



Latvijas Republikas
Valsts kontrole

Planning and readiness of the national civil protection system

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Kristīne Jaunzeme, Member of the Council, Department director



AUDIT ASSESSED:

- ▶ institutional model of disaster management
- ▶ risk assessment
- ▶ development and monitoring of implementation of civil protection plans
- ▶ planning and organisation of civil protection exercises and training
- ▶ planning and establishment of state material reserves
- ▶ control on meeting civil protection requirements

AUDIT DID NOT ASSESS:

- ▶ sufficiency and effectiveness of the measures provided for in the civil protection plans
- ▶ crisis communication
- ▶ civil protection plans for specific sites and sites of increased danger

AUDITED ENTITIES:

- ▶ Ministry of Interior
- ▶ State Fire and Rescue Service

AUDIT PERIOD:

- ▶ Audit was closed on 27 September 2022.

INFORMATION ALSO RECEIVED FROM:

- ▶ Ministry of Health
- ▶ State Chancellery
- ▶ Ministry of Economy
- ▶ Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
- ▶ Sampled municipalities

PERIOD COVERED BY THE AUDIT:

- ▶ 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.



RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS

What is important?



A clearly defined division of institutional responsibilities is an important prerequisite for successful disaster management and crisis management.

What is lacking?



The institutional model of disaster management does not consider the possibilities of its implementation either legally or practically.

To a large extent, a system has been created in which many participate but no one is responsible.

There are no solutions for managing multi-sector and country-wide disasters.

What should be done?



The division of responsibility of the institutions and how to implement it should be clearly defined.

It is necessary to identify information about the human resources available in ministries and local and regional governments, and their readiness for the implementation of disaster management tasks.

The establishment of a high-level crisis management institution such as a competence centre should be considered.

Prerequisites must be established so that institutions involved in disaster management and crisis management have adequate resources and capacity.



RISK ASSESSMENT

What is important?



Based on a risk assessment, disaster management measures are determined.

Risk assessment is important to assess and predict more appropriate actions in the event of disasters, to reduce their probability and negative impact.

What is lacking?



Risk assessment basically takes place within one sector.

Cross-sectoral cooperation is not ensured and assessment of multiple risks is not conducted.

Ministries do not involve local and regional governments and population in risk assessment.

The existing risk assessment process risks missing important aspects and identifying inappropriate measures.

What should be done?



The process of risk assessment needs to be improved, foreseeing cross-sectoral cooperation, involvement of local and regional governments, and citizens.

Methodical management of risk assessment needs to be strengthened.

Regular revision of disaster risk assessment needs to be ensured according to current challenges.



CIVIL PROTECTION PLANS

What is important?



Civil protection plans envisage a set of measures necessary for disaster management – preventive, preparedness, response and mitigation measures.

It is **important** that the measures provided for in the plans contribute to disaster prevention and mitigation, help prepare for the necessary actions in the event of a disaster and are useful when a disaster occurs.

What is lacking?



The measures provided for in the plans are often too general, defined at the level of strategic directions and intentions, without clarity on what is to be done specifically.

There is **often** no clarity about the deadlines for the implementation of the measures, mostly the source and amount of funding are not determined.

Various approaches have been implemented in the **municipal** civil defence plans, both by rewriting statements from the national civil defence plan and by providing for measures appropriate to the threats and the needs of the local or regional government.

What should be done?



The approach to preparing civil protection plans **should be reviewed** to be useful in disaster management.

Plans need to include real and concrete measures, which the responsible institutions must implement within the specified period in order to prepare for disaster situations in the best possible way.

Plans should have deadlines and their progress should be monitored.

The regulation of the development of municipal civil defence plans **should be improved** and methodological support should be provided, including useful development of a model plan of the municipal civil defence plan.



TRAINING

What is important?



Civil defence exercises are necessary to regularly check the appropriateness of the determined measures, the sufficiency of resources and cooperation mechanisms.

Staff are trained in skills and preparedness for crisis situations.

No civil defence plan will work in a crisis if it has not been tested in functional exercises beforehand.

What is lacking?



National level civil defence exercises were last held in 2016.

The country does not have a system in place that would provide the necessary exercise and involve the participation of all involved parties. It is left up to each institution to conduct simulations.

The leading institutions of the system (Ministry of the Interior and the State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia) do not have information about which functional exercises have been conducted and planned.

Sufficient supervision over the elimination of deficiencies discovered in simulation exercises is not ensured.

What should be done?



A national strategy or multi-year plan should be developed for conducting simulation exercises at all levels (national, regional, and local).

It must be ensured that state-level civil defence functional exercise is conducted at least once every four years.

Learning from examples of best practice in disaster medicine and defence can be useful in improving a civil defence functional exercise approach.



STATE MATERIAL RESERVES

What is important?



The **state** material reserves are necessary so that each industry has a “safety cushion” and to provide the population with essential goods in the event of a national threat.

What is lacking?



At least during the last four years, no funding has been allocated for the creation of state material reserves, thus they have not been stocked in the required amount.

There is **no** clarity about the participation of regional and local governments in the creation of state material reserves and the possibilities of using them.

What should be done?



Funding for the state material reserves should be provided in the base budget expenses.

The participation of regional and local governments in the creation and use of state material reserves should be **clearly** defined.



17 recommendations and 3 proposals were issued to the Ministry of Interior and the Cabinet of Ministers to strengthen the civil protection and crisis management system of Latvia.



Implementation period for the recommendations is 31.12.2025.



Many improvements are in process since the audit closed in September 2022.



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Skanstes iela 50, Rīga, LV-1013

Tel: 67017500

E-mail: Irvk@Irvk.gov.lv

FB/Twitter: @VKontrole

Thank you for your attention! It's time for questions and discussion!