



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 9.10.2003
SEC(2003) 1109

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING PAPER

**Interim evaluation of the Community action Programme in the field of civil
protection (2000-2004)**

Summary of the evaluation findings, comments and analysis by the Commission

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective and brief description of the Action Programme

Council Decision 1999/847/EC of 9 December 1999 established a Community Action Programme in the field of civil protection¹, based on Article 308 of the EC Treaty. This Programme seeks to “*support and supplement Member States’ efforts at national, regional and local levels for the protection of persons, property and in so doing environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters, without prejudice to the internal division of competence in Member States*”. Moreover, it seeks to facilitate co-operation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between countries in the field of civil protection. All countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) can participate in the Programme.

All the actions carried out in the field of civil protection are subject to the principle of subsidiarity. In spite of this fact, the European Civil Protection actors felt the need to co-ordinate their national actions and asked for a better networking between Member States. This need has been at the origin of the first Community Action Programme in the field of Civil Protection, which ran from 1998 to 1999. The current second Action Programme is subject to an interim evaluation, as requested by Council Decision 1999/847/EC. The Action Programme provides for a Community financing of a wide range of actions selected on the basis of their capacity to contribute to specific objectives such as increasing the degree of preparedness of Civil Protection actors or contributing to public information. Improving the means and methods for forecasting is also one important objective of the Programme. The Programme foresees a wide range of actions to deliver on the 5 specific objectives of the Programme. Among these actions, major projects of general interests, exercises and training should be mentioned.

The reference amount for the implementation of the Programme is € 1.5 million per year. As a result of repeated occurrence of natural disasters, in particular floods, the European Parliament granted an additional amount of € 2 million for eligible actions resulting from the 2003 calls for tender.

The Commission is responsible for the implementation of the Programme and is assisted by a Management Committee. The actions are undertaken on the basis of a three-year rolling plan that is reviewed annually. The Decision sets out that individual

¹ OJ L327, 21.12.1999, p.53.

actions must be implemented in close co-operation with the Member States and that, where relevant, actions should aim to contribute to the integration of Civil Protection objectives in other Community and Member States policies and actions.

The present Commission Staff Working Paper aims at identifying possible weaknesses of the Action Programme in order to find suitable solutions to improve its effectiveness. Furthermore, without prejudging the outcome of the Programme's final evaluation, the Paper may be used as an initial reflection paper when it comes to examine the future Civil Protection activities after the expiration of the Programme on 31 December 2004.

1.2 Methodology, objective and scope of the evaluation

Pursuant to Article 5 of Council Decision 1999/847/EC, "the Commission shall evaluate the implementation of this Programme at mid-term and before its end, and report respectively by 30 September 2002 and 31 March 2004 to the European Parliament and the Council."

In order to ensure independence and objectivity, following a call for tender, the Commission entrusted DMP Ltd., a Greek consultant, with the mid-term evaluation. The consultant presented a report to the Commission services in January 2003. The complete report is attached to this document. It can also be downloaded from the Internet (http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/prote/cp07e_en.htm).

The objectives of this evaluation were to assess whether the objectives of the Programme have been achieved and whether the budget invested so far as well as the organisation devoted to the implementation of the Programme have led to satisfactory results.

In analysing the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme, the evaluator was required to pay particular attention to the Council Decision of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions², the "Community mechanism", in order to ensure that results from the Programme, analysed by the evaluator, are a direct consequence of the Action Programme and not of other Community interventions. The main purpose of the Community mechanism is to co-ordinate at EU level the training and the intervention of national rescue and other intervention teams, their equipment and other national resources at EU level. In particular, the Commission established an EU response centre for monitoring, information and co-ordinating purposes with the Member States.

The methodology used comprised surveys and interviews, document analysis and four case studies.

The interim evaluation period concerns the implementation of the Action Programme in the field of civil protection from January 2000 to September 2002 in all Member States.

² OJ L297, 15.11.2001, p. 7.

1.3 Fact findings

The total budget for the 35 actions launched during the evaluated period amounts to 3,833,000 € (see Table 1).

