

**Report from the second meeting of
Directors of Civil Protection and
Firefighting Schools
31st of May and 1st of June 2023
in Revinge, Sweden**



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Second meeting of Directors of Civil Protection and Firefighting schools

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Order No. MSB2226 – June 2023

Background

Sweden was the last country in the Presidency trio with France and Czech Republic. As part of the programme of the Swedish Presidency, Sweden worked for "Whole-of-society resilience" and examined the role of the individual and the private sector. The work also included a sustainable and circular network with a collective commitment of funds and resources, effective operational procedures and techniques shared across all curricula. Europe needs "cross-knowledge cooperation" in times of crisis that we see so clearly in 2023.

The aim of the meeting for Directors of Civil Protection and Firefighting Schools was to connect and strengthen capacity development relevant to civil protection and rescue emergency schools by presenting and discuss projects under UCP Knowledge Network. The idea of connecting the outcomes among professionals was to sharing results to achieving "cross-knowledge" - knowledge cross the borders in a new efficient cooperation.

Training is a key sector that must enable us to be more efficient in the accomplishment of these missions and the development of targeted capacities. The coherence of European risks, with a dimensioned and adapted response, to accomplish by a better interoperability. In this respect, training within the Mechanism can be considered as taking place at several levels. The experts' training programme, the exchange of experts and the exercises are an integral part of the UCP Knowledge Network and guarantee a coherent operational implementation in the field.

How resilient is the civil protection model to respond and adjust to rapid or unprecedented changes on the international scene, like climate change or the ongoing crisis in the EU's neighborhoods due to Russia's invasion in Ukraine?



MSB College in Revinge, Sweden 31st of May and 1st June. Participants from 20 Member States and 22 Member Countries in the UCPM Mechanism.

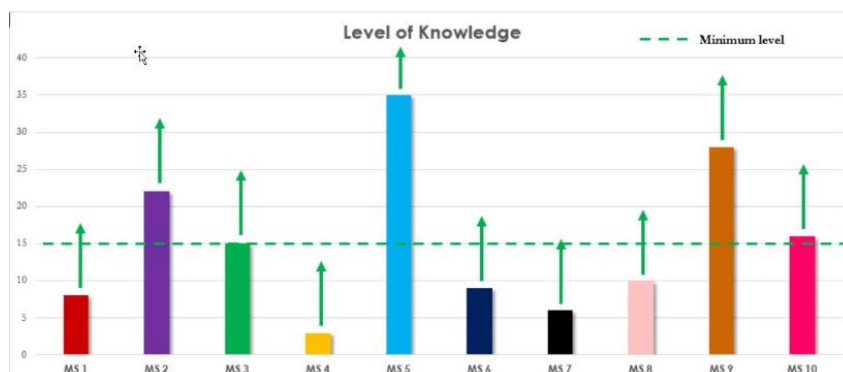
Cecilia Looström, Head of Civil Protection Department, welcomed everyone together with a greeting from MSB's DG. Dr. Felix Bloch from DG ECHO went on to highlight the importance of collaboration in the Knowledge Network and UCPM.

Way forward

The meeting was perceived as inclusive and unpretentious. From presentations, discussions, panel discussions and conversations, some conclusions emerged to work on.

Several insights that need to be further discussed is civil protection in a broader context. A lively discussion that adapts to the changes taking place in the world.

One stop shop is an exciting concept that will require continued work, investigation and analysis of what the concept should include. You will find points that are problematized like that the Member States need to strive for a common minimum level of knowledge in order to grow together in a democratic and solidarity-based frame-work "cross-knowledge".



It emerged during the meeting that Member States' level of knowledge differ. Increased cooperation and co-development are needed to reach a common level of knowledge.

The mission of the days

The mission of these days was to connect and share knowledge to grow between the Member States.

Objective 1:

To develop further the network of European civil protection and firefighting training schools by establishing a common frame, an easy access "one stop shop" for sharing interoperable results from projects, studies, meetings, and evaluations experienced.

