

# ERCC Operations

## CEOS WG

Spyros Afentoulidis, DG ECHO  
March 2018



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## The ERCC's three main functions

1. Coordination of disaster response within the framework of Union Civil Protection Legislation
2. Coordination platform for humanitarian aid and civil protection operations
3. Commission and EU Crisis Coordination platform, including Solidarity Clause and the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements



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## Types of disasters covered by UCPM

### ▪ Natural disasters

- Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones

### ▪ Manmade disasters

- Environmental disasters
- Complex emergencies (Iraq, Syria)

### ▪ Health emergencies

- Ebola epidemic
- Yellow Fever

### ▪ Assistance to consular support

- Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation)
- Evacuation of EU citizens



# CIVIL PROTECTION

In May 2013, we launched the

## Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

Monitors disasters around the globe

24/7

Maps disaster risks



Provides real-time information



Coordinates joint European response operations



Since its creation in 2001,

## the EU Civil Protection Mechanism

was activated for

# 300 emergencies

including the Ebola outbreak (2014), the earthquake in Nepal (2015), forest fires in Europe and tropical cyclones Irma and Maria in the Caribbean (2017)

2001

2017




# EU Civil Protection Mechanism Activation



# EU Civil Protection Mechanism

**32** activations in 2017



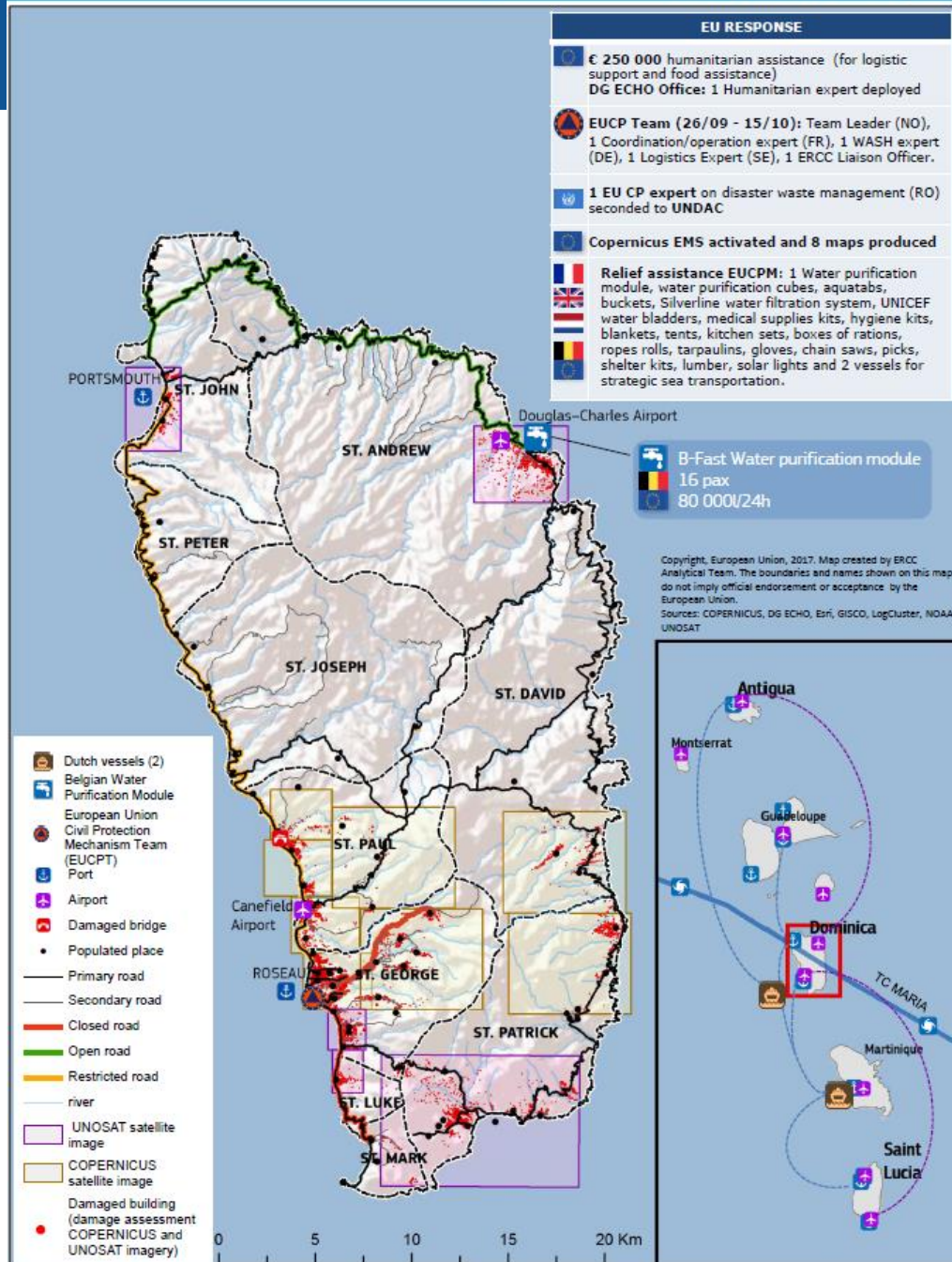
-  Tropical cyclones
-  Floods and landslides
-  Yellow fever outbreaks
-  Advisory and preparedness missions
-  Refugees
-  Earthquakes
-  Forest fires





