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Union Civil Protection Mechanism -
Peer Review Programme
for disaster risk management

Peer Review Report Czechia 2026

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Acknowledgements

The peers included four experts:

- Lena ANDERSSON, Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency – Sweden.
- Daniel GHEORGHIȚĂ, Directorate-General for Civil Protection, Department for Emergency Situations (Analysis and Strategic Development Office for Civil Protection) – Romania.
- Grzegorz MAŁACHOWSKI, Risk Assessment and Emergency Planning Unit, Critical Infrastructure Protection Office, Government Centre for Security – Poland.
- Paulo Jorge Lobo de Cabral SACADURA, National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection, Risk and Land Use Planning Division – Portugal.

Figure 1: The peers and the Local Contact Point (LCP) from the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service (DG FRS), Ministry of Interior (MoI). From left to right: Lena Andersson (peer), Grzegorz Małachowski (peer), Martin Tilcer (DG FRS), František Paulus (DG FRS), Daniel Gheorghiță (peer), Paulo Sacadura (peer).

Figure 2: The peer review team, including the peers (Lena Andersson, Grzegorz Małachowski, Daniel Gheorghiță, Paulo Sacadura), DG ECHO representatives (Cristina Brăilescu, Judith Sørensen, and Magda Morbach), and CMCC staff (Veronica Casartelli and Dana Salpina); DG FRS/MoI representatives (Martin Tilcer and Petr Ošlejšek); representative from the Ministry of Environment (Jana Tejkalová).

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In January 2025, Czechia, represented by the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service (DG FRS), within the Ministry of Interior (MoI), requested to undergo a peer review of disaster risk management capabilities under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Peer Review Programme. Particular thanks are due to Martin Tilcer and František Paulus for their full commitment and continuous logistical support.

The peer review would not have been possible without the significant contributions of all the stakeholders consulted in Czechia, who provided the peer review team with invaluable input throughout their stay in the country (Annex 1).

The peer review was financed by the European Union.

This is a thematic review focusing on the following key thematic areas of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) cycle:

- **Governance of disaster risk reduction**: Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework; Disaster risk reduction strategy; Whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach; Disaster risk financing; Innovation and knowledge services.

- **Risk assessment**: Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework; Risk identification, analysis, and evaluation.

- **Disaster risk management planning**: Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework; Identification and prioritisation of measures; Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting; Participatory process and local knowledge; Cross-sectoral policy coherence.

- **Preparedness**: Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework; Early warning systems; Risk awareness and population preparedness.

The infographic below highlights the thematic areas (hexagons) and topics (wedges) of the Peer Review Assessment Framework (PRAF) covered in this report[1].

