



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid



### Cyprus Civil Defence (CCD)- BALANCE EXERCISE

Cyprus Civil Defence along with the European University Cyprus - as a coordinator - are proud to report the acquisition of another significant project in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The project is called BALANCE and is funded through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (*Call: UCPM-2020-EX-AG*).

The aim of the project is to improve Civil Protection Preparedness and Response capabilities of Montenegro in dealing with large disasters that require joint response coordination facilitated via the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Western Balkans countries can be slowed down in joining the EU due to a huge earthquake because it will have significant economic, social and political impact to country and regional development. Thus, sharing capacities and resources, scientific support decision making, use of proven innovative tools, and joint training will lead to improvement of cross border cooperation procedures of the Mechanism.

The BALANCE Consortium comprises of academic and civil protection organisations from the countries of Cyprus, Montenegro, Croatia, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain.

The kick-off meeting of the BALANCE project took place online on Thursday the 18th of February 2021. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Geir Ellingsen, ECHO Project Officer, and was attended by representatives from all partner organizations. During the meeting Mr. Evangelos Katsaros, CERIDES Research Associate and Manager of the BALANCE project, provided an overview of the project's activities, milestones, and main implementation considerations.

The internal kick-off meeting took place online on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, where all project packages and activities were presented and the partners shared experiences from previous exercises/projects and real events.

The CCD team responsible for the implementation of the BALANCE project, comprises of the following:

Mr. Kyriacos Hadjigeorgiou (Project coordinator)

Mrs Eftychia Stokkou (Project manager)

Mr Andreas Efthymiou (Case Officer)

Mrs Alexandra Constantinou (Administration)

