



EU Civil Protection Mechanism – Overview and specifics of marine pollution emergencies

A photograph of the European Union flag, which is blue with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is being held up by two hands, and it is waving in the wind. The background is a blurred green landscape with trees.

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Outline

- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)
- European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM)
- Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)
- European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) and rescEU
- Marine pollution: the DG ECHO action in prevention, preparedness, detection and response

Humanitarian aid and Civil protection

- The European Union provides assistance to countries and populations, both within Europe and abroad, when major disasters or humanitarian emergencies occur.
- EU action is in line with the four principles grounded in International Humanitarian Law (**humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence + solidarity**).
- In humanitarian aid, DG shares competence with Member States and together they are one of the **leading global humanitarian donors**. When it comes to civil protection, the EU assumes a **supporting role**, coordinating voluntary contributions of IKA from countries participating in the EUCPM.

Two Complementary Tools

HUMANITARIAN AID

What?

DG ECHO as major donor:
programming and policy development

How much?

€1.6 billion in 2019
€2 billion in 2020

To whom?

Implementing partners

Geographical scope?

Most vulnerable populations in third countries, mainly in developing countries

Type of disaster?

Natural and man-made disasters
(complex emergencies, wars, conflicts, forgotten crises etc.)

Timescale?

Immediate aftermath of crisis and beyond
Depending on humanitarian needs

CIVIL PROTECTION

DG ECHO as coordinator:
voluntary contributions of in-kind assistance from Participating States

€171 million in 2019
€613 million in 2020

Governments of disaster affected countries

Inside and outside the EU

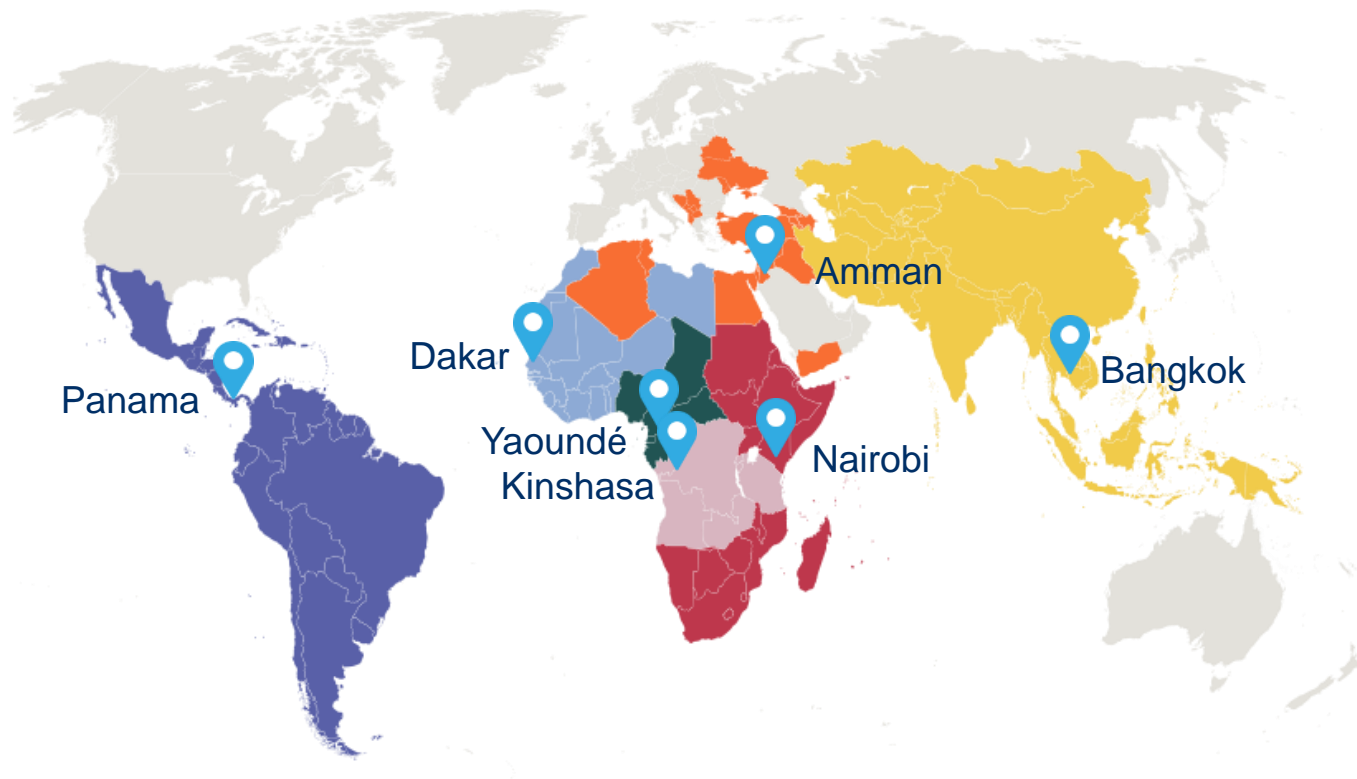
Natural and man-made disasters
(complex emergencies exceptional)

