



Strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps

Beyond Borders Breakfast Debate

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group 



Objectives of the study



Identify and assess risks in cross-border areas as well as their impact



Identify agreements, tools and institutional processes to manage these risk



Identify the main gaps affecting cross-border territories in their risk management capabilities

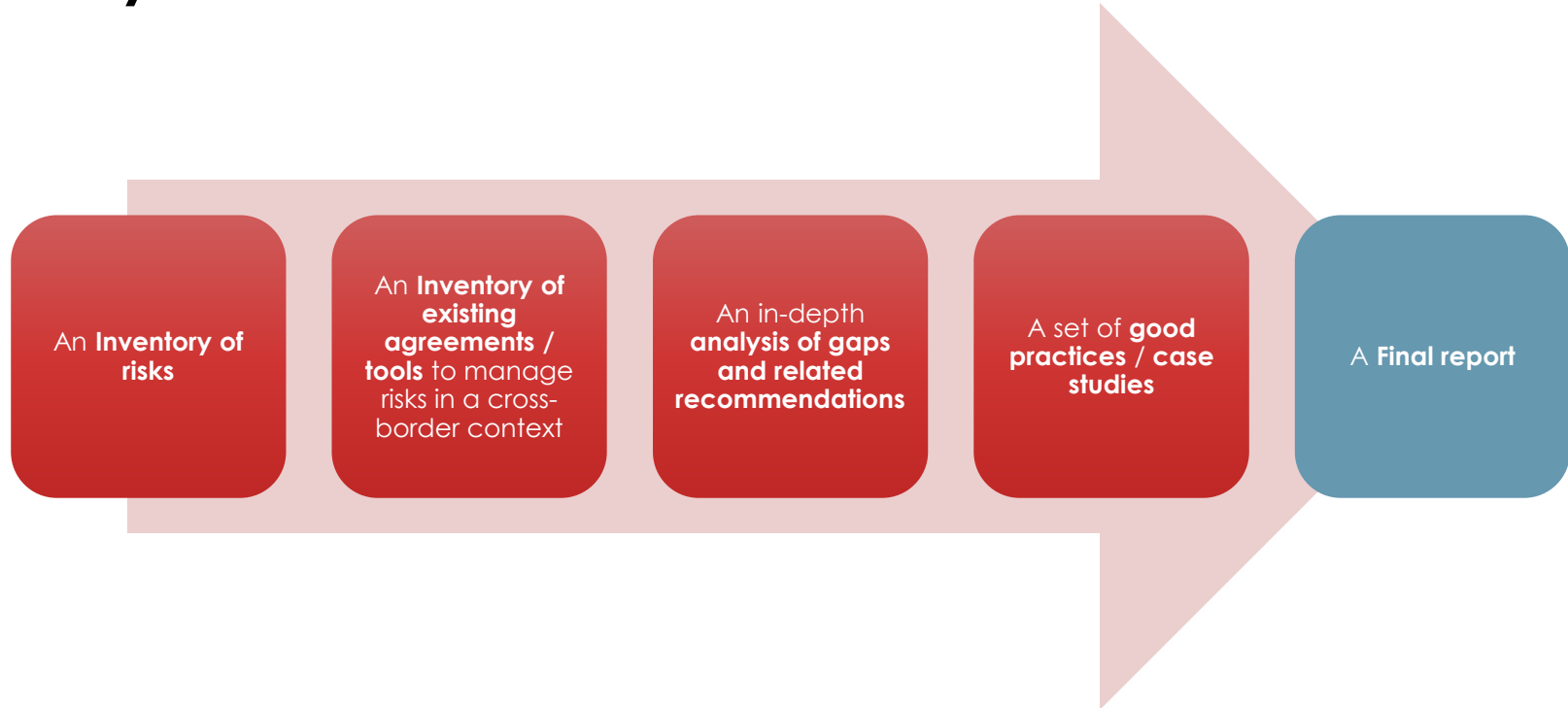


Identify good practices in cross-border risk management




Timeline: from December 2022 to February 2024



Key deliverables



Geographical scope

-  EU internal land borders (43)
-  Maritime borders (4)
-  Borders of candidate countries (6)



Types of risks covered (5 categories)

↗ **Meteorological and hydrological**

- ↗ extreme weather, flooding, drought, wildfires

↗ **Geohazards**

- ↗ geophysical risks

↗ **Biological**

- ↗ epidemics / pandemics
- ↗ animal and plant diseases

↗ **Technological**

- ↗ nuclear and radiological accidents
- ↗ industrial accidents (including marine pollution)
- ↗ disruption of critical infrastructure

