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The Italian Civil Protection and the EU research projects on DRR

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Examples of relationship science – decision-making in civil protection

- Many EU Countries: committees and expert groups appointed by the national civil protection authorities.

- Countries also outside EU: advisory councils, advisory committees, national academies and chief scientific advisors. Role also played by the National Platforms for DRR.
- United States: formal agreement for cooperation and coordination between FEMA and USGS.

- New Zealand: relationship openly acknowledged (e.g., Guide to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan).

- Spain: collaboration behind the writing of governmental documents, as with Spain's National Civil Protection Strategy.

- Chile → also support for the training of civil protection operators (e.g., Civil Protection Academy created by ONEMI).

A EU perspective

DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art. 13, provided that "*The Commission shall, within the Union Mechanism […], set up and manage a training network open to training centres for civil protection and emergency management personnel as well as other relevant actors and institutions on prevention of, preparedness for and response to disasters. […]*".

DECISION (EU) 420/2019 introduced the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, which is "*a **network** of relevant civil protection and disaster management actors and institutions, **including centres of excellence, universities and researchers** […], together with the Commission*".

REGULATION (EU) 2021/836
further strengthens KN.

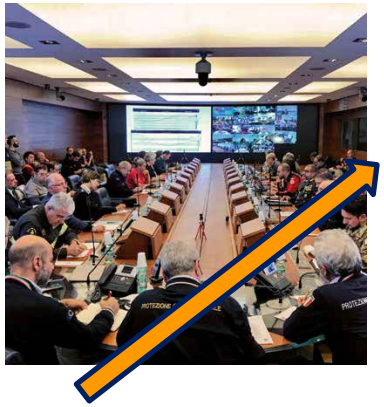
Europe is making huge efforts to build this Knowledge Network, involving all the different stakeholders.

The civil protection system in Italy

The Italian **National Civil Protection Service** (NCPS) is:

- multilevel, with responsibilities in a wide range of fields of the risk cycle;
- coordinated by the Civil Protection Department;
- currently ruled by the Civil Protection Code (L.D. 1/2018).

Subjects that make up the system →



Components: State, Regions and Autonomous Provinces, local Authorities;

Operational Structures: i.e., Firefighters, Volunteers, etc.;

Contributing Subjects: professional orders, public and private companies, etc. Citizens too may contribute to the civil protection.

The scientific community is part of the Operational Structures.

Risks of civil protection in Italy (Legislative Decree 1/2018, art. 16)

Body in charge	Risk
Types of risks for which the Italian civil protection system takes action.	seismic volcanic from tsunamis hydraulic hydrogeological from adverse weather phenomena from water deficit forest fires
Types of risks for which the responsible bodies are identified by specific laws. However, the action of the civil protection system can also be carried out for these ones.	chemical nuclear radiological technological industrial transport environmental health uncontrolled re-entry of objects and space debris

Science / decision making

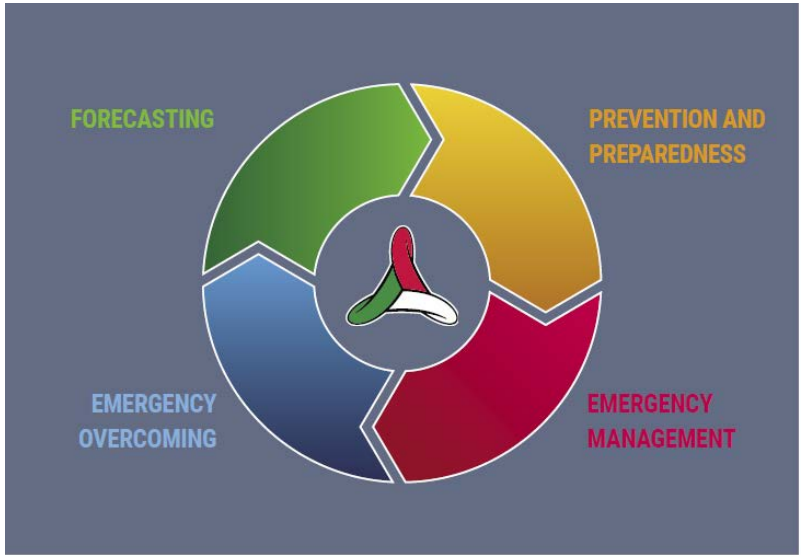
DRR related to civil protection risks is based on two fundamental pillars:

- **technical decision-makers**
- **scientists**

Above them:

- **political decision-makers** → represent the political willingness / support DRR activities according to the electoral mandate.

Technical decision-makers → manage the entire risk cycle.
The scientific community → provides data, products, models, scientific information and advice as a qualified support for sound decision-making.



Importance and role → reciprocally acknowledged.
But how to implement the interplay between them to achieve effective DRR is another matter.

A relationship issued by law

Collaboration dating back to 1976 (aftermath of Friuli eq.)

Formal relationship in the **Law 225/1992**:

- scientific bodies and research institutions included among the operational structures of the NCPS;
- Major Risks Commission established for the first time.

Current **Civil Protection Code (L.D. 1/2018)**:

- several articles dedicated to the scientific community;
- recognition of the important role the scientific community plays in civil protection activities;
- need to better regulate this role → question of responsibilities increasingly emerging, over the years and at both international and national level.

Role played by the law → not only formal:

- it shapes practically the collaboration between scientists and CP decision-makers.