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# UCPM Response – Dominica





## How does ERCC build its situational awareness?

- EU Civil Protection Teams
- ECHO Offices and EU Delegations
- Early Warning Systems (e.g. GDACS, EFAS, EFFIS)
- Scientific advice (e.g. ARISTOTLE, JRC)
- **Copernicus Emergency Management Service (satellite maps)**
- External reports (UN Agencies, Regional Agencies, National authorities)
- Analytical Team products
- Media





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# Copernicus







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## ERCC: Entry focal point

- For all Authorized Users
- For all Associated users
- For third parties' activation enquiries

+ interrelation with stakeholder upstream and downstream in the workflow





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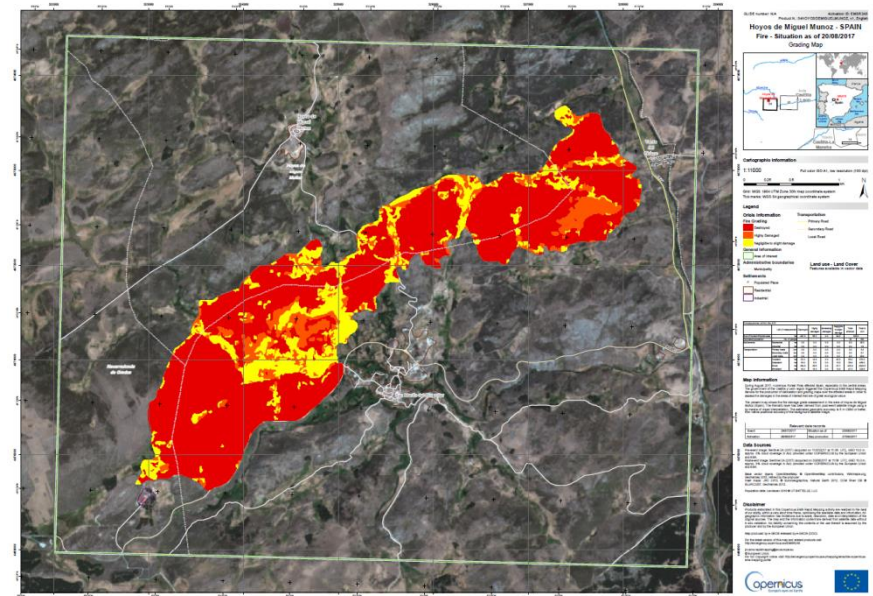
...but it also acts as a user as well, mainly:

- Based on requests from the field (e.g. EUCPT, ECHO field offices)
- Based on early warning systems



# Main benefits of the EMS service

- Rapid and credible support to national authorities and other enquiring parties
- Preliminary assessment of situation in short time (especially when impact-based information is not abundant or reliable)
- Adaptation to end user's requirements



## Main steps to be taken by ERCC duty officers

- Check validity of a request (Authorized User, scope, sensitivity, completeness, feasibility, duplication)
- Request service provider to order imagery when request is validated
- Inform relevant stakeholders
- Check products before giving green light for dissemination





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# Scientific advice to operations

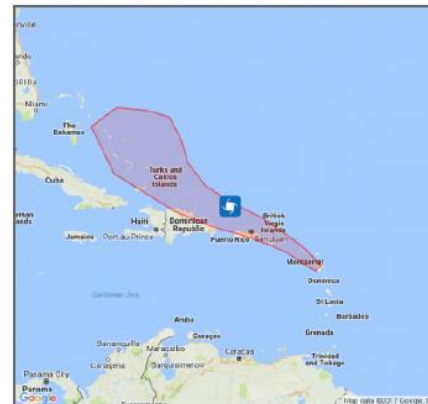
## ARISTOTLE EMERGENCY REPORT

### HURRICANE MARIA

MAIN DETAILS			
Area	LATIN AMERICA and CARIBBEAN	Operation mode	Reactive
Event start	19 September 2017, 09:20 UTC	Event end	24 September 2017, 12:00 UTC
Report created	19 September 2017, 09:26 UTC	Report finalized	19 September 2017, 12:50 UTC

