



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ORDER & CITIZEN PROTECTION



GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

1. General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP): *general presentation*

The GSCP, under Ministry of Citizen Protection, studies, plans, organizes and coordinates the country's policy concerning issues of public awareness, prevention and confrontation of natural or manmade or other disasters and generally the coordination of actions of the public services and the civil volunteers and the ensuring of the alertness of the country for the confrontation of these disasters.

The mission of GSCP includes:

- The protection of citizen's life, health and property from natural, technological and other major hazards.
- The protection of cultural heritage, historic buildings and monuments, the resources and the infrastructure.

2. GSCP & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GSCP participates in a numerous of bilateral, multilateral cooperation's and initiatives as an EU M-S and within the framework of signed agreements. More specifically:

- **As an EU MS in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism**
- **BILATERAL:**
 - Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation of the Hellenic Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the

Cyprus Republic on cooperation on issues related to local authorities and civil protection.

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of **Bulgaria** and the Government of Greece on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Exchange of Information on Nuclear Facilities.
- Agreement with **Hungary** on Co-operation in the field of prevention of natural and technological disasters and serious accidents and the liquidation of their consequences and on mutual assistance
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of **Malta** in the field of Civil Protection.
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the **French Republic** on cooperation on issues related to public administration, local authorities and civil protection
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and **Ukraine** on co-operation in the field of prevention of industrial accidents, natural disasters and the elimination of their consequences.
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the **Russian Federation** on co-operation in the field of prevention and response to natural and man-made disasters.
- Protocol of Intentions between the Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation/the General Secretariat for Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic and the **Federal Emergency Management Agency of the United States** of America on cooperation on prevention and response.
- Protocol with the **Republic of Turkey** on the formation of a Joint Hellenic-Turkish Standby Disaster Response Unit
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic **Azerbaijan** on cooperation and mutual assistance in the field of prevention and elimination of the effects of natural and technological disasters and major accidents (pending for ratification).
- Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of **Montenegro** on co-operation in protection from natural and man-made disasters (pending for ratification).

- **MULTILATERAL:**

- EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
- Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Agreement on collaboration as regards emergency assistance and emergency response to natural and man-made disasters.
- F.I.R.E. 5 Initiative (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece)

3. EU CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM & GSCP

GSCP participates actively in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The GSCP's National Operational Center is connected through CECIS with the ECHO-MIC crisis room.

The GSCPs resources registered and certified in the EU Civil Protection mechanism are:

EU MODULES:

- **Medium urban search and rescue – 1st GR MUSAR (1st EMAK), Athens**
(Hellenic Fire Corps, National Emergency Health Care Unit)
- **Medium urban search and rescue – 2d GR MUSAR (2d EMAK), Thessaloniki**
(Hellenic Fire Corps, National Emergency Health Care Unit)
- **Aerial forest fire fighting module using airplanes- 1st GR AFFP, Athens**
(Hellenic Air Force and Fire Corps)
- **Advanced medical post-1st GR AMP, Athens**
(National Emergency Health Care Unit)
- **Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims-1st GR MAEVAC, Athens**
(National Emergency Health Care Unit and Hellenic Air Force)
- **Chemical, biological, radiological & nuclear detection & sampling-1st GR CBRNDT, Athens**
(Hellenic Atomic Energy Commission)
- **Ground forest fire fighting – 1st GR GFF (1st EMAK), Athens**
(Hellenic Fire Corps)

- **Ground forest fire fighting – 2d GR GFF, Thessaloniki**
(Hellenic Fire Corps)
- **Ground forest fire fighting module with vehicles-1st GFFV, Athens**
(HELLENIC Fire Corps)

TOTAL NUMBER: (9)

EU EXPERTS:

- (70) Greek experts are trained in the different categories of courses of the EU Mechanism Training Program.
- EU MODULES Leaders are already trained in the Modules Basic course of the EU Mechanism Training Program.

4. EU & NATIONAL PROJECTS

GSCP now has a substantial CV of its participation in a series of projects as Lead Partner and Partner:

- **2000-2011:** more than 20 National Projects
- **2008-2009: EU FIRE 5, Participating as associated partner**
 - CP National Authorities of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal & Greece
- **2009-2010: EU RAPID RESPONSE CAPABILITY 7, Partner**
 - CP National Authorities of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal , Greece & Belgium
- **2009-2010: EU EVROS 2010, Partner** (Full Scale Exercise in Evros)
 - Greece, Germany, Italy, UK, Bulgaria
- **2010-2011: EU POSEIDON, Partner** (Full Scale Exercise in Crete)
 - Greece, France & Cyprus
- **2010-2012: EU ACR 5, Partner**
 - CP National Authorities of France, Spain, Portugal , Greece & Belgium