Acute stage only
Normally first few weeks after a disaster

Why we act?

- “To provide...assistance and relief and protection for people in third countries... victims of natural or man-made disasters” *Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union – Article 214*
- “...encourage cooperation between Member States for preventing and protecting against natural or man-made disasters” *Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union – Article 196*

ECHO Field Network



7 Regional Offices (RO)

155 international humanitarian experts

300 national staff members

Field offices in 40+ countries

Our aid delivery is only possible thanks to **our strong presence in the field**

EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM)

EU Civil Protection Mechanism

When the scale of an emergency overwhelms national response capacities, the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** enables a coordinated assistance from the Participating States.



34

Participating
countries include

EU Member
States



Iceland, Norway, Serbia,
North Macedonia,
Montenegro, and Turkey

Why is this important?

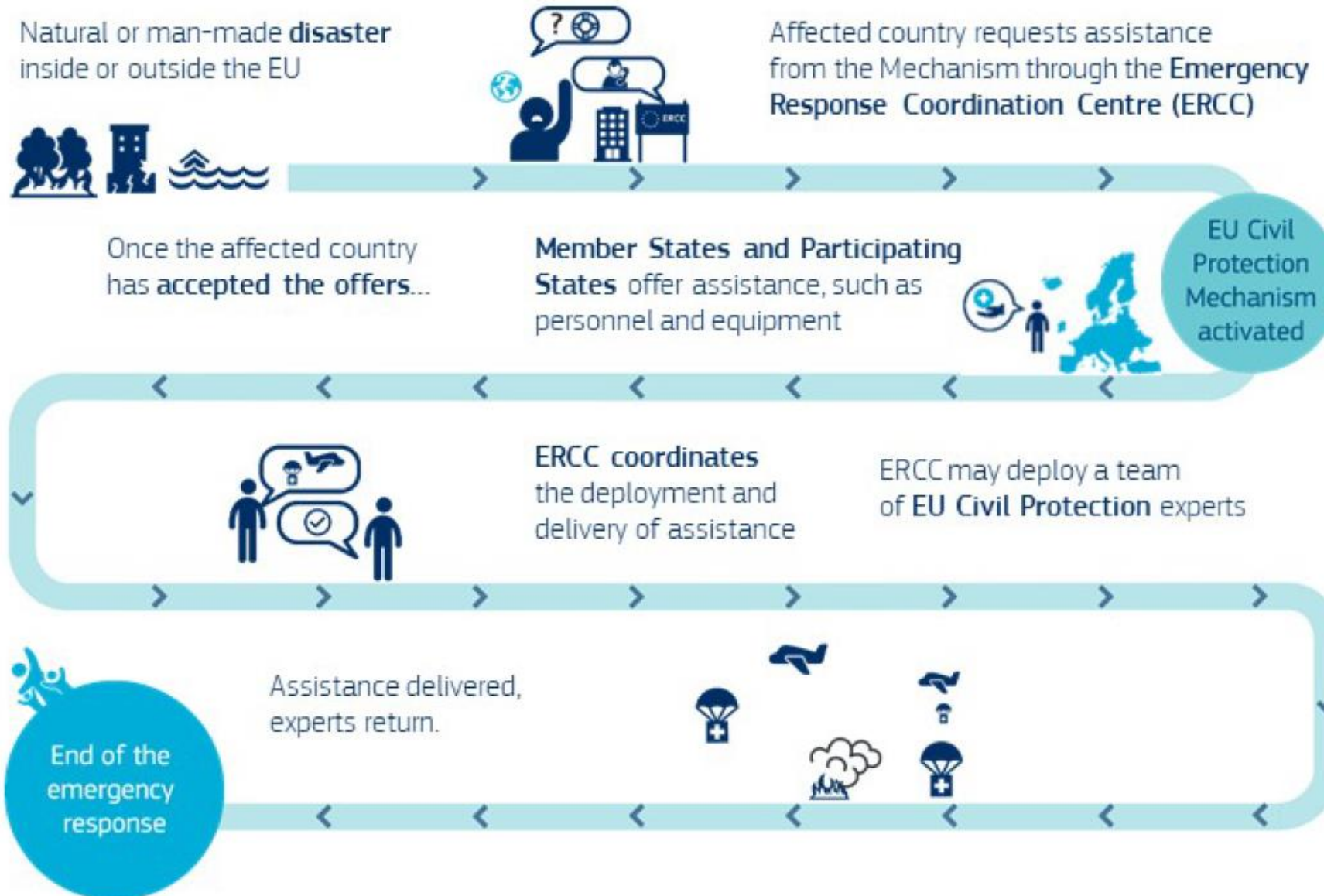
- One point of contact for disaster-stricken countries.
- Avoids duplication of relief efforts.
- Coordinates disaster preparedness and prevention.

