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**Reference**

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*Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.*

**Background**

The European Commission finances each year specific exercises for civil protection modules<sup>1</sup>, other response capacities, Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST) and European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) deployable in missions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). These exercises known as Modules field and table-top exercises (MODEX) are delivered by consortia with whom the European Commission signed service contracts.

The aim of MODEX is to 1) better prepare modules/capacities/civil protection authorities and experts for international deployments under the UCPM to ensure a faster, coordinated and efficient response to disasters; and 2) enhance the coordination of UCPM interventions by ensuring improved compatibility and interoperability between intervention teams/authorities.

MODEX exercises are designed based on 7 main **exercise objectives**:

- Coordination
- Self-sufficiency
- Interoperability
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Communications & Reporting
- Safety & Security
- Specific learning objectives of participants

There are 2 **types of exercises**:

- **Table-top** exercises: discussion based sessions focusing on strategic decision-making and managerial preparation during a deployment (coordination, procedures, reporting and communication arrangements).
- **Field** exercises: focus on operational aspects of the minimum requirements during the different phases of an international deployment: mobilisation/arrival, operations, and demobilisation.

Currently, the types of **scenario** are:

- Earthquake
- Flood

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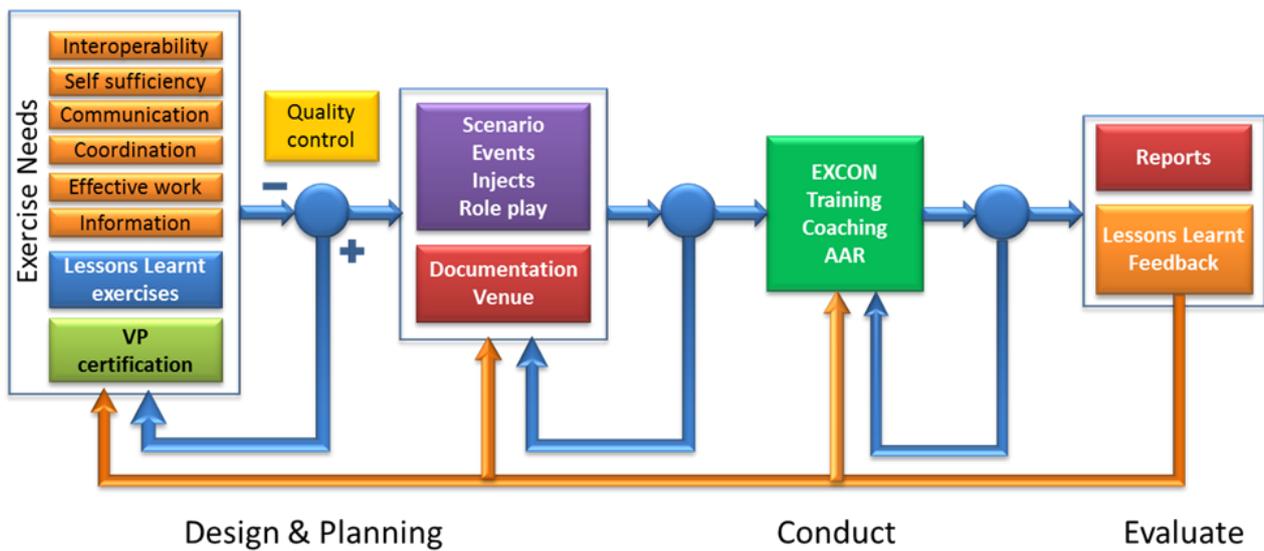
<sup>1</sup> Modules are task and needs driven pre-defined arrangements of resources and teams from one or more member/participating states set-up on a voluntary basis. Modules have to be self-sufficient, interoperable and can be dispatched at very short notice.

- Forest Fire
- Medical
- CBRN

**MODEX methodology**

MODEX exercises are participants focused and led, developed from a number of innovative and realistic scenarios of international deployments suitable for exercising in a safe environment.

The design of an exercise takes into account 1) the exercise objectives, 2) the needs of the different types of modules/capacities and 3) the lessons identified/learned from previous UCPM missions as well as from previous exercise(s). The level of preparedness is evaluated by assessing the degree to which exercise objectives are reached by participants. Regular After-Action Reviews (AAR) give the participants the necessary inputs or feedback maximising the learning benefits during the exercise.



MODEX is also the platform for the certification process for the European Civil Protection Pool (ECP)<sup>2</sup>.

MODEX exercises are procured through **service contracts** compared to full-scale exercises that are grants. The main differences between a service contract and a grant are outlined in the table below.

	<b>Tenders</b>	<b>Grants</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To <b>acquire a service</b> needed for COM activities	To <b>encourage action</b> useful for the EU which falls primarily within the scope of the beneficiary's activities
<b>Initiative and control</b>	Lies <b>entirely</b> with the <b>COM</b> (detailed technical specifications which tenderer must comply with)	Originates from the <b>beneficiary</b> to support activities carried out in response to a COM call for proposals. The proposal sets out the specifications for the action to be performed within the framework laid down in advance by the COM

<sup>2</sup> The ECP (previously called Voluntary Pool (VP)) is a system whereby UCPM member/participating states pre-commit, on a voluntary basis, disaster response capacities (modules, TAST and other response capacities). It aims to make disaster response more pre-planned, predictable, effective and faster. The quality of the assistance is ensured through the establishment of a quality assurance and a certification process.

<b>Ownership</b>	Remains with the <b>COM</b>	Remains with the <b>beneficiary</b> of the grant
<b>Union contribution</b>	<b>100%</b> of the contract price	<b>Co-finance</b> the costs of the action
<b>Mutual obligations</b>	<b>Reciprocal obligations</b> COM monitors the <b>delivery</b> of the purchase	<b>No direct specific link</b> between individual obligations on either side (beneficiary and COM)  COM monitors <b>technical implementation</b> of the action and the <b>use</b> made of the <b>funds</b> granted
<b>Procedures</b>	Call for tenders	Call for proposals

**MODEX** is suitable for **marine pollution** exercises because:

- It is a proven methodology and partnership between Member States and the European Commission
- It can bridge the gap between marine and on-shore authorities
- Are tailored and flexible exercises to suit large scale complex scenarios
- It is an ideal platform to train and test Host Nation Support and infrastructures between collaborating countries/regions
- Highly experienced EXCON staff are available
- Has integrated evaluation and quality control structures
- Has a comprehensive lessons identified/learned process allowing to
  - ✓ Identify capacity gaps
  - ✓ Identify further training and exercise needs
  - ✓ Develop and test SOPs and guidelines for an integrated management approach to significant marine pollution incidents
  - ✓ Integrate International capacities and resources into a National response
  - ✓ Identify possible future priorities for Prevention & Preparedness Projects

### Action requested

The meeting is invited to:

- consider the opportunity to develop a MODEX marine pollution exercise and to identify potential member states willing to be involved;
- discuss how MODEX marine pollution could support the ongoing processes on HREP and/or the proposed new action on the framework for the holistic/integrated management of marine pollution that enables a coordinated response operation at sea and on shore.