Table 1: EU CONTRIBUTION AWARDED TO EACH SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

| SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES | BUDGET M EUROS | DISTRIBUTION (%) |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Prevention of risks | 0,226 | 5,9% |
| 2. Increasing Preparedness | 2,397 | 62,5% |
| 3. Improving Response and Rehabilitation Techniques | 0,208 | 5,4% |
| 4. Improving Public Information, Education & Awareness | 0,495 | 12,9% |
| 5. Horizontal Actions – New Technologies | 0,507 | 13,3% |
| TOTAL | 3,833 | 100% |

Source: DMP Ltd. Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Action Programme in the field of civil protection 2000-2004

Out of the 35 projects,

- more than 60 % were launched to increase *preparedness* and to improve *prevention*. Even though some countries have not taken the lead for actions in these fields, all of them participated in the Programme, either as lead countries or as participants in workshops, conferences or other actions (see Annex: Diagram 1). This shows that Civil Protection actors found it useful to be offered a platform at EU level and took this opportunity to develop a common understanding of civil protection approaches and to exchange best practices in that field.

In fields such as disaster medicine and prevention of natural and technological disasters, the participation of the Member States has shown their interest to better align their policies. The Major Project on prevention resulted in the elaboration of reports on risk assessment and recommendations on flood and flash flood prevention. On the basis of these reports, the Joint Research Centre is currently preparing a Major Project on flood modelling and forecasting. Moreover, the expert exchange system contributed largely to improving the preparedness ability of Civil Protection actors.

- Six projects, representing a budget of nearly € 500,000, contributed to the objective of *information, awareness raising* and *education of the public*. All Member States participated actively in this group of actions. The projects notably promoted the single European emergency call number “112”, focused on children’s behaviour in distress situations and increased the readiness of European Civil Protection actors through exchanging views and practices.

The project that concentrated on promoting the single European emergency call number “112” is one concrete example of integration of civil protection issues into other EU policies, in the present case telecommunication policies for which Directorate-General Information Society (Directorate A) has the lead. Furthermore, other actions aiming at improving awareness of citizens have shown good

outcomes, such as on warning signals in the case of an accident or disaster, or even the exchange of experiences on factors that influence the behaviour of children in distress situations. A first Major Project on “Information to the public” had been finalised and gave rise to a second one that started in December 2002. Member States consider this action as an important tool for developing common recommendations and guidelines.

- Horizontal actions amounting to more than € 500,000 were devoted to the *exchange of information with the accession countries* or to the *use of new technologies*. The added value of these actions is that they also contributed to the Community Mechanism by supporting identification of Candidate countries priorities and by exchanging best practice for using new communication tools when it comes to responding to emergencies.

A clear need has been identified to involve candidate countries in the Action Programme and, by doing so, also in the Community Mechanism. One of the projects aimed at identifying civil protection policies in candidate countries and to present them the *acquis communautaire*. As a consequence, these countries became involved in the Community Mechanism in 2002, on an equal footing with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in emergency assistance planning. In the same context, the use of new technologies is essential when it comes to plan more rapidly assistance interventions. Here, the objective is to create a common user platform of new technologies in the field of risk prevention and disaster response. The Directorate-General Information Society will also contribute to this through the topic "Improving Risk Management" in call 2 of the Sixth RTD Framework Programme.³

Actions in the field of prevention and preparedness, which are the major field of intervention of the Civil Protection Programme, are of a high priority. An important side effect of the Programme to note is that these actions help also to implement and thus complement the Community Mechanism. Geographical distribution, EU subvention rate and project allocations according to the different actions are shown in Diagrams 2 and 3 in Annex.

2. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

The Commission services have analysed the conclusions of the external evaluator and have identified the most important issues. These relate to the long-term impact of the Action Programme, to other Civil Protection instruments and policies, to networking, management procedures and result-orientation of the Programme.

In addition, the Member States were sent a questionnaire. On the basis of their replies, the Commission services have identified three key areas of action in the Programme. They are “Public awareness raising”, “Prevention” as well as “Preparedness and response”.

³ Workplan 2003-2004, section 2.3.2.9 ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/ist/docs/wp2003-04_final.pdf

2.1 External evaluation

According to the external evaluation, the Action Programme is an effective instrument to support Member States' efforts undertaken to identify common approaches. However, it was stated that the distribution of resources does not seem to be well balanced among the different specific objectives or some of the main objectives as described in Council Decision 1999/847 and that it does not reflect the interests/priorities of some of the Member States. The evaluation also indicated that there is still potential to integrate civil protection issues into other Community policies and that the networking of the national civil protection actors constitutes the key element of the Programme.