Since its inception in 2001, the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** has responded to **over 500 requests** for assistance inside and outside the EU.

UCPM: Three dimensions

- B2** **1. Prevention:** Support Member and Participating States in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies.
- B3** **2. Preparedness:** Training, exercises, exchanges of experts, modules.
- Dir A** **3. Response:** Facilitate cooperation and coordination in responding to disasters inside and outside the EU.

How does the EUCPM work?



ERCC: who we are and what we do.

ERCC



Monitors disasters
around the globe



Maps disaster
risks



Provides real-time
information



Coordinates joint
European
response operations

Why it is important?

- The centre operates 24/7
- ERCC liaises directly with the national civil protection authorities of the country in need.
- The centre manages a reserve of pre-committed assistance from EU MS/PS that can be immediately deployed (the Pool).
- ERCC provides emergency communications and monitoring tools through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

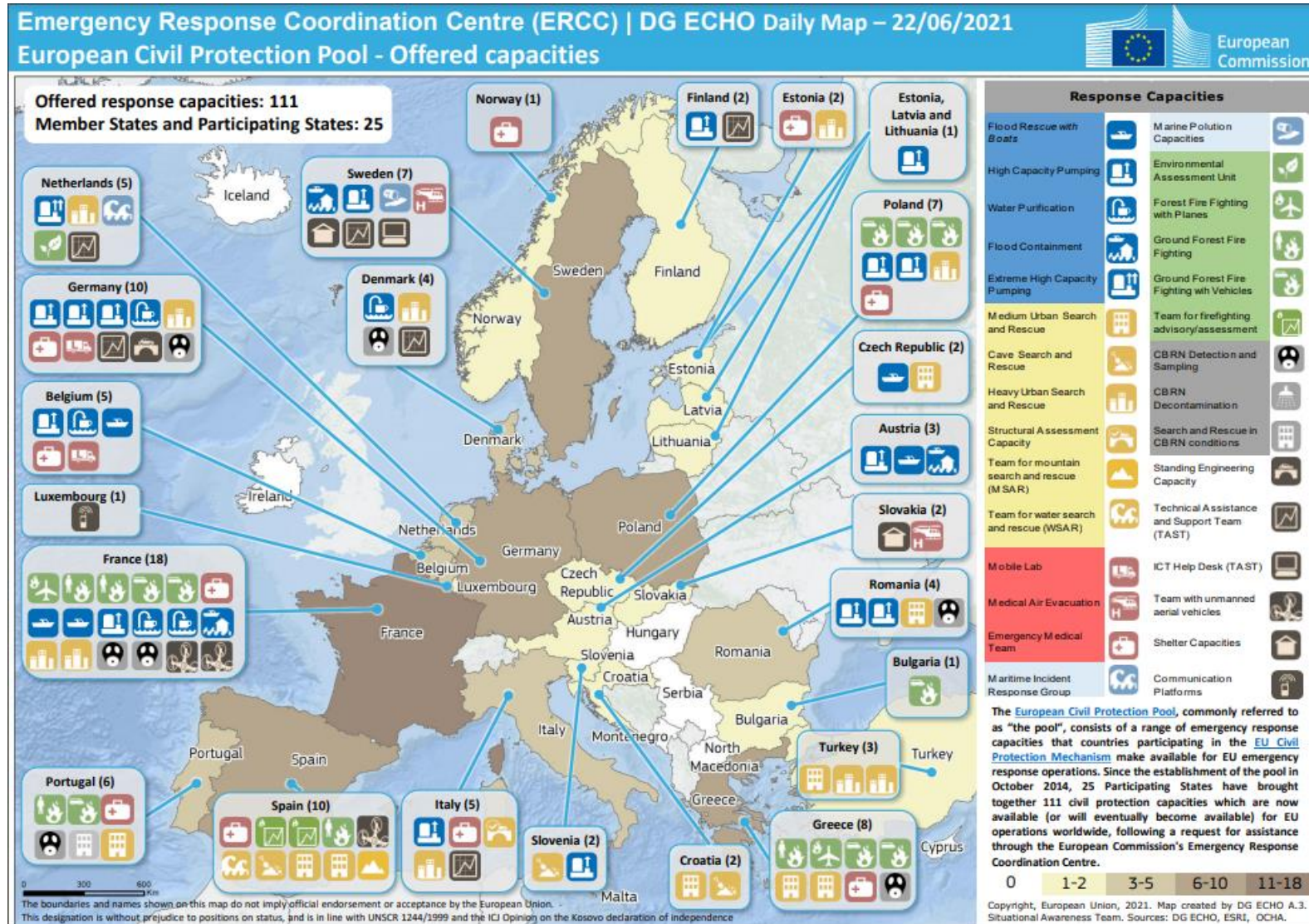
How does ERCC build its situational awareness?

- 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)
- Situation Awareness Team products
- Media
- ECHO Offices and EU Delegations
- EU Civil Protection Teams