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Hurricane Maria crossed Dominica during the early hours of Tuesday morning causing widespread devastation from a combination of hurricane force winds, torrential rain and storm surge.
- It is expected that Maria will remain a category 5 hurricane (253km/h or more sustained winds) over the next 12-18 hours as it moves west-northwestwards and remain a major hurricane (category 3 or higher) for at least the next 4-5 days.
- Through the rest of today (Tuesday), Maria is expected to move very close to Montserrat, with significant destruction expected across these island.
- Maria is then expected to continue to move west-northwestwards, moving towards the US Virgin Islands, reaching there by around 03-06 UTC Wednesday. Due to the strength of the storm, the US and British Virgin Islands as well as parts of Puerto Rico are likely to see considerable destruction.
- Impacts will be typical of a major hurricane and include destructive winds, dangerous waves, storm surge, torrential rains and enhanced risk of landslides.
- A combination of these hazards will lead to a risk of fatalities and severe impacts to local infrastructure and transport.



### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN: 20.02 -67.52

### OVERALL IMPACT

High

### LACK OF COPING CAPACITY

The Bahamas	VERY LOW	(2.9)
Turks and Caicos I	N/A	(N/A)
Puerto Rico	N/A	(N/A)
Montserrat	N/A	(N/A)
France	VERY LOW	(2.0)
Dominican Republic	LOW	(4.6)
United States Virg	N/A	(N/A)
Netherlands	VERY LOW	(1.2)
British Virgin Isl	N/A	(N/A)
Saint Kitts and Ne	LOW	(3.5)

### ALERT LEVEL

Likelihood of major impact	High			
	Medium			X
	Low			
Required Resources	Sub-national	National	International	



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# Analytical team support

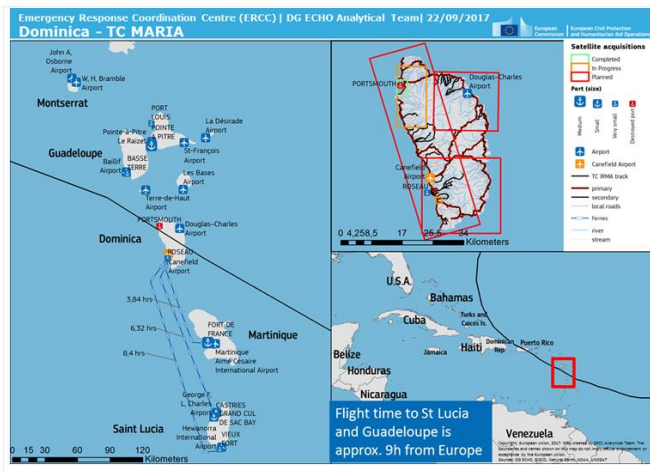
## ERCC Deployment Plan

(Art. 35.6 – UCPM Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)



### Red Tropical Cyclone MARIA-17: Dominica

ERCC Analytical Team - Draft as of 22 September 2017



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(Art. 35.6 – UCPM Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU)



### Red Tropical Cyclone MARIA-17: Dominica

ERCC Analytical Team - Draft as of 22 September 2017

## 1. Description of the emergency situation

### 1.1. Situational Analysis

- On 19 September, **Category 5 Hurricane MARIA** made landfall in Dominica, one of the poorest countries in the Caribbean. The Island faced the full-force of hurricane MARIA with maximum sustained wind speeds of 260 km/h.
- The hurricane tore through the entire Island, **damaging or destroying power lines and water pipelines**. The main hospital in the island does not have power and critical cases are being evacuated. An estimated **90 per cent of the buildings have sustained some damage** - most of the houses have lost at least some roof covering with a significant portion showing major structural damage. First assessments report that the damage in the east coast was significantly worse.
- At least 15 people have died** in Dominica, with the number of fatalities expected to rise as large areas of the island remain inaccessible.
- At least **80 per cent of the island's population has been affected** and needs support with shelter and water, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- On 21 September, **Dominica activated the UCPM** asking for assistance consisting of water purification tablets, medical supplies, first aid kit, mosquito repellent, household items, construction equipment, generators and transport capacity.
- A team comprising officials from CDEMA, United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination (UNDAC), the British Armed Forces and the Department for International Development (DFID) arrived in Dominica by a helicopter on 20 September.
- A search and rescue team from the neighbouring Martinique island has arrived. Cuba and Venezuela are bringing a pleneload of relief supplies each to Dominica on 22 September.