2.1.1 Long-term impact

In two of the three areas in which projects were carried out (improvement of preparedness - new technologies and techniques to deal with disasters – and assistance to sensitive and vulnerable target groups, long-term impacts were found to be low. Moreover, the influence of the Programme on Civil Protection national procedures was found to be minimal. Nevertheless, it should be highlighted that the Programme contributes to a large extent to the improvement of a common civil protection understanding. Bearing in mind that citizens are more and more travelling and that they may have to face an increase of risks, not only risks caused by terrorist attacks, but also risks resulting out of more extreme climate conditions, the national civil protection services need more than ever an instrument for identifying common approaches. Such approaches have to focus on best practice for warning citizens, informing them on behaviour to follow in a distress situation; on means and ways of communicating between intervention teams and on how to co-ordinate their activity at EU and international level.

The reason for establishing the Action Programme was precisely to offer to the Member States an instrument for developing common understanding in Civil Protection issues at EU level which is difficult to assess in a long term perspective. As such, the Action Programme might thus be considered as providing material for future common rules at EU level, for which the Community mechanism can be used. It has to be borne in mind that the establishment of the Action Programme was a first real step towards a civil protection action at EU level.

2.1.2 Co-ordination and synergy with other civil protection instruments and related policies

The issue was raised by several Member States, who would like to see co-ordination fostered, in particular between the Action programme and the Mechanism.

In many fields, synergy is sought in order to contribute to the integration of Civil Protection objectives in other EU and Member States policies and actions. Examples are the implementation of the single European emergency call number “112”, tunnel safety, regional planning, health issues, education and training, forest fire prevention and research. In particular, research results should be integrated into Civil Protection policy and actions. In parallel, identified research needs from Civil Protection practitioners should be integrated into the underpinning research policy of the EU. All these fields have benefited from actions developed under the Action Programme and

allowed other Commission services to present their activities to the Permanent Network of National Correspondents for Civil Protection (PNNC)⁴. The broad scope of themes covered by the Action Programme makes co-ordination with all sector policies a challenge in itself. In addition, the fact that the Community Mechanism was only adopted at the end of 2001 implies that the question of synergy with the Action Programme is limited in time but will be of key interest in the final evaluation of the Programme.

2.1.3 *Networking, dissemination of results and participation of countries*

The Programme has led to an extension of already existing common platforms in the field of civil protection. They now exist at different levels:

- **Networking:** the PNNC members are also members of the Management Committee for the Action Programme and the Mechanism. Meeting three times a year, the Committee members decide on the 3-year rolling plan establishing priorities for the Action Programme. They also take the necessary steps for implementing the Community mechanism. A good flow of information between the two instruments is thus guaranteed.
- **Member States and EEA countries:** they are free to participate actively in those actions that are of interest to them. These cover those actions which are eligible, i.e. “*interesting all Member States or a significant number of them*”. Even if the starting point is often linked to the degree of occurrence of disasters projects related to natural disasters are more often of higher importance for southern Member States. The actions chosen so far have mostly been actions that could raise the interest of a maximum of Member States and EEA countries. Northern Member States often contribute in the fields of prevention, whilst Member States from the southern EU provide the others with their national experiences.
- **Amongst the participating countries,** specific platforms have been created to tackle specific issues, such as maritime safety or fire prevention. As a side effect, the presentation of these projects to the PNNC contributes to the seamless information flow between European Civil Protection actors and the different Commission services.
- **Candidate countries:** the action on “Information exchange with candidate countries” confirmed the need to fully involve them in the Action Programme. Although they were already during the evaluation period participating in the Action Programme and the Community mechanism on an informal basis, the external evaluator did not consider this as being sufficient. Since Spring 2003, 11 candidate countries participate fully in the Community mechanism after having signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission.

⁴ The PNNC is an informal network of the national Civil Protection authorities that stay in close contact to the Commission’s Civil Protection Unit. It is the most suitable reception platform for new civil protection related initiatives borne by the different DGs.

2.1.4 *Management procedures of the Programme*

Several of the participating countries state that the financial and technical procedures, from the publication of a call for proposals to the signing of a grant agreement are too long and too burdensome. It could be feared that some potential applicants will not present proposals due to their limited resources in staff and budget. In particular, it can be expected that candidate countries face major difficulties to present and develop actions under the Action Programme. The evaluator noted that calls should be clearer and a contact person should be appointed to answer questions and to clarify aspects of the tender. The expected results of the projects should be fully laid out in the proposals and discussed in the Management Committee.