Activities of the scientific community in the NCPS

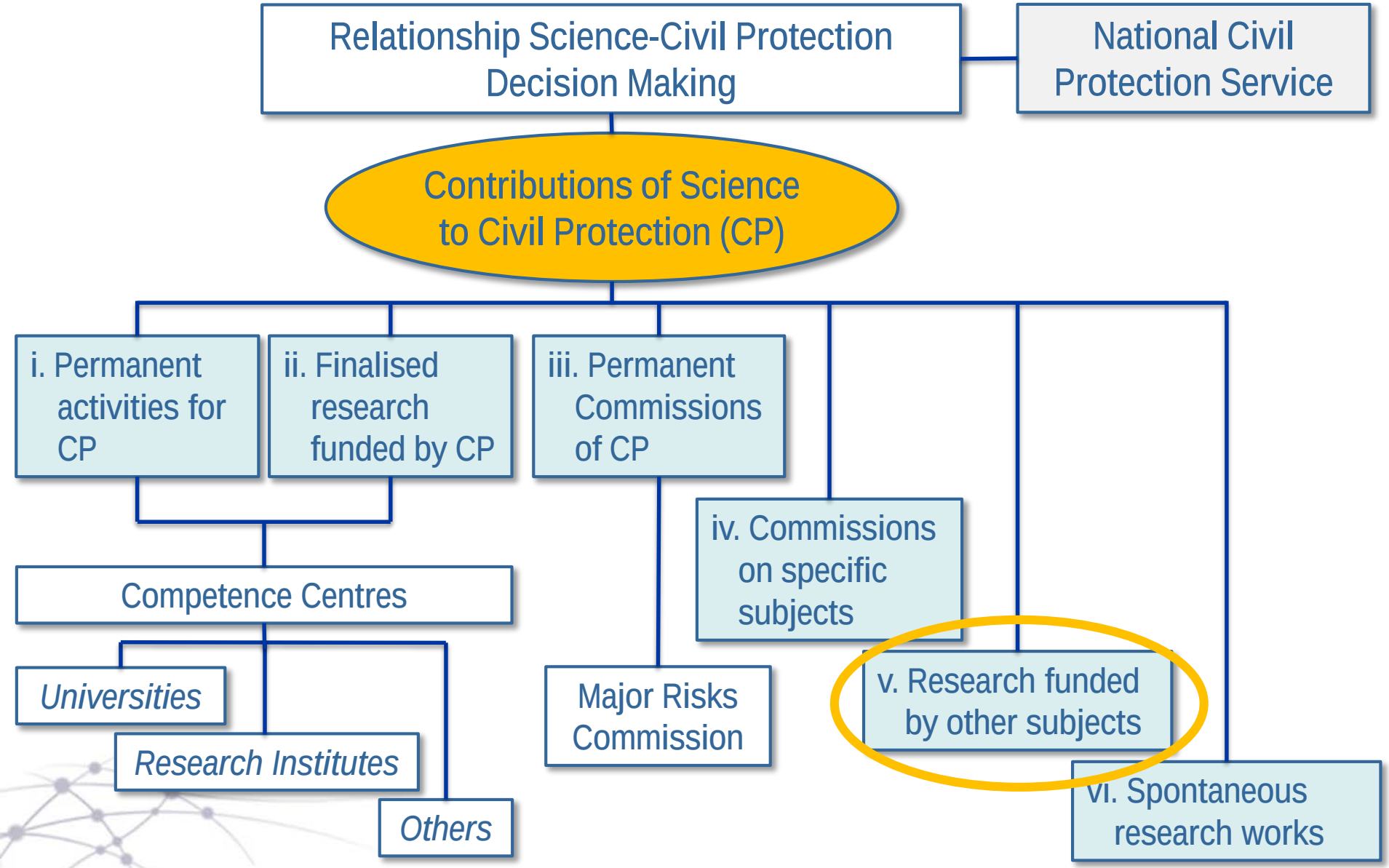
a) routine and operational activities [...] which include, inter alia, monitoring and surveillance of events, development of databases and any other activity useful for emergency management and risk forecast and prevention which provides products of immediate use;

b) experimental activities preparatory to the activities referred to in point a), as well as the production of scientific contributions and the synthesis of existing research useful to this end;

c) targeted research preparatory to the development of products useful for risk management [...] and the study of the related scenarios;

d) collaboration in the preparation of technical regulations of interest.

Science for CP



ICPD and EU scientific projects

Different ways of participation

Horizon Europe and similar calls

Support letters
Advisory Boards
Stakeholders/Endusers Groups
Associate Partners (very rarely)
…

UCPM calls

Support letters
Advisory Boards
Stakeholders/Endusers Groups
Partners
Coordinators

- Special attention to projects with Civil Protection Competence Centres
- ICPD involved since the beginning → preferred

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ICPD and EU scientific projects

Some examples

Horizon Europe and similar calls

RASR
RAPID ANALYSIS AND SPATIALISATION OF RISK

SHEER

BuildERS

ESPREsso
Enhancing Synergies for disaster PRevention in the EurOpean Union

CORE
sCience and human factOr for Resilient sociEty

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UCPM calls

Some examples

ARISTOTLE-NHSP
enhanced European Natural Hazard Scientific Partnership

ROADMAP

BORIS
Cross BOrder RISk assessment for increased prevention and preparedness in Europe

My Project:
ROADMAP2

Actions

Details | Consortium

Project ID:	101101690	Call: **UCPM-2022-KN**	Programme: **UCPM2027**	DG/Agency: **ECHO**

Title

EuRopean ObservAtory on Disaster risk and crisis MAnagement good Practices: way ahead

Conclusion

- ✓ The scientific community is **formally part** of the civil protection system.
- ✓ The **scientific participation** and contribution of the scientific community to the civil protection system and activities are **regulated by law** → roles and responsibilities clear.
- ✓ **Cross-fertilization** between STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines and social sciences, e.g., behavioural sciences, **is encouraged**.
- ✓ The Italian CPD **fosters and supports the participation** of its scientific community in calls of interest to civil protection (and in some cases is a partner).

Thank you for your attention!