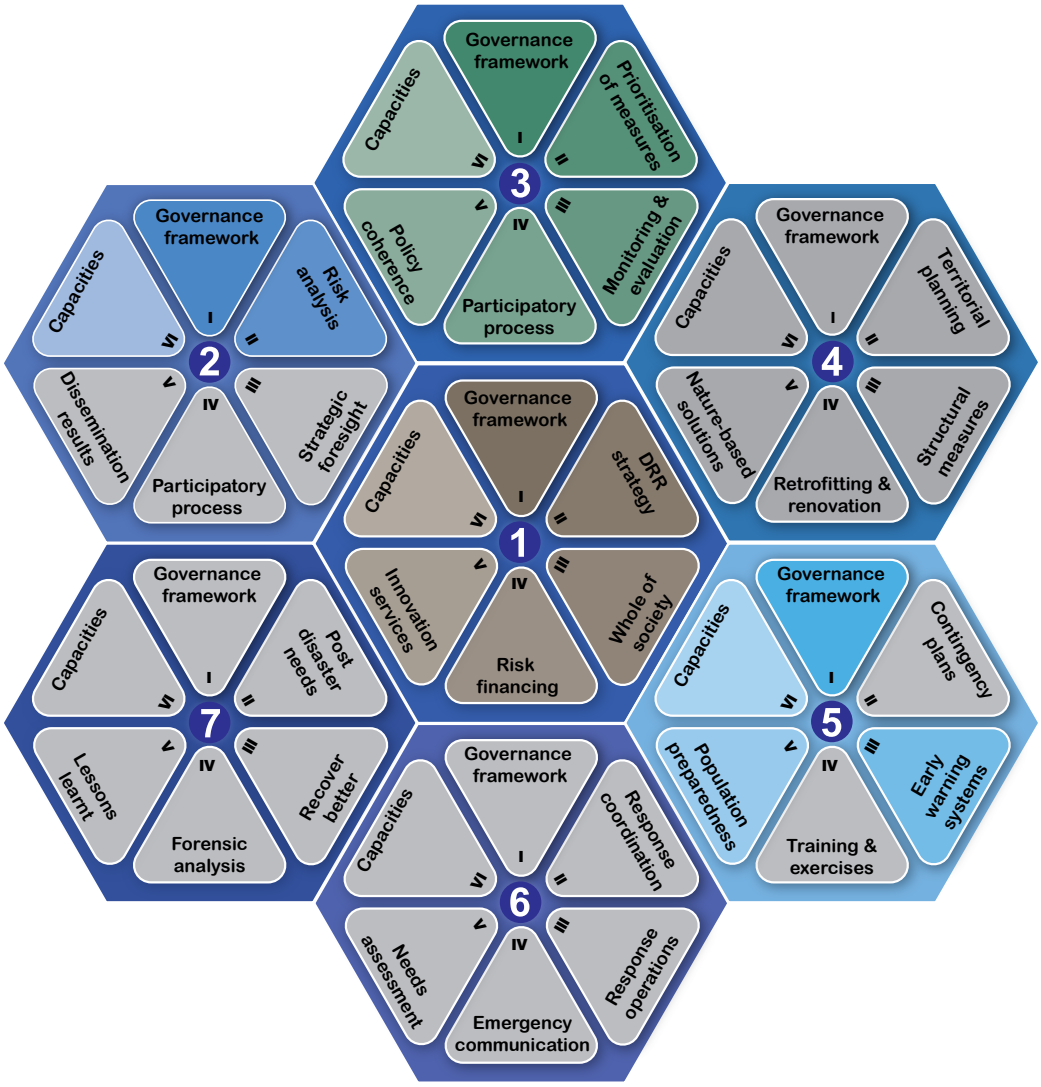

Figure 3: Disaster Risk Management Peer Review Assessment Framework (DRM PRAF). The coloured areas represent the thematic areas addressed in this peer review.

1 Veronica Casartelli et al., *Disaster Risk Management – Peer Review Assessment Framework* (2025), https://doi.org/10.25424/cmcc-qyt8-a784.

Executive summary

The Czech emergency and crisis management system is well-structured and robust, employing a dual approach to address both disasters and conflicts. Over the past decades, it has undergone significant improvements, drawing on lessons learnt from past events and regular evaluations to ensure continuous development. Current reforms are not intended to completely revise the framework but rather to further strengthen it in response to emerging risks and evolving threats amid changing risk and geopolitical landscapes. Cooperation between the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) and other disaster and crisis risk management authorities and actors is strong, both vertically and horizontally. Additionally, considerable effort has been invested in enhancing population preparedness, achieving tangible results in equipping communities to face current and future challenges.

Strengths and recommendations of the disaster risk management/crisis management system in Czechia are outlined in the report for the key focus areas covered in this peer review: governance of disaster risk reduction, risk assessment, disaster risk management planning, and preparedness. Strengths and recommendations regarding risk assessment and preparedness are limited to the topics covered during the review. Further details and explanations of the strengths and recommendations listed below can be found in the 'Conclusions' sections of each key focus area, specifically in chapters 2.6, 3.3, 4.6, and 5.4.

Key strengths identified:

GOVERNANCE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- The **Czech Disaster Risk Management (DRM)/crisis management system** is well-structured and robust, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. **Lessons learnt from recent emergencies** (e.g., the 2024 flood) have been analysed and used to further improve the system.

- The current **legislative, institutional, and procedural framework** proved effective in addressing 'traditional risks' over the past years and was recently restructured to more efficiently address risks and threats, as well as the CER Directive. Activation of response procedures, including the integration of the regional level, is in place.

- The **Central Crisis Staff** ensures unified command and control, as well as strategic harmonisation during emergencies.

- **Climate change impacts** are acknowledged and addressed by key ministries. Climate change-related considerations are being included in the new methodology for conducting risk assessment, currently under development.

- Strategic documents, particularly the **Concept of Population Protection,** set coordinated and overarching objectives towards greater resilience.

