

THE EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION
MECHANISM AND ITALY



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Abstract

Over the last decade, major natural and man-made disasters provided a significant stimulus for the development of new forms of governance at the EU level, which inter alia culminated in the establishment in 2001 of the European Mechanism for Civil Protection (EU CPM). Despite these developments, empirical investigations regarding how individual EU member states are reacting to EU-induced policy changes in the domain of civil protection are still lacking. By taking the experience of the Italian Civil Protection national service as a case study, this report makes an initial effort to analyze how EU policy decisions have led to changes at a domestic level in this particular issue-area. Specifically, it aims at answering to the following important questions: How far has the Italian Civil Protection system *adapted* to that of the EU, centered on the EU CPM? Is it developing an approach *coherent* (in terms of instruments and activities) to the EU standards? To this end, the first section of this study offers an overview of the EU CPM, its goals and practices of cooperation, and its evolution over time. Next, the tools allowing the CPM to work are presented. The following section explores then in detail how the Italian Civil Protection system, centered on the Civil Protection Department, has conformed to the EU practices and benefited from the new ascending governance of the EU, in the realm of civil protection. In general, the picture that can be traced from this analysis is that Italy has well implemented EU decisions and has actively participated to EU joint efforts.