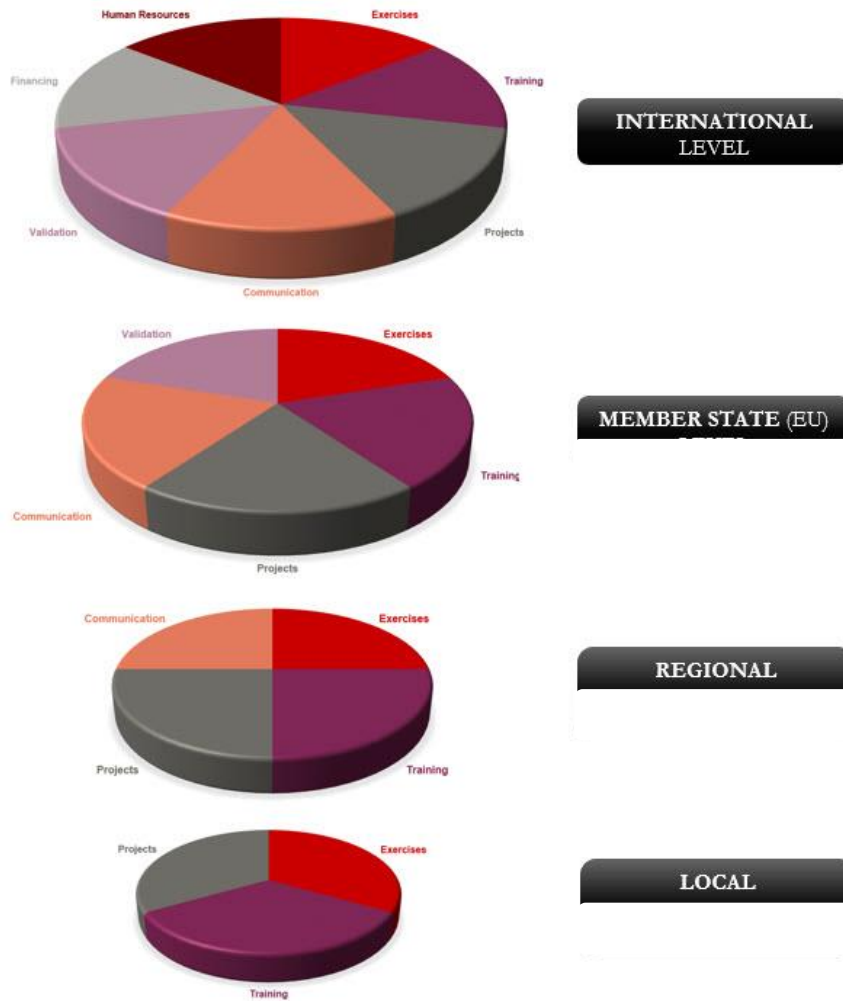
Objective 2:

To continue the development to deliver a scalable pedagogical model for Community of Knowledge in them framework of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, by valorizing valuable results from other projects within UCPKN, Horizon Europe and other financial programmers.

In discussions from the presentations in plenary and in the smaller meetings - where "The World Café concept has as purpose that a limited number of participants get the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences in a structured way". Each project had its own meeting and discussions, several interesting points emerged:

- In a broader development the importance of what the European civil protection encompasses have a large impact since both rescue services, firefighting schools and marine pollution are included in civil preparedness.
- "One Stop Shop" is a promising idea for the future. A survey of whether there are competing and similar alternatives should be investigated. If there are, then in this case it is possible to jointly continue development in order to find everything in one place in the future.
- The complexities and the necessity of communicating in the respective languages of different levels and to different stakeholders, can cause problems if only English is used. Train the trainer might be a way to minimize the language barriers at all levels.

- Prior to Sweden's arrangement of this meeting, the concept of "cross-knowledge" was born as a scalable framework for sharing knowledge, in different levels between actors, agencies, municipalities, regions, Member States (MS national) and international levels. A new way of thinking where it should be possible to scale up and down from the needs of the different levels.



Depending on the event and impact at each level, there will be different needs and requirements to be able to scale up and down the efforts.

“Cross-Knowledge”

The second day started with two presentations in order to inspire and add some more dimensions for the upcoming panel discussion and to the discussions from the day before. One spoke about how to increase the “start-up readiness” in our network and why taking care of innovation is crucial. The second presentation in order to share experiences and wisdom about what can be crucial to succeed in building a functioning network where it was clearly stated that marine pollution is also civil protection.



A final panel discussion, with Felix Bloch (ECHO), Linus Arnold (Ignite Sweden), Torben Iverness (HELCOM), Tanja Stähle (Real World Testbed), Jakub Ryzenko (Collaris), Silvia Marchesi (Tracenet) and Frederic Harrault (Nemausus), summarized the content of the program and discussions that took place during the days.

The author discusses various aspects of information dissemination from the World Café as scalability, project planning, funding, stakeholder engagement, and the role of the Knowledge Network platform. They also touch upon the challenges of gathering and sharing both explicit and tacit knowledge, the importance of face-to-face meetings, and the need for efficient knowledge organization and searchability.