#### 1.1.1. Historical Data

Dominica was still recovering from Hurricane Erika, which struck the Island in August 2015. Erika left hundreds of homes uninhabitable, thousands of people displaced and 30 people dead.

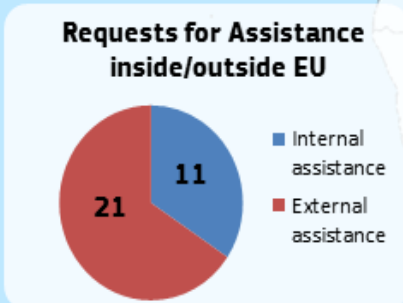
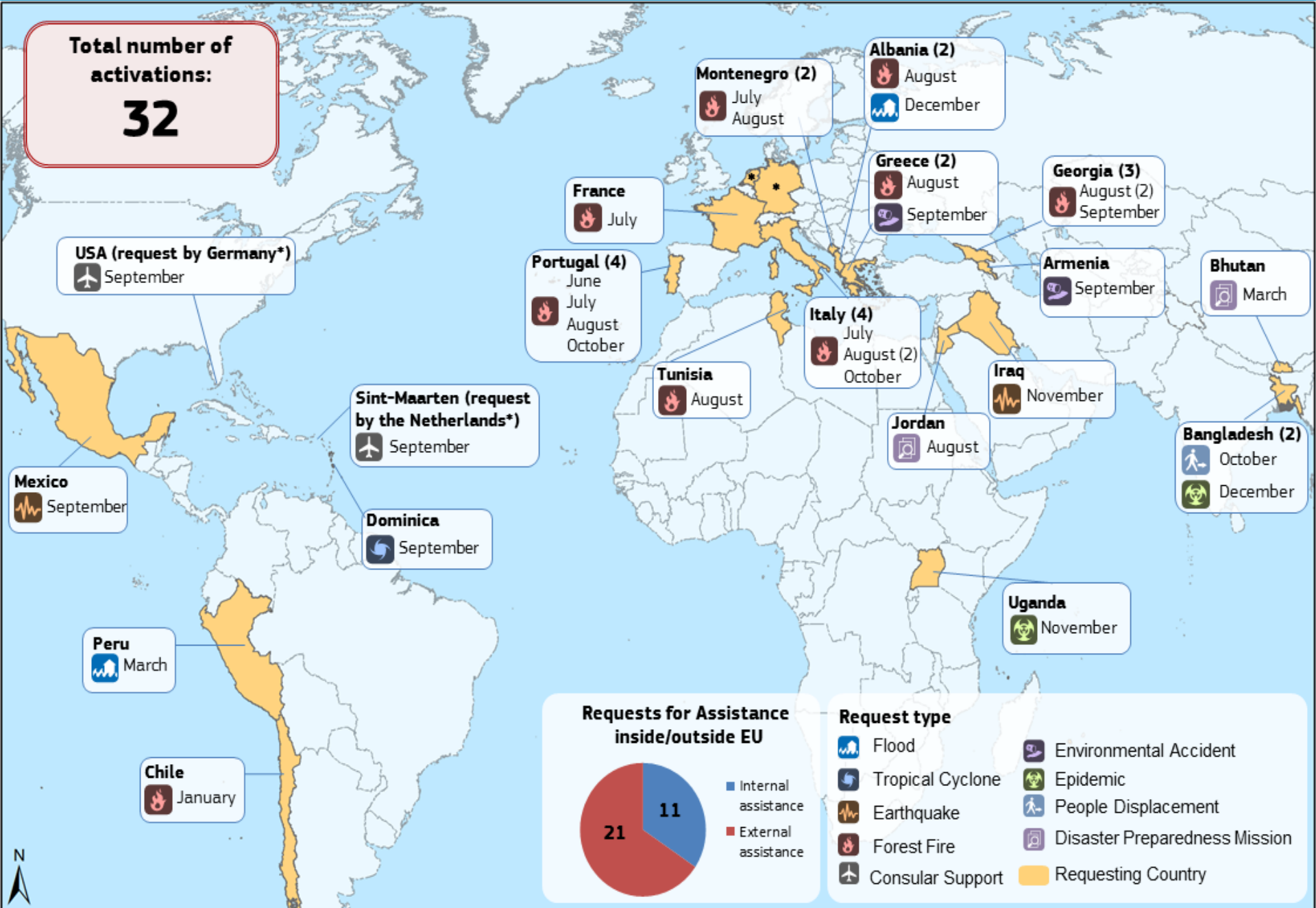