2.1.5 *Focus, result-orientation and measurement*

Further to the specific objectives of the Programme, the evaluator noted that priorities should be made clear in order to have a more strategic and focused implementation of the Programme. Priorities deriving from Member State concerns could be a starting point, but definition in an EU perspective would be essential to maximise the value of the Programme.

It was also suggested to define disaster reduction targets. Nevertheless, this would only be possible to a limited extent and only in relation to man-made risks. Also, the frequency of disastrous events would not be a good indicator to fine-tune the distribution of projects. A possible target could be “loss of life reduced to 0”, because this could be achieved through proper building practices (earthquakes) and proper spatial planning and protection levels (floods, fires, landslides). General prevention, preparedness and response to disasters should remain the overall goal and their relevant indicators have to underpin the programme.

2.2 Overall assessment by Member States

All Member States were requested to complete a questionnaire and in addition, DMP Ltd. interviewed several countries participating in the Action Programme. In their replies, they state in particular that the Action Programme has a significant impact on co-operation and exchange of experience (see Table 2) which corresponds to its main objective.

Table 2: NUMBER OF PROJECTS INFLUENCING IMPROVEMENT OF COOPERATION AND NETWORKING BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

| Improvement of co-operation and networking between MS | Projects |
|---|-----------|
| Direct influence | 26 |
| Indirect influence | 3 |
| No influence | 4 |
| Total | 33 |

The replies show that the Programme is successful in creating a framework for exchanging Civil Protection related experience at operational and expert level. The networking of Civil Protection actors accompanying the Programme is highly appreciated by a vast majority of Member States. They also note that the Programme achieved its interim objectives by delivering sustainable results. They strongly support the Programme and they would favour its continuation.

2.3 Overall assessment by the Commission services

The Action Programme gives a genuine European dimension to a policy area for which so far the EC Treaty does not confer a specific competence to the Community. Three main fields of active contribution of the Action Programme are in particular worth noting. These are public awareness raising, prevention, preparedness and response.

2.3.1 Public awareness raising

As the mobility of the European citizens is increasing, measures have to be taken to give them a feeling of safety and security when visiting other countries. A growing number of people are migrating to other countries for work reasons and safety provisions may differ from those of their home country. Signs and alarms are often not harmonised, evacuation plans and rules may be different and in general unknown risks in a foreign environment may easily endanger the live or health of the moving citizen. Direct comparisons between countries may help to protect people and their goods by establishing common rules of behaviour in distress situations. The first Major Project “Information to the public” which was developed during the evaluation period was very well accepted by the Member States. As they considered a follow-up project necessary, a second Major Project “Information to the public” started in December 2002. The Commission services welcome this initiative, since it contributes directly to the citizen’s needs for safety.

2.3.2 Prevention

As regards the Major Project “Prevention of natural and technological disasters” led by Finland, its results have been appreciated by the participating countries. Prevention remains priority in the 2003 rolling plan. Information to the public, awareness raising of the citizen as well as risk assessment and management are the key topics for further actions.

In 2003, the additional budget granted by the European Parliament will mainly be used to extend the scope of the flood forecasting and modelling system LISFLOOD developed by the JRC/IES in support of the Civil Protection Unit established within Directorate-general Environment. As this system has direct environmental and regional policy links, there is a real need for integrating the flood prevention issue into other EU policies. The candidate countries along the Elbe and Danube rivers will be fully involved in the development of this action.

As regards forest fire prevention, a project lead by Greece has shown the way forward on how forest fire fighting resources are best to be dispatched. In that context, the forest fire expert group is experiencing major progress. It is now ready to draft an international agreement for mutual assistance in the Mediterranean Basin. Again, the

support of the JRC is very useful in that context. Training courses for forest fire fighters and decision takers at national operational level should follow. In this context, the Action Programme serves as an important link between Commission services and the participating countries.

2.2.3. *Preparedness and response*

Apart from Civil Protection actions in the field of prevention, there is also a need for action in the fields of preparedness and response. The Major Project on disaster medicine is the natural reply to this need. It encompasses projects, such as common exercises, and the aftercare of victims, such as psychological help.