↗ **Societal**

- ↗ terrorism
- ↗ cyber threats
- ↗ migration

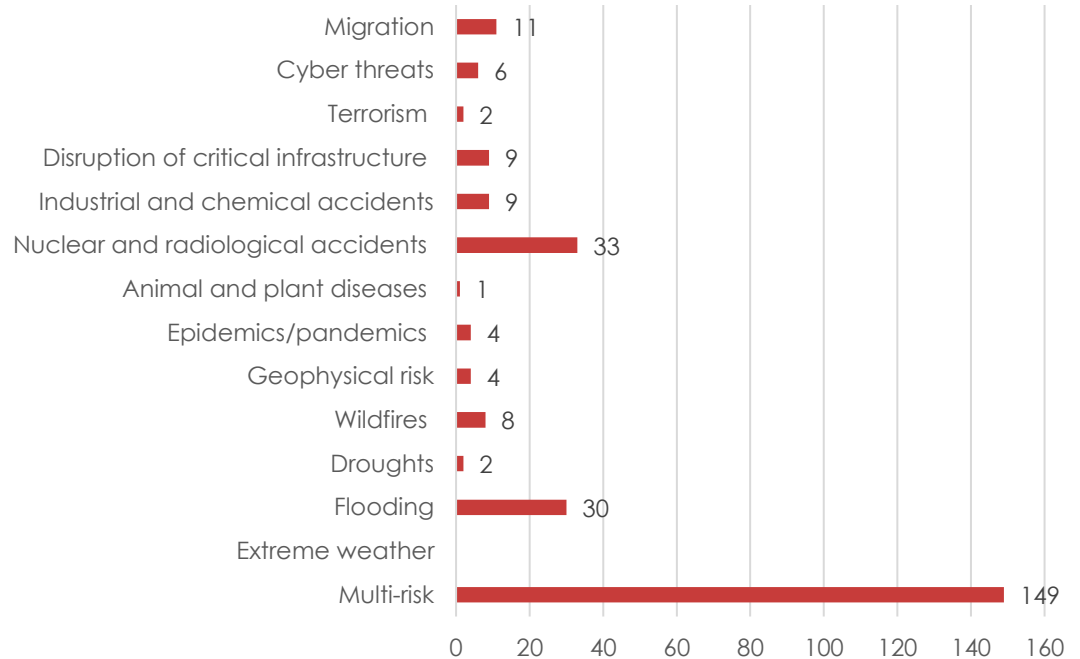
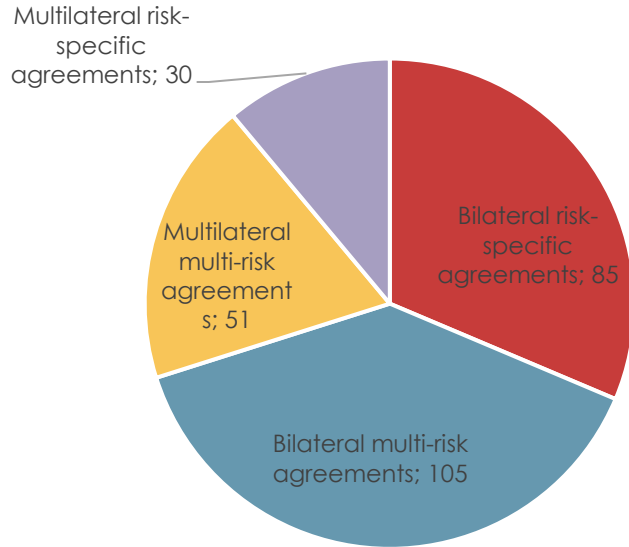




