

EU NORDIC MODULES

LAYMAN'S REPORT



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CMCFinland
Kriisinhallintakeskus
Crisis Management Centre Finland



EU Nordic Modules (EU-NOM)

EU-NOM project (1.1.2017–31.12.2018) aimed at strengthening the ability for the Nordic countries Finland, Denmark and Sweden to support each other in case of disasters by taking steps towards creating joint Nordic civil protection modules. The European Commission Civil Protection Financial Instrument co-financed the project run by Crisis Management Centre (CMC) Finland and its partners Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

The Nordic EU countries, as neighbors with relatively good knowledge of each other's civil protection systems, are mutually dependent on each other when disasters happen in one or more Nordic countries. Moreover, they face similar risks and have similar climate. The Nordic cooperation aims at facilitating faster mobilization of support and a higher degree of interoperability between the countries' civil protection modules. Moreover, it strengthens EU's capacity to operate in cold conditions. In addition to taking steps towards forming Joint Nordic Modules, the preparedness cooperation between the Nordic countries will be enhanced by organizing joint exercises and workshops aiming at development of training material and procedures for cold conditions operations and by knowledge and best practices sharing.

Project Partners

CMCFinland

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Swedish Civil
Contingencies
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Host Nation Support Workshop

The Nordic countries faces similar risks due to their similar climates, which makes it meaningful to cooperate in order to support each other better in case of disasters. The Host Nation Support (HNS) workshop was organized by MSB and conducted as a step towards the overall purpose of the program. The aim of the workshop was to explore the Host Nation organisation and support-documents of the participating Nordic countries. The objectives were to summarize lessons identified and the need for specific requirements when receiving support from other countries, in order for it to work in cold conditions.



Cold Climates Competences

Civil protection operations in cold conditions are subject to severe challenges not often seen elsewhere. The EU-NOM project conducted 4 workshops on smart practices and relevant competences to perform civil protection activities in cold conditions. Experts from Finland, Sweden and Denmark came together and identified a more than 300 relevant skills, attitudes and knowledge-sets. These were then operationalized into 16 individual competence objectives. A technical article, EU-NOM Smart practices for cold climates, presents in relations to modern pedagogical learning methodologies. The article looks into structure and management, tasks and procedures, technology and systems, conduct and competences as well as cultural and practical aspects. It is structured for ease of inspiration across agencies so that with the article in hand, development of civil protection response capacities for cold conditions is off to a good start.



Cold Conditions Training of Trainers

The Cold Conditions Training for the Trainers was organized in Sodankylä, Finland on 26.2.–2.3.2018. The main purpose of the training was to prepare international civil protection experts for maintaining their teams' operability in cold conditions. The training included topics such as

- Technical issues
- Physiological and psychological topics
- Medical issues
- Logistics, and
- ICT in cold conditions.

The training was conducted in cooperation with Sodankylä Jaeger Brigade that has a long history of working in Lapland's extremely harsh conditions. The training opportunity in Lapland was offered to all Participating states that have registered a module/TAST team on CECIS. The training was participated by 24 persons from ten countries.

Field Exercise

The EU-NOM cold conditions field exercise was held in Kuopio Finland on 5–8 March 2018. The exercise was designed and aimed at Search and Rescue Teams and their medical components, Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST) and Union Civil Protection Team (UCPT). It was divided into three separate parts. A workshop was held on the 5th with lectures and discussion on best practices in cold conditions, treatment of patients in cold conditions, personal care and survival in cold conditions, host nation support special elements for cold conditions and the effects of climate change. The field exercise was held between the evening of the 5th and noon of the 7th of March and it run non-stop for 38 hours. On the 8th day a feedback and discussion session was held with the participants and trainers.

The exercise was held at the Emergency Services College and its training ground in Kuopio Finland. It was participated by DEMA, CMC with its Finn Rescue Team (FRT) and TAST (FI-TAST) components, and the local Emergency Services of Northern Savonia. 39 participants, 13 people working in DISTAFF and 15 observers attended the exercise. Throughout the training, all teams were accompanied by team trainers specialised to a designated field of expertise, such as K9 activities or medical teams. The exercise scenario was a winter storm, similar to a real life incident.

Table Top Exercise

The EU-NOM table-top exercise was held at CMC Finland/ Emergency Services College in Kuopio, Finland on 12–14 September 2018. It was designed and aimed at key personnel of Civil Protection Modules, Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST), other response capacities, and experts from different participating states foreseen as members of a European Union Civil Protection team (EUCPT).

The exercise had the capacity of participation of total of 21 experts, including 14 key personnel of Modules or other response capacities, four key personnel of TAST plus three Union Mechanism trained experts to establish an on-site coordination hub as part of the exercise. Throughout the exercise, all teams were accompanied by team trainers specialised to a designated field of expertise, such as USAR and TAST. The scenario of the exercise was winter storm in Kuopio region. Similar scenario was used in EU-NOM field exercise that took place in March 2018.

European Added Value



“EU-NOM table top exercise provided a great opportunity to gain new knowledge on the EU civil protection mechanism and to cooperate with participants from other countries. EU-NOM TTX increased North Savo Rescue Department’s abilities to receive international assistance if needed and clarified the capacities that the participating states have to offer.”

Petri Huttunen, Head of Preparedness, North Savo Rescue Department, participant of EU-NOM TTX



“The scenario of the exercise was winter storm. The scenario gave the participants possibilities to practice coordination and interoperability, which are crucial in any civil protection mission. Since this was the first exercise for some participants, practicing the basics was especially important. As the Trainer of the Table-Top exercise, I was pleased to see very good cooperation between teams. The best thing in international exercises, such as the EU-NOM Cold Conditions Table-Top Exercise 2018, is the cooperation between many European colleagues within the field of civil protection towards our common goals.”

Leif Andrén, Trainer in EU-NOM TTX, CMC Finland



“The EU-NOM project has facilitated the development of response capacities for the Danish Emergency Management Agency, to respond to cold conditions both internationally and at home in for instance Greenland.”

Tais Krøger Ziethen, International Operations Manager at DEMA.



"The workshop and knowledge exchange on HNS for work during cold conditions gave the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and other partners valuable insights to prepare SOPs, both for national work and for international assistance during disasters in cold conditions"

Mette Lindahl Olsson, Deputy head of Fire & Rescue Service Section, MSB.



"EU-NOM Field Exercise was based on a scenario that is quite realistic in our region. EU-NOM FEX gave us an opportunity to reflect our processes and actions in snowy and cold conditions and thus increased the preparedness to daily response. The versatile and challenging exercise provided an opportunity to train the response actions in major accident with multiple casualties. Part of the participants were able to take these learning points into practice in a major traffic accident that occurred in Kuopio in the following summer."

Juha Antikainen, chairman of the voluntary Fire Brigade of Kuopio, participant of EU-NOM FEX



"The training supported my knowledge of maintaining operability in cold conditions. It was an eye opener."

"Physical as well as mental preparedness. Taught through basic knowledge and task. Practical side really showed the importance at details and impact at error/failures."

"We will use this training to support our preparations to operate in cold conditions."

Participant feedback, EU-NOM Cold Conditions Training of Trainers