Preparedness also means becoming acquainted with new technologies for planning tasks or for monitoring weather conditions in disaster affected areas. A project on the use of new technologies lead by France has given a major input by creating a common platform for users in the field of Civil Protection.

Moreover, it is important to mention the exchange of experts. During the evaluation period, many national experts have been given the opportunity for an exchange of experience. As this action has clear linkages with the response to disasters, it is now financed under the Community Mechanism.

In general, in the fields of preparedness and response, the participating countries request a better flow of information between Civil Protection actors. This clearly came out when new priorities were fixed in October 2002.

3. THE ACTION PLAN AND THE WAY FORWARD

The following table summarises the main suggestions made by the external evaluator and the actions taken/to take by the Commission services:

Table 3:

| Action suggested by the external evaluator | Action taken/to take by the Commission services |
|---|--|
| To improve identification of future needs. | A new call for proposals has been launched. The priorities have been laid down on the basis of the results of previous actions and in accordance with the Permanent Network of National Civil Protection Correspondents. |
| To focus more on accession countries. | The Accession Countries participate already in the Programme. They may present actions under the lead of the participating countries, i.e. the Member States and the EEA countries. |
| To open the future calls to other Civil protection actors, such as NGOs or local and regional actors. | Calls are open to the national authorities and for the first time also to other civil protection actors. |
| To use the Programme as a tool to complement the Community Mechanism. | The results of projects developed under the Programme with practical results for operations on the scene are going to be closely linked to the Community Mechanism. |

| | |
|---|--|
| To improve result-orientation and coherence between the different actions. | Grant agreements as a result of the calls for proposals will be significantly improved in order to get final reports, which are in line with other Civil Protection policies. New calls for actions will be clearer in their objectives and progress reports will be regularly discussed in the Committee. |
| To better disseminate the Programme's results. | Internet pages will be created for informing the European citizens on how to behave in extreme situations. |
| To focus on a common European understanding on how to prevent emergencies from happening as well as on preparedness before a disaster occurs. | The Commission services are working on a Communication on prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made accidents. |
| To co-ordinate with international organisations. | This is more important within the Community Mechanism than for the Action Programme. |

3.1 Ensuring long-term impact

While bearing in mind the national competencies in this field, future actions should continue to focus on a common European understanding on how to prevent emergencies from happening as well as on preparedness before a disaster occurs. With this in mind, the Commission services are already working on a Communication on prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made accidents. The Communication will benefit from the Action Programme actions developed so far, which recommend new steps for preventing of and responding to accidents and disasters.

Moreover, the Commission services are following closely the work undertaken by the Convention in view of establishing a legal base for civil protection policies in a new Treaty. Now that the Convention has reviewed the Treaty, it is possible that EU supporting measures in the field of Civil Protection will be laid down. This opens new perspectives for future activities of the Commission's mandate in this field. In this conjunction, certain elements of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)⁵ initiative can contribute to improving the security of European citizens by providing the technical means for civil protection, conflict prevention, disaster monitoring/management and humanitarian aid.

3.2 Improving the management procedures of the Action Programme

Even if some of the participating countries consider the financial and technical procedures for presenting proposals too heavy and burdensome, the new approach, i.e. the opening of the Action Programme to NGOs and regional and local civil protection actors, will guarantee its continuation. All of these actors will benefit from such an opening since they will be in the position to directly address their needs to the Commission. If it is of paramount importance that the national Civil Protection authorities propose actions and projects, the Commission services think that it is equally important to get other actors involved in the Action Programme. This

⁵ For information on GMES, see: <http://www.gmes.info>

objective can only be reached by giving them a right to access to the forthcoming calls for proposals.

So far, the Action Programme was limited to intergovernmental actions. Future actions will need to demonstrate the added value of joining forces and therefore, the next calls for proposals will be open to all stakeholders. Future actions should be easy to understand and apply for the European citizens, e.g. such as simple guidelines on how to behave in several different emergency situations.

Moreover, the new calls for proposals will be clearer in their objectives and progress reports will be regularly discussed in the Management Committee. This goes along with the final presentation of the results to the Committee members who will be asked to propose follow-up solutions.

The acceding countries will have to be given a special support, since they are not acquainted with the procedures to be followed at administrative level. It has to be foreseen that they will have the chance to participate in the 2004 call for proposals, since this will be the last one launched under the present Action Programme.

