3rd IDRiM Café
Beirut Explosion August 2020

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Beirut Harbour after explosion 4.8.2020
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

**ERCC phone number**

+32 229 21112
How does the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** work?

1. **Affected country requests assistance from the Mechanism through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).**
2. **Member States and Participating States offer assistance, such as personnel and equipment.**
3. **ERCC coordinates the deployment and delivery of assistance.**
4. **Assistance delivered, experts return.**

In the context of a natural or man-made disaster inside or outside the EU.
• Explosion (2 750 tn ammonium nitrate) = 4,5 Richter scale EQ, strong shock wave and fire at the harbour.
• Immediate impact: approx.100 deaths, 5 000 injured, 300 000 loss their homes.
EU Civil Protection Team

Finland
Romania
France
Denmark
Czech Republic
Slovenia
Sweden
Germany
The Netherlands
Two ERCC LO
EU Civil Protection Mechanism response

• 20 MS/PS offered teams and tons of in-kind assistance, such as technical protective clothing, medical supplies and equipment, hygiene kits and shelter items, food, vehicles, generators etc.

• 7 MS/PS (CZ, FR, DE, EL, NL, PL and IT) deployed 6 USAR, 1 CBRN and 1 medical team. The UCPM response supported the initial search and rescue operations and emergency care as well as the later infrastructure rehabilitation and damage assessment efforts. In total, around 300 personnel from the EU joined the response.

• EUCP Team: 17 experts from 9 MS/PS (CZ, DE, DK, FI, FR, NL, RO, SE, SI) and 2 ERCC Liaison Officers.

• Building up in previous experiences: 2006, 2013, Albania 2019
EU Civil Protection Mechanism response + int. response

EU response

• A **USAR Coordination Cell (UCC)*** was established by the **NL HUSAR**, support the Lebanese Armed Forces with coordination of the international search and rescue response.

• USAR experts joined the **Damage Assessment Coordination Cell (DACC)** and supported the assessment of damaged buildings, > **580** assessments were carried out in the municipality of Beirut by engineers from international USAR teams, with more than half carried out by engineers from UCPM teams.

• A **FR medical team**, together with medical personnel from search and rescue teams, treated more than 150 patients.

• **IT CBRN** experts supported the operations by identification of possible CBRN related risks and definition of mitigation measures in the area affected by the explosion.
Challenges

• Hospitals overwhelmed by numbers of injured, five hospitals damaged (~500 beds lost). Many health centers and primary health care providers also no longer functional.

• COVID-19 pandemic ongoing (5,672 cases reported, 70 fatalities as of 7 August 2020), explosion reportedly also destroyed the stockpile of medical supplies stored in the port area (around 50% of total stocks).

• Ongoing severe socio-economic crisis, repeated civil unrest starting in October 2019 => restricted movements.

• Lebanon is a host country to 170,000 Palestinian and 1.5 million Syrian refugees.

• Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in charge at Beirut region (including harbor and airport) => no experience of the civilian response and coordination systems.
Thank you!