- A **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** is in place and is composed of highly qualified experts. The Platform has significant potential to strengthen resilience by facilitating coordination between sectors, promoting preparedness, and enabling cross-sectoral dialogue.

- Very good **vertical and horizontal cooperation** exists between the Fire Rescue Service (FRS), ministries and other key DRM actors.

- A long-standing **cooperation between the FRS and research institutions** helps foster evidence-informed decision-making and practice. A National Research and Development (R&D) Programme based on security research exists and is based on needs analysis.

- A **specific budget line within each ministry**'s chapter is allocated for crisis management, and a dynamic procurement system is used during crises to enable rapid purchasing of goods and services.

- A **mapping of market-available resources** for crisis situations has been conducted, and production reserves are being created to preserve manufacturing capabilities.

- A long-term **partnership with the Czech National Bank** is in place. The Bank participates in the specialised committee on Civil Emergency Planning within the National Security Council.

- A permanent **Group for Crisis Communication within the Ministry of Interior (MoI)** is established to support strategic communication during emergencies, organise and implement training and workshops for municipalities on how to communicate to the population, and cooperate with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- A standard **methodology for conducting risk assessment** in line with ISO standards has been in place since 2016, and risk assessment is considered an interdisciplinary/inter-institutional effort across levels.

- The development of **vulnerability and preparedness maps** related to exposure (e.g., number of residents and public infrastructure) and available resources (e.g., number of firefighters and medical units) in specific areas is a promising practice that should be further explored and disseminated.

- The systematic implementation of the **risk evaluation stage** to identify unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks ensures that the overall risk assessment process is fulfilled and effective.

- A **Crisis Management Portal** – containing risk analyses, maps, and planning documents – has been established in some regions (e.g., the Central Bohemian Region), where region-specific risks are assessed alongside risks transferred from the national level.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- Well-established and comprehensive **crisis management planning processes** exist at national and regional levels, with strong cooperation between certain regions (e.g., the Central Bohemian Region) and the Fire Rescue Service.

- **Regular meetings** are held at both regional and national levels to coordinate planning processes. Collaboration among regions in planning, as well as in preparedness and response, is well established, with formal cooperation agreements in place between neighbouring regions.

- **Regional and MEA** (Municipalities with Extended Authority) **Crisis Plans** are developed by the Regional FRS, in collaboration with regional authorities, the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) components, and administrative bodies, and include a necessary supply plan for various crisis situations.

- In some regions, such as the Central Bohemian Region, the **Crisis Management Portal – which has both public and restricted sections –** provides access to planning documents.

- **Flood Risk Management Plans** (FRMPs) address fluvial and pluvial floods, flash floods, and floods resulting from dambreaks. Good international cooperation exists with neighbouring countries for the development of FRMPs in international river basins.

PREPAREDNESS

- High-level **educational programmes in civil protection and DRM**, tailored to public needs, are in place to train students who can later work in public authorities, including a **DRM training** system for existing and future teachers.

- **Preparedness programmes and activities** for **vulnerable groups**, including persons with disabilities and foreigners, are in place, with awareness materials translated into multiple languages and sign language. These groups are actively involved in developing such materials to ensure inclusion and accessibility.

- **Safety training in schools** includes critical thinking and addresses misinformation and disinformation.

- Experimental education uses **innovative tools** (such as virtual reality, serious games, and simulation training centres) to enhance learning, engagement, and practical preparedness skills.

- Close **cooperation between relevant universities and the FRS** (as well as other IRS components) enables students to be seconded to operational structures, allowing them to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their studies while simultaneously strengthening preparedness.

- A good **collaboration with the private sector and across ministries** in developing and implementing preparedness campaigns has already been established.

- **Preparedness programmes** are developed using an evidence-informed approach, with surveys to identify gaps to be addressed. An evaluation process is currently underway, and an annual report on preparedness is published.

- The **72-hour population preparedness campaign** has been launched, and an evaluation of its impact has been conducted.

- **EU funds** were used for constructing the Karlovy Vary's 'World of Rescuers – Health and Safety Centre', operated by an NGO and supported by the regional authorities. Continuation of this project is planned with the European Just Transition Fund.

- A proactive **approach to exercising and stress-testing** across public and private institutions is in place. Common exercises are conducted between sectors, such as energy sector stress tests covering different hazards, including malicious attacks and weather-related scenarios.

