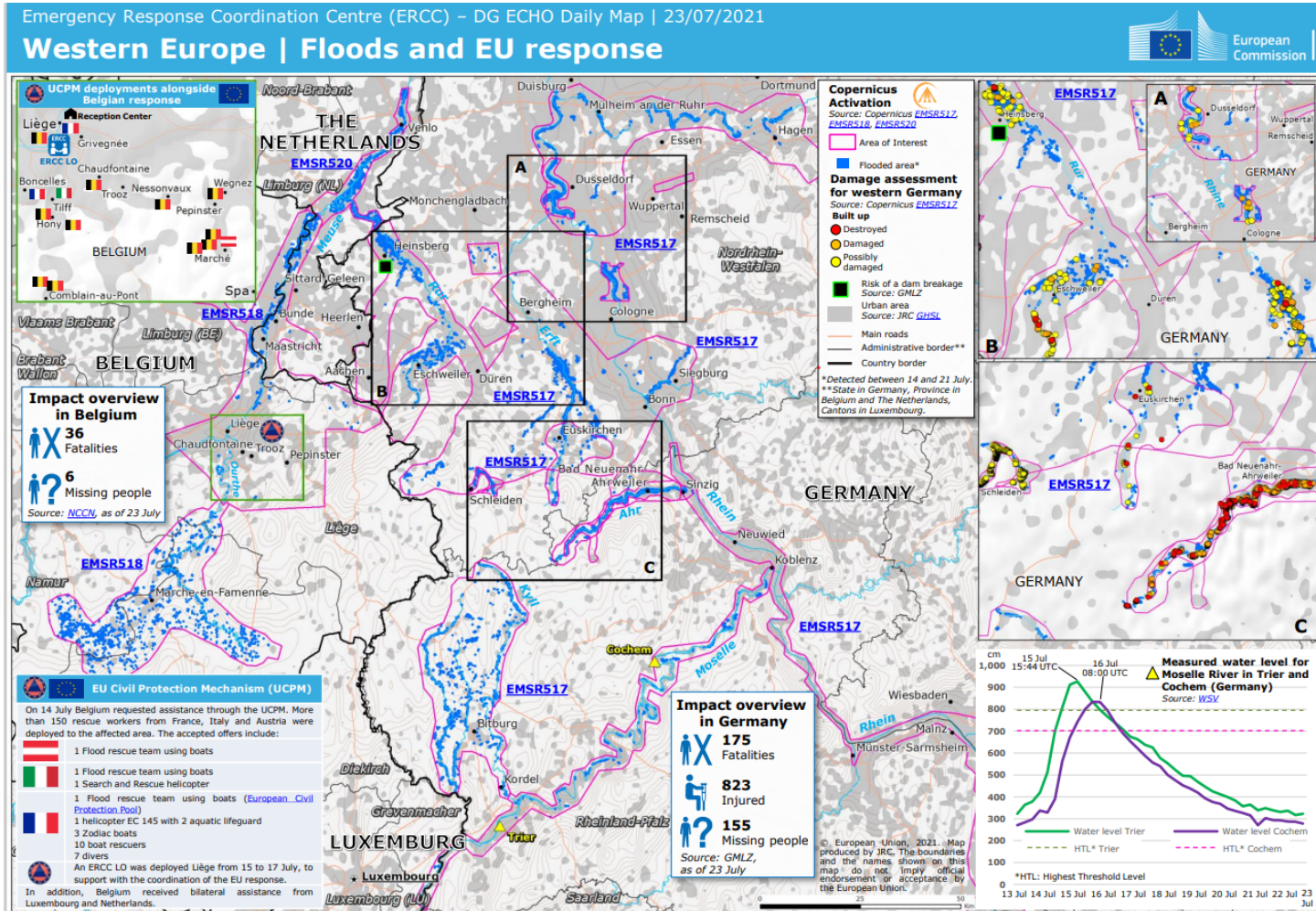
UCPM LESSONS LEARNT PROGRAMME

2021 Summer Floods in Europe Preliminary lessons and good practices a European perspective

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2021 Summer floods in Europe



The UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme

Decision 1313/2013/EU, amended by Decision (EU) 2019/420, art. 13

- **Learning processes and knowledge development**
- Entire **disaster management cycle**
- **Holistic** approach – complementing actors, sectors, areas....
- From interventions **inside** and **outside** the Union
- **Promotion and implementation** of identified lessons and good practices
- Part of the **UCP Knowledge Network**

The UCPM Lessons Learnt Programme

A **critical exercise** to reflect on the organization's **performance** with the aim to identify what worked well (good practices) and what could be done better next time (lessons identified); and with the objective of **continuous learning** and **improvement**.



