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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Working Party on Civil Protection

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Subject: Work programme of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the  
European Union in the field of civil protection  
July – December 2021

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Delegations will find in the Annex the work programme of the Slovenian Presidency in the field of civil protection.

**WORK PROGRAMME**  
**OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL PROTECTION**  
**JULY – DECEMBER 2021**

The main priority of Slovenia as the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU will be to **contribute to building a stronger and more resilient European Union**. To that end, the Slovenian Presidency will focus on improving **the EU's ability to anticipate and deal effectively with emergency situations** which, due to their nature or their extent, exceed the capacity of individual Member States to manage them, or which have a considerable transboundary impact.

Activities related to civil protection will focus on **building resilience to natural and other disasters**. During the Slovenian Presidency, we are committed to facilitating the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/836 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (hereinafter: UCPM Regulation) with the objective of strengthening the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in all phases of disaster management. The Slovenian Presidency will promote a systematic approach to **strengthening resilience to multi-country transboundary disasters** by commencing a process of development of the **Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection**, and by launching the **Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network**. We will support further strengthening of the **European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU capacities**, as well as increasing the efficiency of emergency operations based on **subsidiarity and proportionality**.

During the Slovenian Presidency, we will seek synergies with the activities of international organizations and other EU policies within the field of civil protection, and by **strengthening cooperation with candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans**.

## TOWARDS THE UNION DISASTER RESILIENCE GOALS

The Slovenian Presidency will organize a dedicated workshop in order to launch a **reflection process on the Union disaster resilience goals**. The UCPM Regulation laid down some key parameters to guide the development of these goals. The objective of Slovenian Presidency workshop is to start the process of defining the Union disaster resilience goals in the specific area of civil protection in order to **support prevention and preparedness actions** in the face of **multi-country, transboundary disasters with high impact**. The workshop will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the process of the development of the Union disaster resilience goals and to discuss various possible approaches to designing them.

## THE UNION CIVIL PROTECTION KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Based on lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic and the work done by the German and Portuguese Presidencies, the Slovenian Presidency will **support the further development of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network** (hereinafter: Knowledge Network). As one of the key tools of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Knowledge Network will bring together civil protection and disaster management actors to work together, collaborate, and learn from each other, with the objective of strengthening the EU's ability and capacity to deal with disasters. During the Slovenian Presidency workshop, **links between the Union disaster resilience goals and the Knowledge Network will be explored** in order to recognize and use the Network's potential as a knowledge broker, partnership facilitator and innovation catalyst in the process of the development and implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals. **The official launch** of the Knowledge Network will take place **in December 2021**.

## **PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE RESILIENCE OF CRITICAL ENTITIES**

The proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the resilience of critical entities (the CER Directive) was adopted by the European Commission on 16 December 2020. It is being examined by a specific formation of the **Working Party on Civil Protection, dedicated to the Critical Entities Resilience Directive** (hereinafter: PROCIV CER).

**Societal resilience is one of the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency**, and therefore there will be a focus on reaching a compromise on the proposal of the CER Directive. We will aim to do that by **drafting three partial Presidency compromise proposals** in the PROCIV CER.

The efforts of the Slovenian Presidency will be to assist the general approach of the Council to pave well the way to adopt the Directive in the first reading of the legislative proposal.

### **LESSONS LEARNT FROM COVID-19**

The Slovenian Presidency will continue the work of the German and Portuguese Presidencies on drawing lessons learnt from Covid-19, with the purpose of **collecting information on how to address precautionary measures from the time of the COVID-19 pandemic during UCPM training, in particular international exercises** (e.g. #SIQUAKE).

### **MAIN PRESIDENCY EVENTS**

- **Presidency Workshop** “Towards disaster resilience goals: Setting the scene, enabling discussion and designing a common approach for the development of the Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection” will be held via videoconference on 7-8 July 2021.
- **National Training Coordinators (NTC) meeting** will be held via videoconference on 22-23 September 2021.

- **Directors-General for Civil Protection of the European Union, the European Economic Area and the candidate countries** will be invited to their 47th meeting in Brdo pri Kranju/Ljubljana on 11–13 October 2021<sup>1</sup>.

## **WORKING PARTY ON CIVIL PROTECTION (PROCIV) MEETINGS**

### **Civil Protection**

- 20 July 2021 (informal VTC session)
- 14 September 2021 (informal VTC session)
- 19 October 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)
- 16 November 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)

### **Critical entities resilience**

- 19 July 2021 (informal VTC session)
- 15 September 2021 (informal VTC session)
- 20 October 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)
- 17 November 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)
- 1 December 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)
- 15 December 2021 (formal session in Brussels, tbc)

### **Other events**

- **Full Scale Civil Protection Exercise #SIQUAKE**, with an earthquake scenario that hits central Slovenia, will be organized in Ljubljana and its surroundings on 4-8 October 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> The DG meeting is planned as a physical meeting, depending on the pandemic situation in October 2021.

- **Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) Annual Seminar** will take place on 20-21 October 2021 (VTC).
- **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)** will take place on 24-27 November 2021 in Matosinhos, Portugal.
- **Launch of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network** will take place in December 2021.

**THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY TEAM FOR THE PROCIV/CIVIL PROTECTION WORKING PARTY**

Chair: Stanislav Lotrič

Co-Chair: Danica Ankh

PROCIV Team: Lucija Jereb, Olga Andrejek

National Delegates: Sandra Martinič, Milena Dobnik Jeraj

**THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY TEAM FOR THE PROCIV/CRITICAL ENTITIES RESILIENCE WORKING PARTY**

Chair: Roland Žel

Co-Chair: Danica Ankh

National Delegates: Alenka Čarni, Ana Pogačar

**WEBSITE OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:**

<https://slovenian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/>

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