

## LAND BRANDENBURG: thematic peer review on wildfire risk management



### The UCPM Peer Review Programme

A Peer Review of disaster risk management provides a country with an opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and man-made disasters and to identify ways of improving disaster risk prevention, preparedness, and response.

The European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), under the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), supports Member States to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses, and putting forward recommendations to increase their effectiveness.

Based on an independent analysis, a peer review assists civil protection authorities in improving its DRM capabilities, identifies better approaches to policy and operations, facilitates mutual learning and exchange of good practices, raises awareness among stakeholders involved in DRM in the reviewed country, and proposes concrete recommendations.

Wildfire peer reviews are a strategic tool for strengthening resilience against wildfires at the European, national, and sub-national level, with the primary objective to exchange knowledge through independent analyses conducted by experts from UCPM countries.

### Why a wildfire peer review in Land Brandenburg?

The state of Brandenburg is one of the federal states most at risk of forest fires in the Federal Republic of Germany, partly due to the pine forests and the prevailing climate. In the recent past, large forest fires lasting several days have posed a real threat to settlements and human lives. Additionally, in some forest areas there is a posed threat of contamination with explosive ordnance, making firefighting difficult or even impossible. Unfortunately, due to regional conditions, the frequency of wildfires may very well increase. This makes it all the more important to develop reactive and proactive strategies that combine preventive and defensive measures, especially in the context of the Wildland-Urban Interface. The peer review offers the opportunity for an independent look at the current control and response measures in Brandenburg. It may show unbiased optimisation potentials within the framework of a European best practice approach in order to consider the interdepartmental and inter-agency challenges of identified vegetation fire risks. The review may also consider the consequences in connection with special circumstances – suspected explosive ordnance sites, populated areas close to vegetation or forest settlements – as a task to be solved jointly.

### Objectives and key focus areas of the review

The overall objective is to identify areas for improvements and highlight good practices within the wildfire risk management governance in Land Brandenburg. Good practices from other UCPM countries will also be highlighted for inspiration. The review will be mainly focused on the following key areas:

- **Governance of wildfire risk management:** Overall governance framework; Wildfire risk management strategy; Institutional framework; Coordination and partnership; Wildfire risk financing; Systemic resilience.
- **Wildfire risk management planning:** Legislative framework and processes; Roles of stakeholders; Prioritisation of measures; Monitoring, evaluation and reporting; Policy coherence.
- **Wildfire prevention:** Legislative framework and processes; Landscape management; Fire use laws, guidelines, and enforcement; Innovation and knowledge services.
- **Wildfire preparedness:** Legislative framework and processes; Training, exercises, and international exchanges.
- **Recovery and lessons learned:** Legislative framework and processes; Lessons learned; Data collection and analysis.



### The wildfire peer review in Land Brandenburg: actors and main steps

The authorities of Land Brandenburg, together with the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK) and the European Commission, identify the key objectives and focus areas of the peer review in Land Brandenburg and work closely together to prepare its implementation.



#### Defining the scope

#### Selecting the peers



Taking into account the agreed objectives, independent experts (peers) are selected by the European Commission to conduct the review assessment. The peers are often proposed by civil protection authorities of other UCPM countries.

On-site mission in Land Brandenburg lasts one week. The peers conducting the review participate in multi-stakeholders' meetings and collect views and information on managing wildfire risk in the country. A desk research is conducted prior to the mission.



#### On site mission in Land Brandenburg

#### Stakeholders' engagement



Relevant stakeholders with a role in wildfire risk management (public authorities, academic and private sector entities) are invited to participate in the review and to provide the peers with relevant information.

Representatives of the European Commission accompany the peers throughout the review mission, though without taking an active part in the drafting the analysis.



#### Support provided by European Commission

#### Draft review report



By the end of the review mission, the peers prepare a first draft report, which will include good practices of the wildfire risk management system in Land Brandenburg, identified through the review, and a list of recommendations to further improve the management of risks.

The final report of the peer review is prepared by the peers after the mission and handed over to the authorities of Land Brandenburg in early 2025.



#### Finalisation of the review