New calls for proposals and tenders are in preparation. They will address the priorities identified by the Commission services and the participating countries. The calls will aim for more result-oriented actions and will be open to other actors in the field of Civil Protection, including non-governmental organisations and national or international rescue services.

Compared to former grant agreements, future actions will have a clearer description of the expected results and will encourage the project leader to establish networking between different thematic projects wherever possible. This should give more Community added value to the actions financed at EU level. Moreover, the outcomes of the projects should be used to develop a common understanding amongst the participating countries.

It is essential that the final results of each project are disseminated in an appropriate manner within all participating countries. This will be achieved by making available the final reports of all projects on the civil protection website as well as by regular presentations of projects at meetings of the Management Committee.

3.3 Focusing action on strategic priorities

In order to obtain more tangible results and to achieve a better coherence amongst the actions, these should be fewer in number but with a higher budget. Fewer actions mean improved networking and increased transparency. This would allow the participants in each project to go into more detail and to better know what is done by other participating countries, thus further improving the exchange of experience and the co-operation between countries, as foreseen by the Council Decision establishing the Action Programme. A limitation to just a few thematic actions, such as will be the case for prevention and public awareness raising, is also nearer to the actual needs of the citizen. Moreover, this approach will help integrate the civil protection dimension into other Community policies.

As the evaluator notes, some of the financial resources initially foreseen for actions developed under the Action Programme are now covered by the Community Mechanism. Therefore, concentrating the budget on a limited number of actions falling under the scope of the Action Programme will be the future line to take. Moreover, the entry into force of the Programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008)⁶ will allow participating countries to carry out disaster medicine projects under this new Programme and thus free resources from the Action Programme.

Priorities should be defined within the Management Committee and substantiated with an improved flow of information on other Civil Protection related activities carried out by Commission services. As a consequence, “information to the public”, “risk assessment and management methodologies” have been identified as priorities.

Defining priorities should involve taking account of those of candidate countries. Candidate countries are currently participating as observers in the Management Committee meetings. They have already been invited to present projects that could be developed under the lead of the participating countries. As soon as they become full members, these countries will have equal access to the Action Programme.

Therefore, the time has come to re-orient the Programme strategically, taking into account the priorities and needs of candidate countries. Subject to the Council Decision establishing the Action Programme, their involvement in this discussion will be given due consideration in order to identify their main concerns. These considerations will play a major role when examining jointly with the Member States the future of the Action Programme after 2004.

3.4 Improving co-ordination with other Commission services, other Civil Protection instruments and international Civil Protection organisations

At their request, other Commission services have regularly been invited in the past to attend the Committee meetings in order to present their policies to the national civil protection authorities. In future, additional efforts to inform the Committee on initiatives launched by other Commission services in order to improve transparency at institutional level should be made. Regular brief summaries or press releases will be sent to the Committee members and additional information will be sent during the inter-session periods. Co-operation with the Research Directorate-General is envisaged to promote the take up of applicable research results, particularly under the Natural Disasters topic of the Sixth RTD Framework Programme, and the GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) initiative.

The co-ordination with international organisations is more important for the Community Mechanism than for the Action Programme. However, actions developed under the Action Programme are already developed taking into account the international context and the existing international achievements in the field of Civil Protection.

⁶ OJ L271, 9.10.2002, p.1.