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# INFO AND STATISTICS

**Total number of activations:**  
**32**



- ### Request type
- Flood
  - Tropical Cyclone
  - Earthquake
  - Forest Fire
  - Consular Support
  - Environmental Accident
  - Epidemic
  - People Displacement
  - Disaster Preparedness Mission
  - Requesting Country



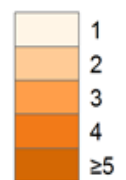
# UCPM Requests for Assistance: 2014 - 2017

**Total UCPM activations  
2014-2017:  
89**



## Requesting country Nature of UCPM request

### Number of activations



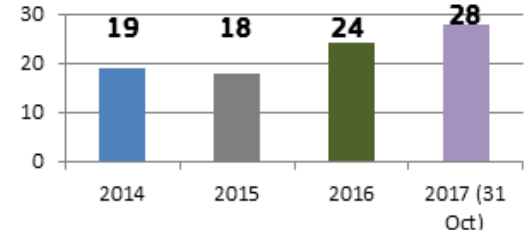
- Disaster Preparedness Mission
- Conflict
- Forest fire
- Cave diving accident

- Environmental accident
- Epidemic
- Population displacement
- Consular support
- Drought
- Earthquake

- Flood
- Landslide
- Severe weather
- Tropical Cyclone
- Volcano activity

- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

## Activations per year

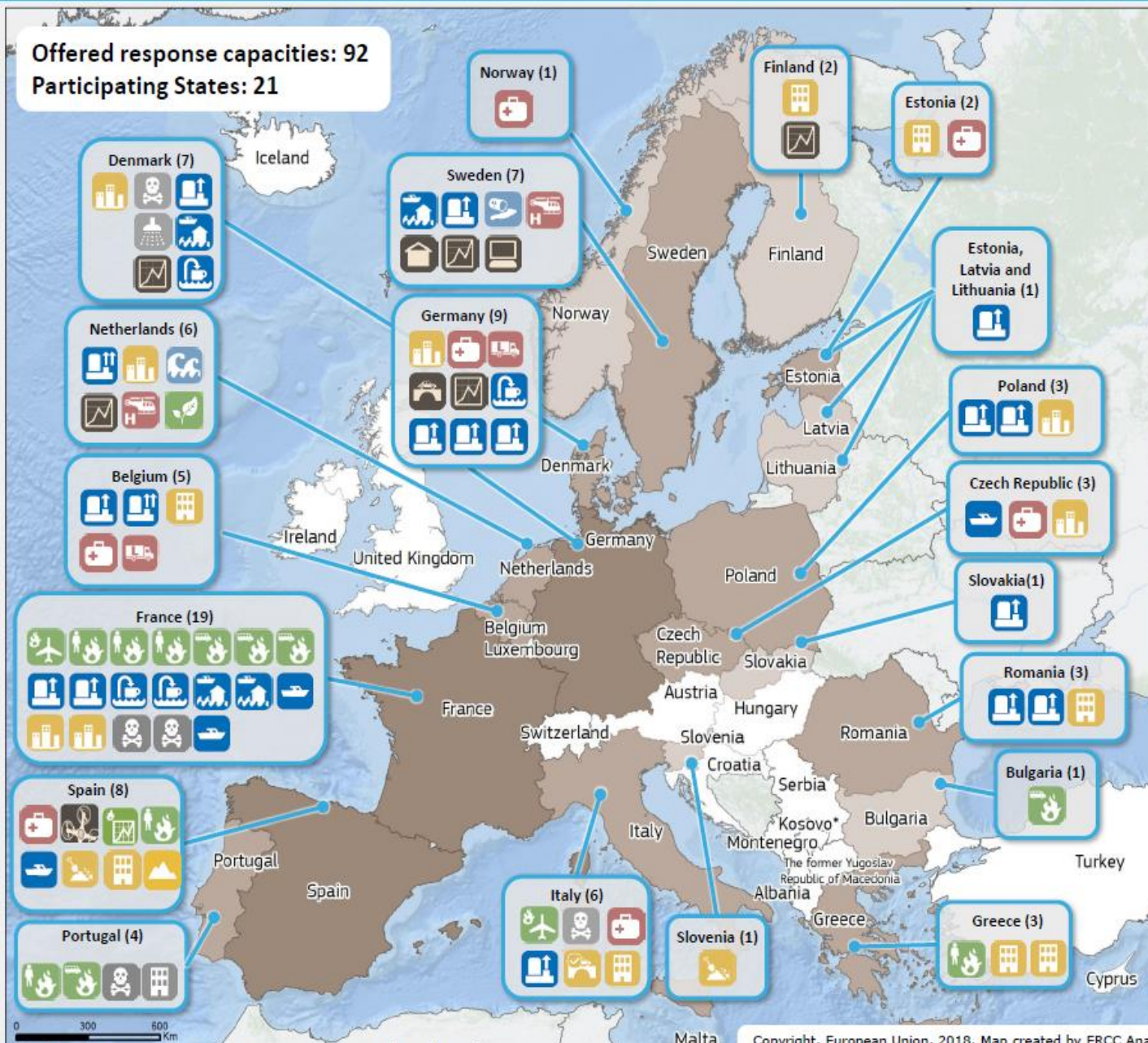


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Voluntary pool - Offered capacities