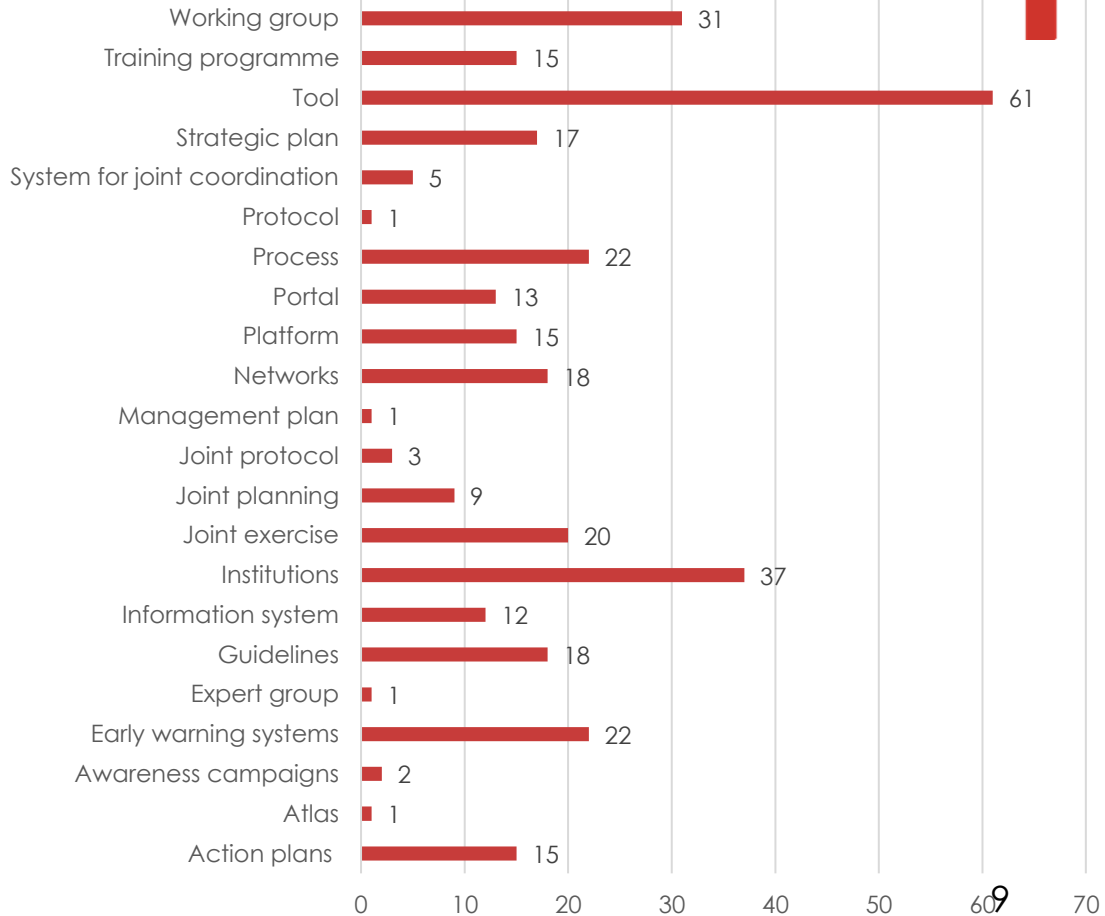
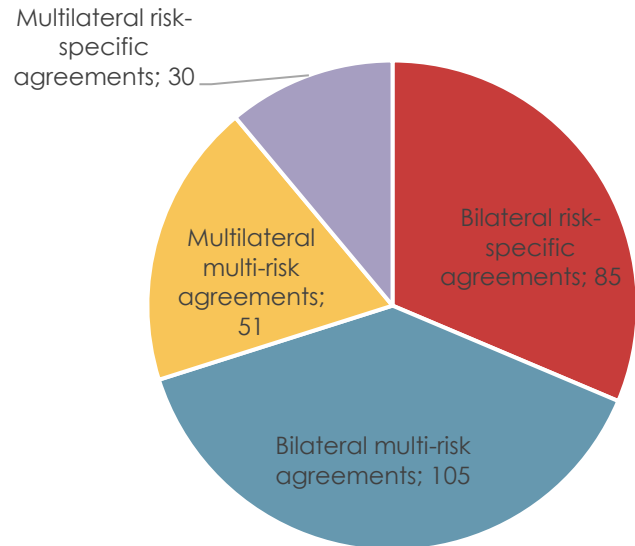
Hazard	Probability score (1-5 Likert scale: 1 no/low; 2 limited; 3 average, 4 high, 5 very high)	Exposure/vulnerability (1-5 Likert scale for each)									Risk = potential impact Exposure/vulnerability (1-5 Likert scale for each)	Governance capabilities to address risks jointly across the border (0-3 Liker scale: 0 no agreements/initiative; 1 - agreement; 2 agreement and some initiatives; 3 comprehensive approach)
		Housing	Production capacities (incl. agriculture)	Infrastructure	Economy and Infrastructure security of supply	Functional capacity of the population and services	International and EU activities	Defence capability	Internal security	Average risk		
Meteorological and hydrological												
Extreme weather	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	2.00	1
Flooding	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	2.00	1