- **2010-2012: INTERREG IVC – CIVPRO, LEAD PARTNER**
 - Greece, Cyprus Spain, Belgium, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria (www.civpro-gr.eu)

- **2011-2016: EU-CHINA Disaster Risk Management, Partner**
 - European Commission, the EU M-Ss CP National Authorities of France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Germany, Denmark, UK, Finland and the Chinese Academy of Governance

- **2011-2014: EU TWIST, Partner** (Full Scale Exercise in Sicily)
 - CP National Authorities of Italy, Greece, Spain, France and Portugal

- **2012: EU DR HOUSE, Partner** (Full Scale Exercise in Patras)
 - CP National Authorities of Italy & Greece

- **2013-2014: EU EVITA, Partner**
 - Greece, Italy and Spain

- **2013-2014: EU PROMITHEUS 2014, Lead Partner**
 - CP National Authorities of Greece, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Hellenic Red Cross, University of Crete

5. The CYPRUS Operation 2011

On 11 July 2011, a depot of seized Iranian ammunitions blew up leading to a series of explosions at the Evangelos Florakis naval base in the Larnaca District on the south coast of Cyprus. The explosions killed 13 people and injured 65, rocking nearby communities and causing extensive damage. In particular, the blast severely damaged and put out of service the Vasilikos power plant which contributes 50% of Cypriot power generation capacity and 60% of energy production.

The severe reduction in generating capacity resulted in power outages and restrictions as the electricity authority was no longer able to meet peak summer demand. The damage to the plant also disrupted the drinking water supply as desalinization plants had their power cut.

On 13 July, following the damage at the plant and the related power shortages, Cyprus made a request for assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The request explained that Cyprus urgently needed high-capacity generators in order to boost power production and power

desalination plants. In addition, Cyprus requested expert assistance in the fields of damage assessment and repair for the Vasilikos plant as well as for health and safety issues.

Several Participating States offered generation capacity to the Cypriot electricity authority. Cyprus accepted the Greek offer of generators able to provide 70 MW of electric power as the one which best fitted their needs.

A multinational EU civil protection team composed of experts from eight Participating States was the largest team ever deployed by the Mechanism within the EU. The team assisted the Cypriot authorities in assessing the situation and providing technical expertise, including in the areas of damage assessment and restoration, health and safety, and structural engineering.

The provision of the Greek generators – a Joint Operation of GSCP and the National Electricity Company- was one of the largest operations - in terms of both value and size - ever conducted through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism by a single country. The CYPRUS Operation and the transportation of the GR Generators was co-financed by the European Commission with 500.000e within the framework of the European Civil Protection Mechanism-Financial Instrument which is the highest amount in the history of the Financial Instrument for a single operation.

6. EU Civil Protection Mechanism Exercises

The GR's EU Civil Protection Modules MUSAR, AFFP, CBRN and a number of Civil Protection Teams participated in the following EU CP Mechanism full scale exercises:

2008:

• **EU FIRE 5: "SARDINIA 2008"** (Sardinia, ITALY. Scenario: Mega Forest Fires)

1st GR MUSAR (Hellenic Fire Corps) & 1st GR AFFP (Hellenic Air Force)

(France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece)

2009:

• **EU FIRE 5: "PT QUAKE 2009"** (Lisbon, PORTUGAL. Scenario: Earthquake)

2^d GR MUSAR (Hellenic Fire Corps)

(France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece)

2010:

• **EU R2C7: "EU PRES 2010"** (International Airport of Madrid, SPAIN. Scenario: Plane Crash with Multiple Victims in a Radiological Contamination Environment)

1st GR CBRNDET (Hellenic Atomic Energy Commission)

(France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Belgium, Malta)

- **EU EVROS: EVROS 2010 (Evros, GREECE. Scenario: Floods)**

2^d GR MUSAR (Hellenic Fire Corps)

(Greece, Bulgaria, Germany, UK, Italy)

2011:

- **EU POSIDON: "POSIDON 2011" (Crete, GREECE. Scenario: earthquake followed by Tsunami)**

(Hellenic Fire Corps, Hellenic Red Cross, Hellenic, National Emergency Health Care Unit)

2012:

- **EU Dr HOUSE: "Dr HOUSE 2012" (Patras, GREECE. Scenario: Post Earthquake Building Assessment)**

(CP National Authorities of Italy & Greece, Hellenic Earthquake Rehabilitation Service)

7. TRAINING EXPERTISE & HISTORY

GSCP has a strong expertise in the organization of workshops in national, European and international Level.

A brief historical chronology includes –among others- the following highlights:

2008: HELLENIC-SWEDISH COOPERATION, SENIOR OFFICERS WORKSHOP, 14-15 October 2008, Athens, organized By Hellenic General Secretariat for Civil Protection and Swedish Rescue Agency.