Offered response capacities: 92  
Participating States: 21



Response Capacities			
Flood Rescue with Boats		Environmental Assessment Unit	
High Capacity Pumping		Forest Fire Fighting with Planes	
Water Purification		Ground Forest Fire Fighting	
Flood Containment		Ground Forest Fire Fighting with Vehicles	
Extreme High Capacity Pumping		Team for firefighting advisory/assessment (FFAT)	
Medium Urban Search and Rescue		CBRN Detection and Sampling	
Cave Search and Rescue		CBRN Decontamination	
Heavy Urban Search and Rescue		Search and Rescue in CBRN conditions	
Structural Assessment Capacity		Standing Engineering Capacity	
Team for mountain search and rescue (MSAR)		Technical Assistance and Support Team	
Mobile Lab		ICT Help Desk	
Medical Air Evacuation		Team with unmanned aerial vehicles	
Emergency Medical Team		Shelter Capacities	
Maritime Incident Response Group		Marine Pollution Capacities	

The European Emergency Response Capacity is commonly referred to as the "voluntary pool". It consists of a range of emergency response capacities that countries participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism make available for EU emergency response operations. Since the establishment of the voluntary pool in October 2014, 21 Participating States have brought together 92 civil protection capacities which are now available (or will eventually become available) for EU operations worldwide, following a request for assistance through the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

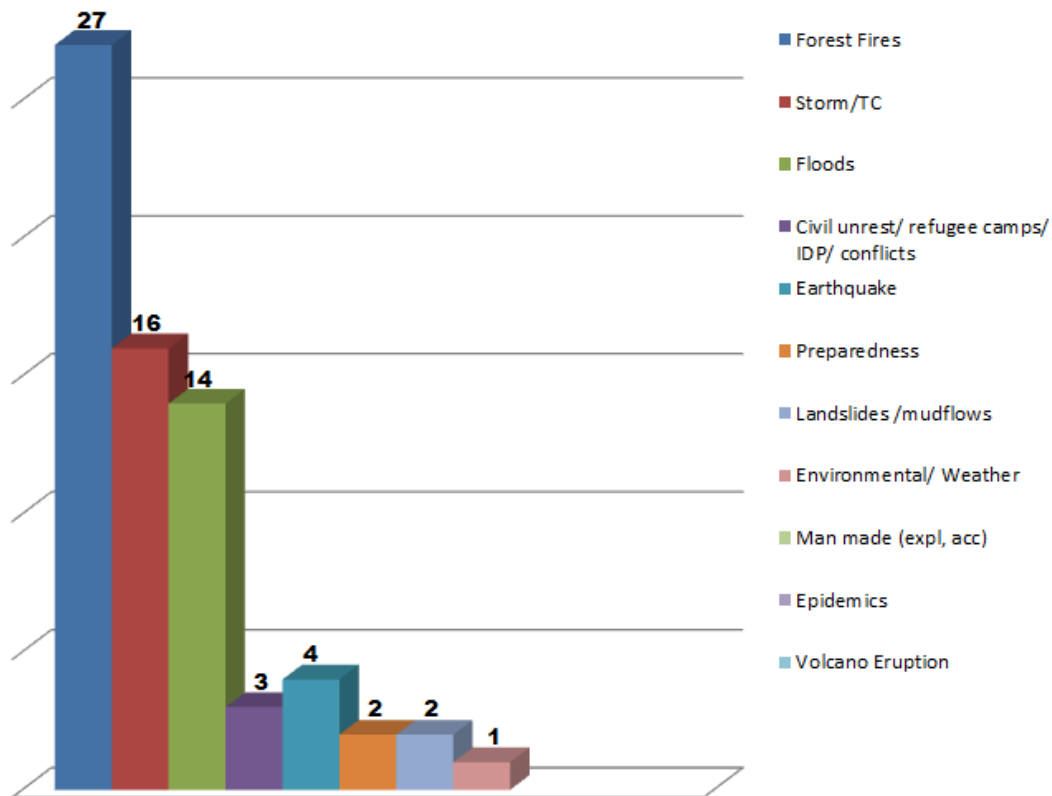
\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



