

## **EU funding call for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution**

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An EU funding call has been launched aimed at sustaining projects in the area of prevention, preparedness and awareness-raising in civil protection and marine pollution.

EU Member States are facing a wide range of disaster risks every year, including floods, forest fires, earthquakes and various technological, radiological and environmental accidents. Disaster prevention and preparedness are therefore important elements of the European Civil Protection cooperation.

In 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was established, fostering cooperation among national civil protection authorities across Europe. The Mechanism currently includes all 28 EU Member States in addition to Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. The Mechanism was set up to enable coordinated assistance from the participating states to victims of natural and man-made disasters in Europe and elsewhere.

When disasters strike a country, within or outside the EU, the Mechanism allows for the necessary operational resources to be mobilised to assist and provide a prompt response. In this context, the European Commission published two calls for proposals to fund activities aimed at closer cooperation in prevention, preparedness and awareness-raising in civil protection and marine pollution

Under the present Call for Proposals funding may be awarded to projects in the area of Prevention or Preparedness. The term prevention refers to any action aimed at reducing risks or mitigating adverse consequences of disasters for people, the environment and property, including cultural heritage whereas the term preparedness means 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.

Under the 'Prevention' priority, the aim of the projects should be to promote the linkages between multi-hazard assessments of risks, including climate change, risk management capabilities assessments with risk management, preparedness and response planning; to support the development of disaster risk reduction strategies, taking into account climate change adaptation and projects supporting risk awareness and risk communication with a focus on border regions, cross-border and regional dimensions.

Under the 'Preparedness' priority, projects may focus on improving the preparedness of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to respond to disaster risks, enhance knowledge of effective preparedness through the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre, improving trans-border and macro regional cooperation in disaster preparedness, including enhancing support to Participating States in awareness-raising, public information, knowledge dissemination and education and enhancing cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian aid actors.

### **Eligibility and assistance**

The EU co-funding rate amounts to 75 % of total eligible costs, with a maximum EU contribution of €800 000. The beneficiaries need to guarantee that the remaining 25% of the total eligible cost come from sources other than the EU grant. Initial duration of the projects may not be longer than 24 months.

Should you wish to receive assistance in the EU funding application process, one can set up an appointment with the EU funding team at MEUSAC on [funding.meusac@gov.mt](mailto:funding.meusac@gov.mt) or by calling on 2200 3300. It is of pertinent importance for potential applicants to be aware of the fact that in order to be considered for the funds, applicants must satisfy the programme's priorities.

The deadline to apply for the call is April 25, 2018.