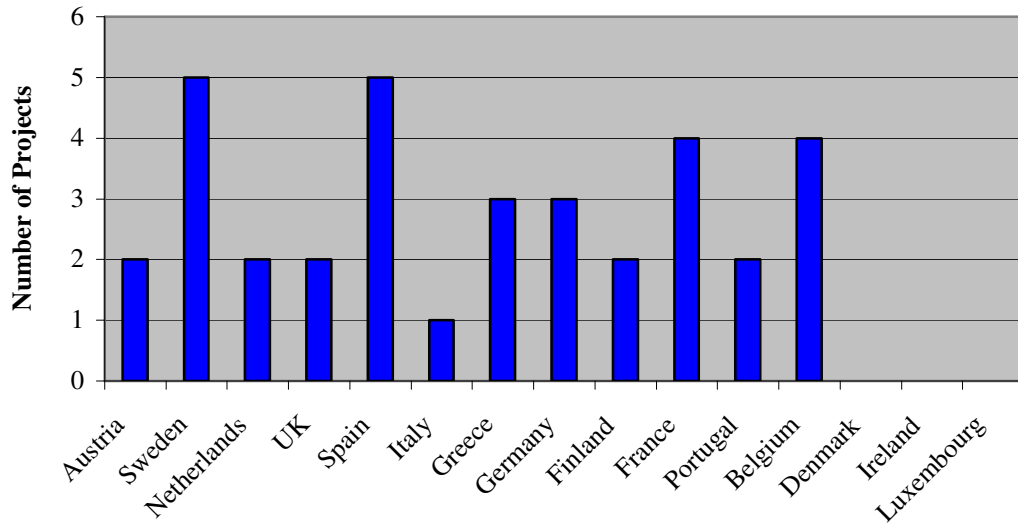
The Commission services consider that the objectives of the projects funded under the Action Programme, which aim at practical results for intervention operations on the scene should be more closely linked to the Community Mechanism. Such projects already take into account the need to organise international exercises, to develop projects on new technologies, including where appropriate projects allowing for rapid information by satellite images in order to assess a disaster. Commission services consider that the exchange of expertise and of experts between participating countries is of high importance since it contributes to improving the common response to disasters and to major accidents. This exchange of expertise and experts will also facilitate a co-ordinated EU response to civil protection emergencies undertaken as part of civilian crisis management.

4. FINAL REMARKS

The Action Programme expires at the end of 2004. It is therefore important to launch a broad analysis of what should be the follow-up to the present Action Programme. This analysis should be based on the present interim evaluation, on the final evaluation, on the new article on Civil Protection in the draft Constitutional Treaty and also on the evaluation of the Community Mechanism. The outcome of this analysis should pave the way for a comprehensive Community policy in the field of Civil Protection.

ANNEX

**DIAGRAM 1
NUMBER OF PROJECTS GRANTED TO EACH COUNTRY**



**DIAGRAM 2
EU CONTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO THE ACTIONS**

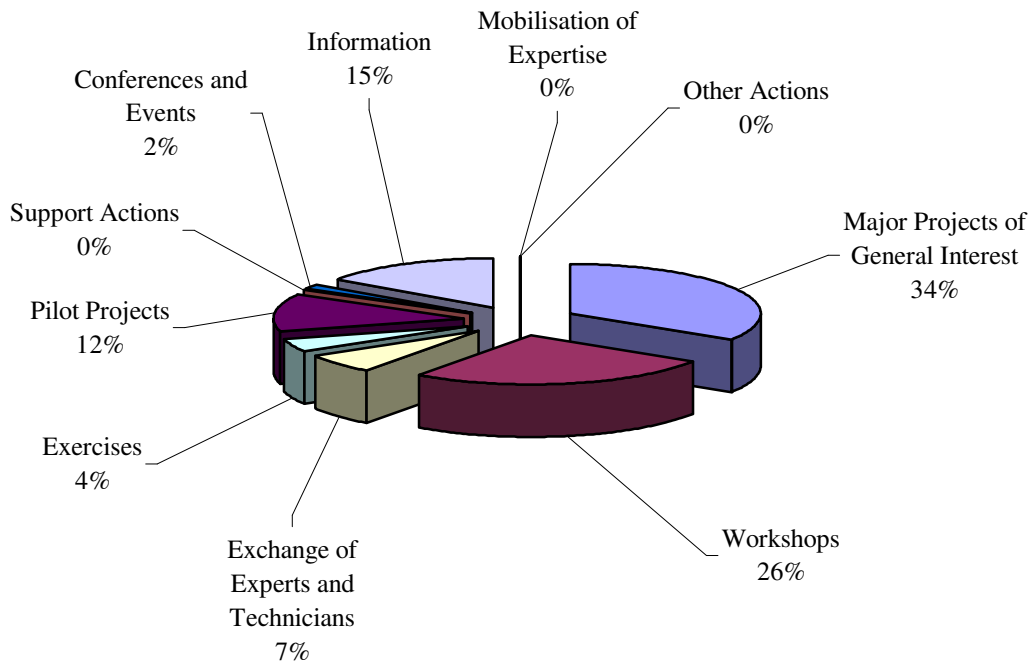


DIAGRAM 3
PROJECT DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO THE ACTIONS