2009: "1st Advanced Workshop EU RRC7", June 2009 in Athens, organized by GSCP within the framework of the EU project EU Rapid Response Capability (EU RRC7). The consortium of the EU RRC7 consists of the National CP Authorities from France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and Belgium.

2009: "FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner", November 2009, Athens, a two weeks course in cooperation with US Homeland Security Dep/FEMA entitled. A number of 30 experts (senior level) trained and certified by FEMA as MEP (The title of Master Exercise Practitioner is the highest authorization for Civil Protection exercise designers and directors in USA).

2010: “EVROS 2010”, June 2010, Athens, full scale exercise with floods scenario organized in Greece-Prefecture of Evros in cooperation with the Prefecture of Evros. The exercise organized within the framework of the EU project EVROS 2010.

2010: “1st EU Interregional Conference- INTERREG IVC/CIVPRO”, November 2010, Athens, focused on Regional Policies on Disaster Prevention, November 2010 in Athens. The conference organized by GSCP within the framework of the project INTERREG IVC/CIVPRO. GSCP is the Leader of this project and the consortium consists of 10 M-Ss partners [Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belgium and Cyprus]

2011: “1st European Conference of CIVPRO, October 2011, Brussels, organized by GSCP in Brussels with the support of the EU Polish Presidency and the European Commission (October 2012, Brussels).

2011: A specific workshop for volunteers organized by GSCP and the National CP Authority (BBK) of Germany (June 2012, Athens).

2011: “EU POSIDON 2011”, October 2011, Crete, full scale exercise with tsunami scenario organized in Greece-Region of Grete. The exercise organized within the framework of the EU project POSIDON. GSCP had the total commanding and directing of the exercise. POSIDON was the first historical exercise with tsunami scenario in the history of the EU Civil Protection.

2012: “1st Advanced Workshop EU ACR5”, March 2012, Athens, the first European Advanced Course for the European Forest Fires Ground Modules within the framework of the EU ACR 5 Project (March 2012, Athens).

2011: “2^d European Conference of CIVPRO, June 2012, Brussels, organized by GSCP in Brussels with the support of the European Commission-DG ECHO.

2012: “10th Transfer Visit”-INTERREG IVC-CIVPRO, November 2012, Athens, organized by GSCP.

2012: “Final EU Interregional Conference- INTERREG IVC/CIVPRO”, November 2012, Athens, focused on Regional Policies on Disaster Prevention. The conference organized by GSCP within the framework of the project INTERREG IVC/CIVPRO. GSCP is the Leader of this project and the consortium consists of 10 M-Ss partners [Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Spain, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belgium, and Cyprus]

In 2012 (10th of February) GSCP organized a special tribute to the 10th years of the EU Civil Protection mechanism (2010-2011) with the cooperation of the Representation in Greece of European Commission and the support of the European Parliament-Press Office in Greece. Greece was the first M-S which organized a tribute to the EU CP Mechanism and the Commissioner C Georgieva made a special reference to this event.

Our training capacity includes (in house and in cooperation with other Governmental Authorities participate in the National CP Mechanism (by law):

- **(30)** GSCP's Superior Level Experts-half of them holding a Ph.D.
- **(30) FEMA/MEP** Senior Level Officers certified to organize all types of CP exercises [GSCP, Fire Corps, Greek Atomic Energy Commission, Hellenic National Meteorological Service, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization]
- **~(200)** Senior Officers trained in the EU CP Mechanism either as EU Experts or within a series of EU Projects. Among them:
 - (5) EU High Level Coordinators holding a Ph.D.
 - ~55 experts in EU Civil Protection Mechanism in all categories (CMI, OPM, TECH etc)
- more than **(500) experts** (Superior & Senior) in cooperation with Fire Corps, Greek Atomic Energy Commission, Hellenic National Meteorological Service, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization
- **~(30)** superior level officers (GSCP, Fire Corps, Hellenic Police etc) participated in the planning and implementation of the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games

8. GSCP & International Representation: the upcoming Hellenic EU Presidency in 2014

GSCP represents exclusively by law Greece in the European Union and in a series of International Organizations (NATO, UN, BSEC ETC).

The National Representative of Greece in European Union for Civil Protection and Member of the European Commission's Civil Protection Committee and the Working Party for Civil Protection of the Council of the European Union (PROCIV) is Dr Kelly N SAINI, Lt Colonel (Fire Corps, EU HCL) with Deputy Dr Olga KAKALIAGOU, Director of GSCP's Directorate for International Relations.

In 2014 (1st semester) and during the Hellenic EU Presidency, GSCP will chair the Working Party for Civil Protection of the Council of the European Union (PROCIV).

More info

www.gscp.gr
www.ciopro-gr.eu