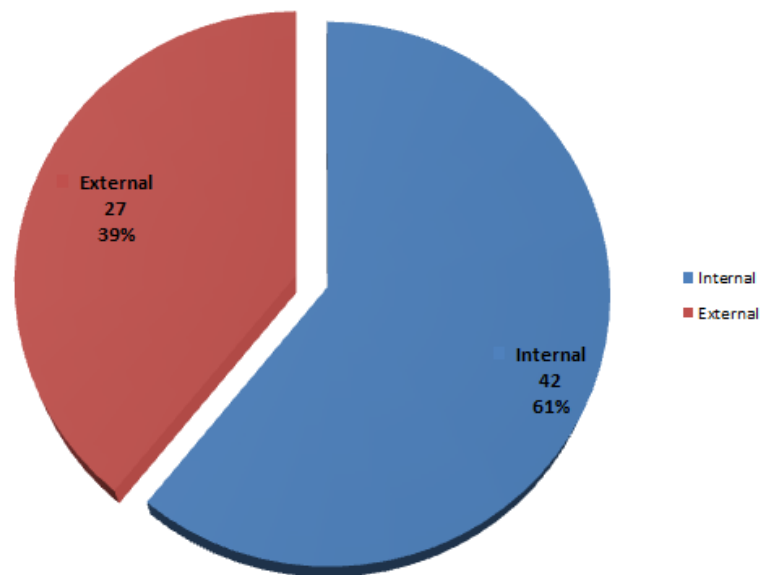
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### EMS Copernicus Activations 2017



### EMS COPERNICUS ACTIVATIONS INTERNAL/ EXTERNALEU

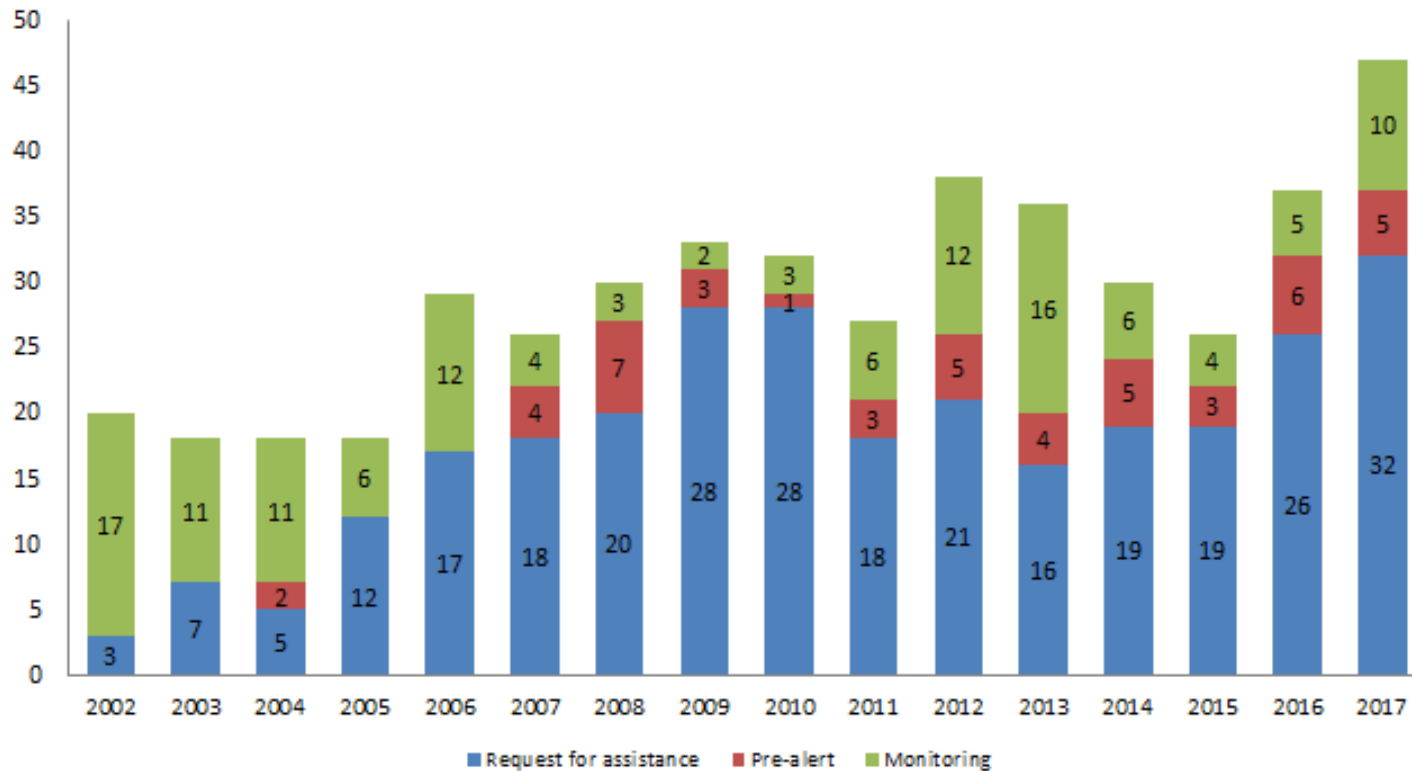




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## Number of operations\* of the EUCP Mechanism