"Well, we've learned one thing from all this — burglars shouldn't keep diaries."

Overview of lessons identification process

Inputs gathered from:

- MS affected
- MS deployed
- CP and Flood authorities in MS
- LO report and hot wash-up
- LL internal logbook
- LL meeting (28 Sept)

28 September meeting:

Thematic meeting with over **100 participants** from **32 MS/PS**, including civil protection and flood authorities as well as Commission services and scientific experts

A combined meeting allowing **two key constituencies** to share **experiences** and **jointly identify lessons and good practices**

Preliminary lessons: areas

- Overall response to the floods
- UCPM activation
- Early warning systems
- Prevention and preparedness efforts

Preliminary lessons: overall response (1/2)

- **Closer linkages** between relevant authorities (e.g. CP and Floods) need to be established: a *whole-of-government* and *whole-of-society* approach helps **reducing risks** and improving **resilience**
- **Preparedness** (e.g. training) ensures that international assistance is smoothly embedded in national response efforts
- Once-in-a-century events are likely to happen more often: **scientific knowledge** for current and future disaster management activities (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery)
- **Recovery** and **reconstruction** efforts must take into account current and future **risk maps**

Preliminary lessons: overall response (2/2)

- Large-scale, multi-country events add a **stress on the UCPM** (and of course the affected countries); rescEU can help reduce such stress
- Improving **public communication**:
 - Public warning systems/infrastructure need to be **redundant** to ensure people get notifications as soon as possible
 - Ensure that the population **understands** warning messages, and that misinformation or false information is detected and addressed
 - **Public communication strategies** and need to be developed and tested; information needs to be **simple** and **clear**

Preliminary lessons: UCPM activation (1/2)

- Detailed **requests for assistance** are vital for the speed and efficiency of response efforts
- UCPM-related **processes** could be made even **simpler**
- **UCPM response capacities** (some examples):
 - Reflection about **faster, more versatile** and **adaptable/scalable capacities** (multi-purpose transport capacities, scalable teams, fast-deployment multi-purpose teams, etc.)
 - **24/7 response and support capacities** (e.g. search and rescue helicopters able to operate during night time)
 - Development of an **UCPM risk assessment module** (multiple emergencies)

Preliminary lessons: UCPM activation (2/2)

- ERCC Liaison Officers: a **proven good practice**
- **Knowledge building/awareness raising of UCPM** and its services (within as well as beyond CP authorities in MS/Ps)
- More and adapted **training** and **exercises** (e.g. HNS, simulations and exercises, etc.; communication, scientific expertise, etc.)
- Relevance of **UCPM meetings, training and exercises, fora and networks** to build knowledge and relationships
- Importance of **cross sectoral coordination** (local, national, and EU level) and of **communication with experts** (e.g. across ministries, departments or disciplines)

Preliminary lessons: early warning systems

- **Enhance and reinforce EWS** (supporting actionable information for informed decision making), including expanding coverage to higher latitudes
- Further promote **European EWS** as a **complementing tool** to national systems, including **raising awareness** and providing **training**
- Ensure the further translation of early information/awareness (including from systems such as EFAS) into **early action**
- Support the transmission of **scientific knowledge** into actionable information that is useful for decision-makers at local/regional level

Preliminary lessons: prevention and preparedness efforts

- Prevention and preparedness efforts can and do **pay off**
- **Protection constructions** are key tools to combat flooding – but need to be regularly reviewed and maintained
- Preparation (crisis and operational plans, alerts/communication etc..) is essential to **guide decisions** and **inform the public**
- **Focus investments on capacities** for the main identified national risks
- Continuous **training efforts and exercises** needed for local decision-makers
- Prevention and Preparedness initiatives allow to **adapt to change** and ultimately **mitigate evolving risks**

In conclusion

- Identifying lessons and good practices is essential to learn and improve
- Joint efforts (e.g., COM and MS/PS, CP and Floods authorities, etc.) help expand ideas, share experiences, and think more critically
- Lesson and good practices identified in one area can have positive elements in other areas
- Identifying lessons is a necessary step, but not the last one; learning lessons implies that actions must take place to make the necessary changes



Thank you for your attention!