European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP) and rescEU

European Civil Protection Pool

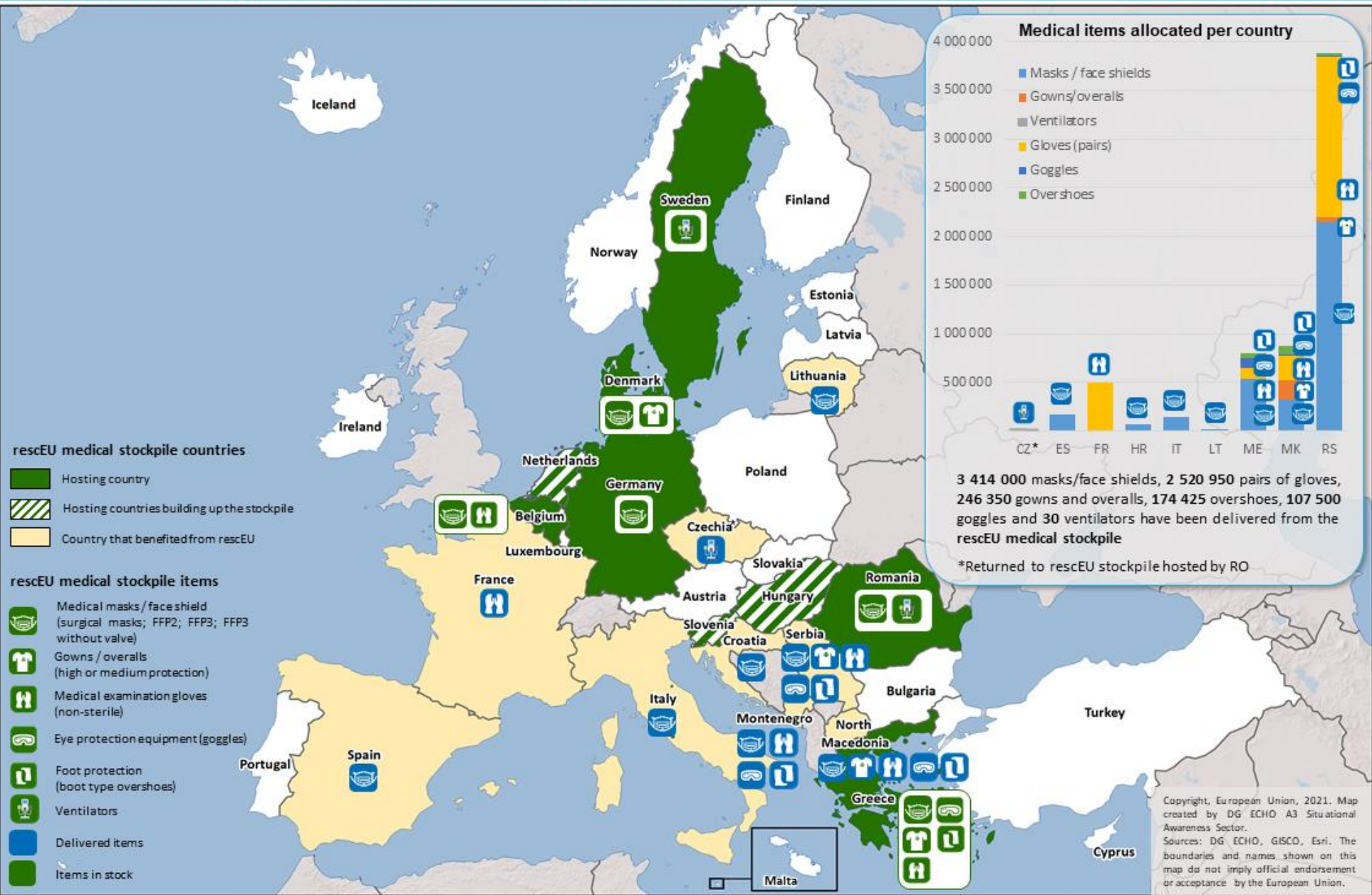
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FACTS & FIGURES