\*Operations = any event open in CECIS (request for assistance, early warning (pre-alert), monitoring)

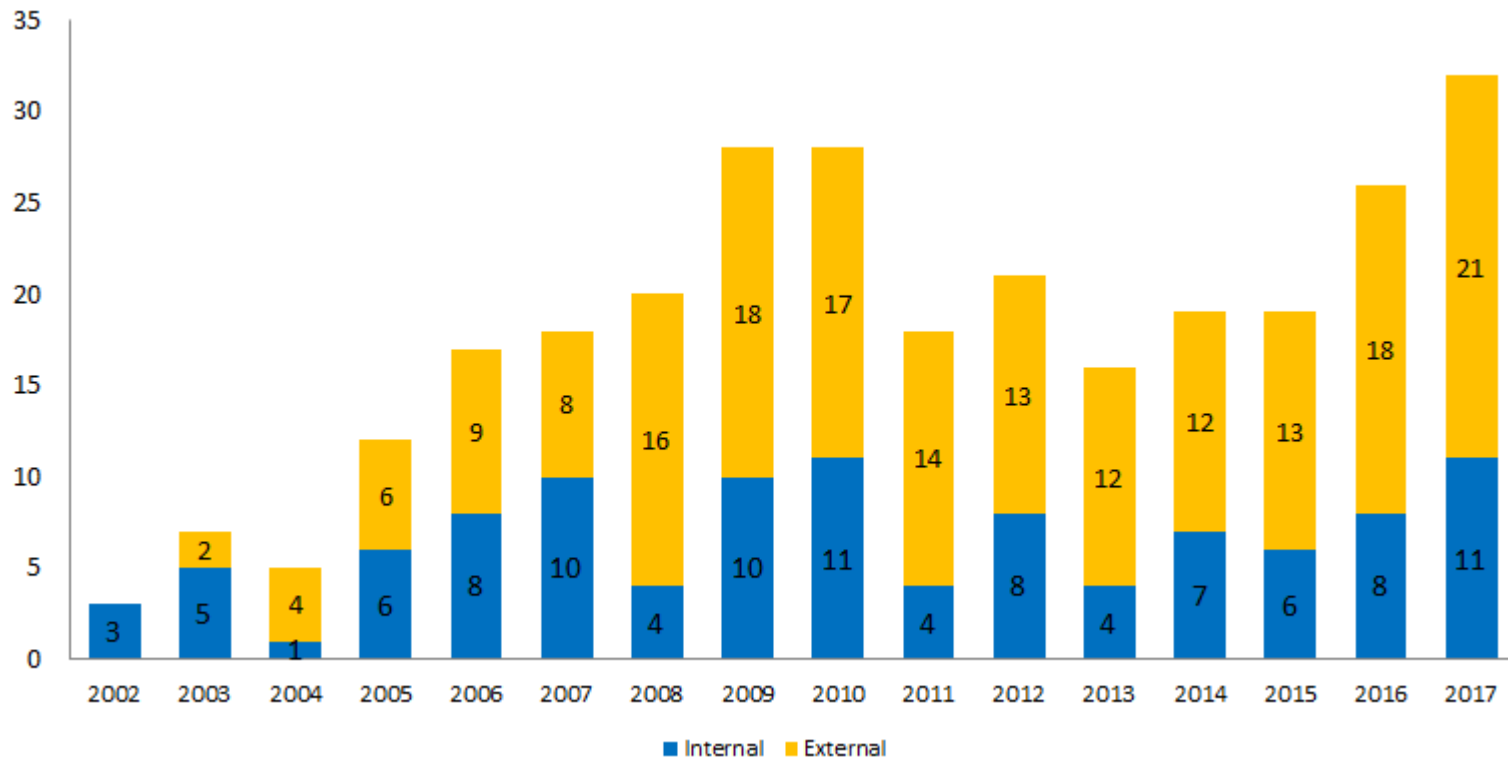




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## Requests for assistance inside and outside EU





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## Number of missions and experts deployed