To sum up of the main points discussed several times during the meeting. Thoughtful proposals that can contribute and perhaps be crucial parts of key factors that need to lubricate the continued cooperation and development for a broader civil protection that can handle society's risks and changes where rescue services, firefighting schools and marine pollution are included. Knowledge crossing both borders and sectors.

- The need to improve communication and information sharing within the civil protection community.
- The importance of scaling knowledge sharing efforts while recognizing the effectiveness of face-to-face interactions.

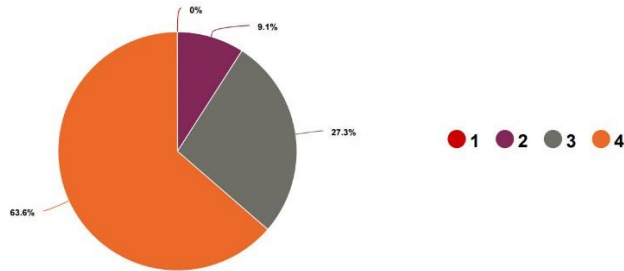
- The challenges of finding and accessing relevant information in a timely manner during emergency situations.
- The significance of incorporating lessons learned from previous projects to optimize resource allocation and problem-solving.
- The potential benefits of a centralized platform, like the Knowledge Network, for sharing project information and fostering collaboration.
- The complexities of managing and involving multiple stakeholders and countries in projects, suggesting the formation of smaller groups for better coordination.
- The importance of spreading knowledge within organizations and considering the needs of end users when disseminating information.
- The potential of the Knowledge Network platform to serve as a repository for various projects and to facilitate the exchange of questions and solutions.
- The existence of other websites like DRMKC and resources focused on disaster risk management and the recommendation to explore them before initiating new projects.
- The role of UCPM (Union Civil Protection Mechanism) in supporting the Knowledge Network and the importance of building networks and communities for civil protection and fire-fighting professionals.
- The need to compare existing programs and improve upon them to address similar circumstances.

It is clear, for a stronger and more resilient Europe, knowledge needs to crossing borders, walls and sectors.

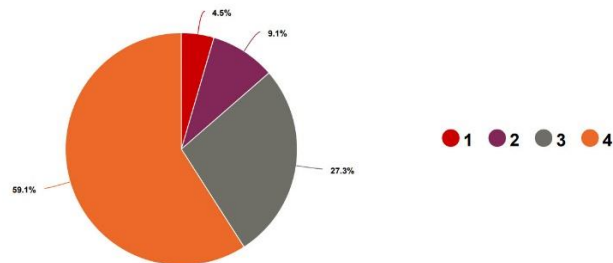
Participants' evaluation

After the meeting, an evaluation was sent to the participants and their views are well worth to consider to the next meeting.

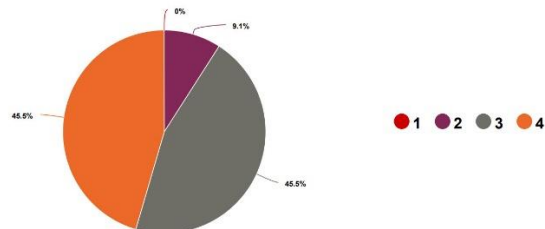
1. Over all impression from the meeting.



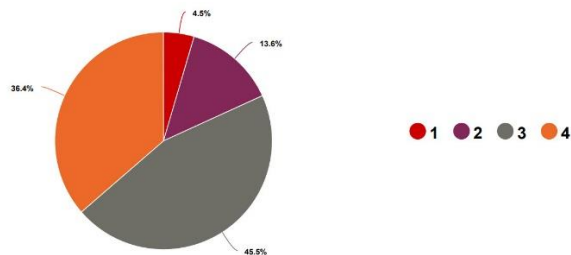
Connect - did you connect with new colleagues?



Share - did you get the opportunity to share your knowledge with colleagues?



Grow - did the activities during the meeting give you new knowledge?



Other reflections:

- Well organized!
- Thank you for the hospitality and I wish we could success on further collaboration and cooperation!
- Dear Colleagues! Thank you very much your organizing work and thank you very much for the opportunities.
- I think more time should have been given to presenting the training ground.
- Thank you, take care, "tack så mycket".
- I came from outside the community. I felt welcome and I believe the participation from people outside the primary network of fire-fighters was worthwhile and should be considered for upcoming meetings.
- English language is not very well spoken by many of the participants.
- The meeting was well-organized.
- There was a slight nagging feeling about the duplication with EFSCA.
- Why EC don't want to engage in greater collaboration with an effective network.
- Too much focus on giving feedback to projects for paying travel and accommodation on its own.
- Many thanks to Frederik and the whole Team from MSB for being great hosts.