Inventory of bilateral and multi-lateral agreements

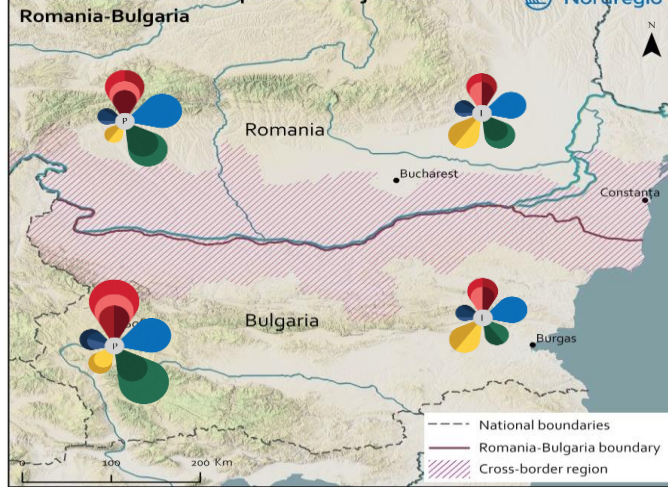


Inventory of institutions, processes, tools



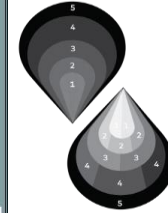


-  (1) Fighting forest fires along the Spain/Portugal border
-  (2) Euregio Maas-Rhine Incident Response and Crisis Management
-  (3) Flood management in the Danube Basin
-  (4) Digital tools and communication systems for DRM
-  (5) Nordred framework agreement
-  (6) Nordic public health preparedness and emergency agreement (Nordhel)
-  (7) Cross-border cooperation on seismic risk management between Italy, Austria and Slovenia
-  (8) Mont Cenis Dam: Disaster Risk Management between Italy and France
-  (9) Intersucho: Joint Drought Management between Czechia and Slovakia
-  (10) Disaster Risk Management in Central Baltic Maritime Border



Each side of the petal represents a different risk level, with the smallest petal indicating a low risk level (1).

When risk groups have identical values, they are depicted within the same petal, segmented by the color associated with each risk group.



Probability (P):
1 - low
5 - high

Impact (I):
1 - low
5 - high

		Probability		Impact		Capability
		Romania	Bulgaria	Romania	Bulgaria	Average
Meteorological and hydrological		3	4	1.67	2	1
		4	5	2.67	3	3
		4	3	2.67	2.5	0.5
		2	3	1.5	1.83	2
Geohazards		4	4	3	3.17	2
		4	5	2.67	1.83	0.5
Biological		3	3	1.67	1.5	1
		1	1	3	3.17	3
Technological		1	2	3	3.17	1
		1	1	1	1	0.5
Societal		1	1	1	1	0.5
		1	1	1	1	0.5
		1	2	1	1	1.5

ORANGE: high probability (3 or higher) and low capability (1.5 or lower)

RED: high impact (3 or higher) and low capability (1.5 or lower)

DARK RED: low capability comes along with both high probability and high impact





Gaps and recommendations





- Within the UCPM, there is a need for further exploration of the cross-border dimension within prevention and preparedness.
- Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (UCPKN) could play a pivotal role in facilitating the consolidation of outcomes from various projects focused on DRM.
- Establishment of regional DRM centres could assist neighbouring countries in enhancing their collaboration throughout the various phases of the DRM cycle.
- More comprehensive guidance (e.g. a tool) on how to develop risk assessment in cross-border territories would be beneficial for facilitating joint risk assessments.
- EC should leverage and reinforce historical cooperation at borders as a means for further enhancing local and regional preparedness and response.
- Macro-regional strategies can create a synergetic effect with other legal and institutional frameworks to strengthen even further cross-border cooperation in DRM.



-  Funding all types of cross-border projects need to be increased. Precise recommendations on potential cross-border projects are given in the individual border fiches in the final report.
-  Despite the big number of funded projects (ERDF, Interreg, etc.) and their crucial positive role for cross-border cooperation there is an issue of continuity and project sustainability. If mechanisms for sustained interaction across borders are not established, the efforts made tend to vanish when the project/initiative finishes.



- ❏ Covid-19 demonstrated that many provisions under the existing bilateral agreements do not work in practice. Therefore, creating the necessary governance structure of an agreement, earmarking the necessary funding and enforcing the agreement in practice should be a priority for the Member States.
- ❏ Member States should ensure that agreements are complementary to as opposed to duplicating the relevant European framework.
- ❏ In some countries, the roles and responsibilities of local governments in the context of cross-border disaster risk management (DRM) could be better defined.
- ❏ There is a need to strike the right balance between providing bottom-up incentives for cross-border cooperation in DRM but also strengthening the role of the national level for better coordination.



- Whenever there is a high probability or a high impact risk in border territories and the institutions on both sides of the border in charge of monitoring are disconnected and functioning in silos, there is a good argument for launching a joint initiative and strengthening the cross-border cooperation.
- Whenever the natural form of cooperation in certain border areas (where three countries meet) is trilateral it is much more impactful to implement trilateral rather than bilateral projects which are possible through the given funding instruments.
- MS should increase the reliance on strong NGO network for DRM including in border areas. The EC should stimulate and support the emergence and development of NGOs with a strong DRM profile.



Thank you!

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