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FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN ROMANIA THROUGH EUROPEAN COLLABORATION: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES SPECIFIC TO THE ROMANIAN DEPARTMENT FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AS PART OF THE EU CIVIL PROTECTION APPROACH

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Abstract

This paper provides a comprehensive examination of the evolution, current structure, and future direction of Romania's civil protection system, with a particular focus on its integration within the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Through an analysis of historical developments, legislative frameworks, and recent organizational changes, the study highlights the roles of the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) in strengthening national disaster preparedness, response, and resilience. A comparative SWOT analysis involving several EU member states explores Romania's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the civil protection domain, underscoring variations in emergency response approaches and offering insights into effective practices across Europe. Additionally, the paper identifies key priorities for enhancing Romania's civil protection system, including sustainable funding mechanisms, advanced training programs, infrastructure modernization, and increased public engagement. In light of emerging complex threats, the study proposes actionable recommendations to improve Romania's integration with the UCPM, emphasizing the importance of collective European resilience and Romania's role in supporting it through well-coordinated crisis response and resource-sharing initiatives.

Key words: civil protection, disaster resilience, emergency management, European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), international assistance, Romania disaster preparedness

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