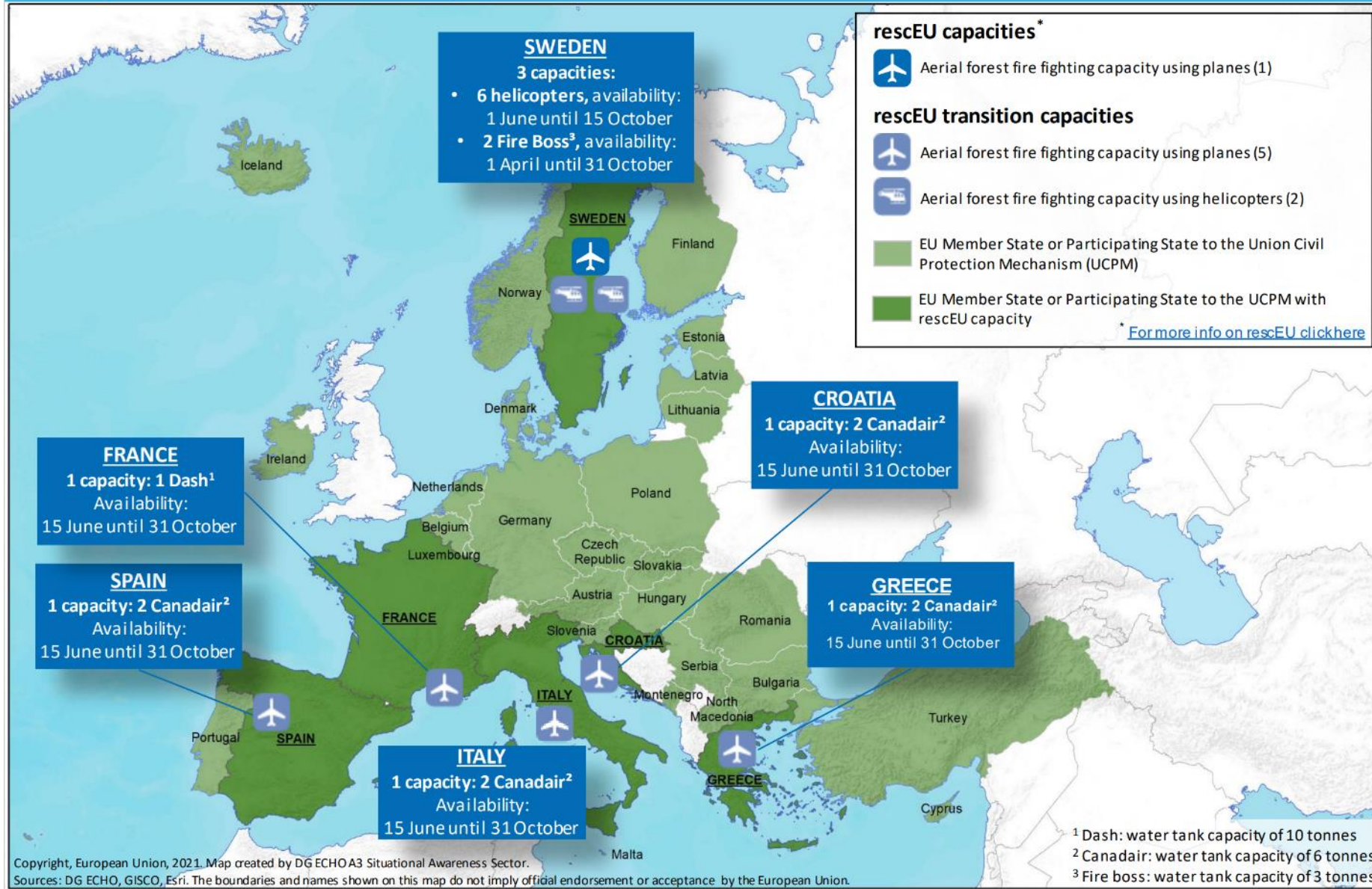
- ECPP is a reserve of resources committed by European states to respond to disasters inside and outside the EU.
- The Pool was established in 2013. Resources can be experts, equipment and transportation services. To date, 25 European countries contribute to the Pool.
- The Pool allows for a more predictable, pre-planned and quality-checked European response.





rescEU hosts:
DE, RO, DK, BE, EL, SE

First deliveries in
April 2020 (IT, LT)
May 2020 (ES, MK, ME)



Marine pollution: the DG ECHO action in prevention, preparedness, detection and response

Maritime Pollution

- EU is a Contracting Party to Regional (international) Agreements: HELCOM, Bonn, Lisbon and Barcelona Convention (Rempec) - contractual obligations
- UCPM/ ECHO - supported by EMSA - represents EU in working groups related to preparedness and response
- UCPM – support to EMSa and EU MS for preparedness (projects, training, exercises), expertise, transport support
- EMSA- technical support, oil spill response (vessels, equipment, dispersants), satellite imagery – Clean Sea Net.

MS X-Press Pearl Incident – Sri Lanka



MS X-Press Pearl Incident – Sri Lanka (2)

- On 20 May 2021, the “MV X-press Pearl” caught fire off the coast of Sri Lanka. On 2 June, the ship finally sank.
- On 4 June, the UCPM was activated based on requests for assistance from Sri Lanka and UN OCHA.
- Two environmental experts were deployed to Colombo between 15 and 30 June to join the OCHA/ JEU team.
- EMSA provided satellite imagery
- Norway provided advise on plastic pellets pollution management
- EC supported Sri Lanka Red Cross with EUR 200,000 humanitarian funding.

Thank you

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