



Driving Innovation in Crisis Management  
for European Resilience

# CENTRES OF EXPERTISE



SERVICE PROVIDERS ADOPTING  
DRIVER+ OUTPUTS TO ENHANCE  
THE CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT OF  
CRISIS MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS

In 2014, dedicated and forward-thinking practitioner organisations, research institutes, industries and SMEs teamed up to drive innovation in crisis management for European resilience. The DRIVER+ project valorises the wealth of European innovation in crisis management through approaches that seek to improve the way capability development is tackled and potentially innovative solutions are assessed.

DRIVER+ has committed to deliver five sustainable outputs to the European crisis management community: a Trial Guidance Methodology, a Test-bed Technical Infrastructure, a European Crisis Management Innovation Network, a Portfolio of Solutions and a pan-European Centres of Expertise network.

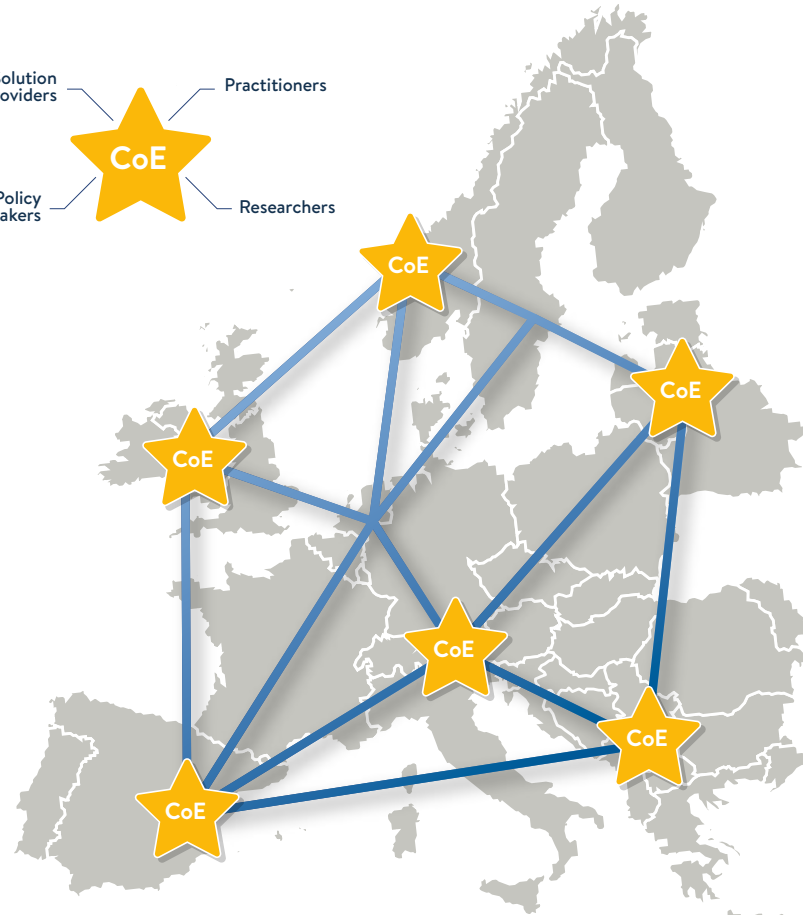
## WHAT IS IT?

A Centre of Expertise (CoE) is an organisation operating in the domain of crisis management and disaster risk reduction that acts as the primary contact point for practitioner organisations at the national or regional level, supporting their capability development and innovation management. A CoE is considered as a final adopter and service manager of DRIVER+ products. It may choose to adopt the whole suite of DRIVER+ outputs or only some of its components. They will make sure other crisis management organisations have easy access to the products and will provide guidance and support on how to use them.

A CoE is free to tailor and adapt the DRIVER+ outputs to local or national needs, circumstances and capacities. It also maintains and updates the outputs and exchanges lessons learned between other Centres of Expertise in the various European Member States. In this way, CoEs become part of a pan-European network.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Organisations that already play a role in the capability development and/or innovation management of practitioner organisations are well-suited to adopt DRIVER+ outputs and become a Centre of Expertise. These may be national or regional training centres, crisis management academies and knowledge centres for specific crisis types such as forest fires. They may cover a wide range of crisis management aspects or focus on a specific topic such as the usage of drones or training of fire fighters. A CoE is a practitioner-centred organisation that has close relations with (applied) research organisations, solution providers and policymakers.



## ADDED VALUE? WHAT IS THE

Very likely, implementations and experiences will vary from organisation to organisations and between Member States. It is the responsibility of a CoE to gather these lessons learned and adapt, if necessary, the respective DRIVER+ products to organisational and/or national contexts. Sharing these experiences and lessons learned within the pan-European network of CoEs, is crucial. Only then the shared understanding in crisis management and a shared approach in practitioners' capability development can be achieved and further improved.

Becoming a Centre of Expertise will strengthen your pioneering position in the crisis management and disaster risk reduction ecosystem, both nationally and internationally. It will increase the visibility of your organisation at the EU level as an early adopter bringing forward innovation in crisis management.

Through this, you can expand and strengthen the portfolio of services that you already offer, for instance by sharing lessons learned and improving knowledge transfer between practitioners and research organisations. This can help developing new training programmes and improving curricula, as well as producing clear recommendations for policymakers about research programming and specific funding needs.

The DRIVER+ team has developed a toolkit to support you in jointly assessing the requirements for becoming a CoE, depending on which (combination of) outputs you wish to adopt.



Download the toolkit and get your organisation ready:



<https://www.driver-project.eu/centres-of-expertise-coe/>

If you have any questions, please contact us at [coordination@projectdriver.eu](mailto:coordination@projectdriver.eu)



This project has received funding from the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration under Grant Agreement (GA) N° #607798