- The majority of the population is covered by a reliable, legally anchored **early warning system**. The system is well-trusted and positively perceived by the public, as demonstrated by post-event **evaluation surveys** conducted after the recent floods.

- The **Czech Hydrometeorological Institute** (**CHMI**) provides monitoring and forecasting capabilities. Real-time data and nowcasting model outputs (including probabilistic river flow forecasts) are publicly accessible. Data exchange takes place with the CHMI and neighbouring countries during flood events with a cross-border dimension.

- When **warnings** are issued, the Regional FRS verifies that they are properly received and understood by local authorities (mayors), thereby enabling appropriate actions.

- Over the past years, an increased number of local authorities, particularly mayors, have developed a good level of understanding of **warning and monitoring products**, supporting more informed decision-making during severe events.

- An in-depth **evaluation** is conducted **after major weather and flood events** to review and adjust warning thresholds and operational procedures, supporting continuous improvement. The system also integrates **new technologies and platforms** (e.g. the FEWS platform, with Artificial Intelligence capabilities under development through collaboration with Google and Deltares) to enhance forecasting, analysis, and decision support.

- A well-established **public warning system** offers multiple communication channels (e.g. Unified Warning and Notification System, localised SMS system). Funding and purchase procedures are already in place for the implementation of cell-broadcasting by the end of 2026. The newly established Cell broadcast system, co-funded by the MoI and the Ministry of Defence, represents effective civil-military cooperation.

- Procedures for the use of the **Galileo Emergency Warning Service (EWSS)** are being developed, supporting the integration of satellite-based early warning capabilities into the national system.

Key recommendations:

GOVERNANCE OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- A targeted **revision of the current legislative, institutional, and procedural framework**, aimed at adapting it to emerging threats, would help ensure the system is prepared for future challenges driven by evolving risk patterns and geopolitical developments.

- Consider revising the operational procedures governing the **crisis states declaration** to help minimise delays and conflicts of competence resulting from overlapping declarations. A paradigm shift should be promoted to integrate the emergency/crisis management system in both peacetime and wartime, enabling effective responses to hybrid threats that require coordinated, cross-sectoral measures activated in advance.

- Address legal limitations on extending **a state of emergency** beyond 30 days and the lack of simplified post-disaster reconstruction procedures by introducing mechanisms that provide greater flexibility while ensuring oversight and accountability.

- It is recommended to further strengthen **capacities at the municipal level**, where resource constraints and significant pressure on mayors create vulnerabilities. Reinforce **inter-municipal cooperation** and **shared service arrangements** to optimise existing capacities. In parallel, intensify awareness-raising efforts to ensure that municipalities clearly understand emerging and future risks, enabling proactive preparedness and stronger local resilience.

- **Data collection, sharing, and dissemination mechanisms** should be strengthened to better support the entire crisis management system. Particular attention should be given to improving data flows from the national to the regional and local levels and vice versa (top-down and bottom-up approach). Consider introducing legal provisions to support systematic data collection, accompanied by well-defined protocols and procedures.

- Ensure that all **strategic documents** are accompanied by an **Action Plan** to ensure measure implementation, with clear allocation of responsibilities and resources, as well as a monitoring system with defined indicators.

- Consider establishing a **unified framework for strategies** to reduce duplication and further ensure that all strategies and strategic documents are aligned. Such a framework could ensure coherence of objectives, streamline implementation, and facilitate monitoring, while maintaining sector-specific action plans where necessary.

- The **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** has significant potential that could be further unlocked. Consider placing the platform directly under the Prime Minister, rather than under a single ministry, and incorporating the private sector to ensure a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

- Further enhance **partnerships with NGOs and CSOs** (e.g., through formalised agreements and the establishment of a national register), while clearly defining their roles in the prepared-

ness and response phases. NGOs and CSOs can play a key role in collecting data on citizens, particularly on vulnerable groups.

- Establish a **coordinated system** among relevant entities for the **management of financial reserves**, ensuring that reserves allocated for crisis management within each ministry are not redirected to other purposes. Additionally, it is recommended to establish a **minimum budget threshold for crisis management** across ministries, regions, MEA, and municipalities.

- The development of **production capabilities** through formal agreements with private companies (e.g. for Personal Protective Equipment, PPE, production) could help ensure rapid mobilisation during crises and maintain continuity of essential services. Further explore opportunities to involve the private sector in stockpiling critical raw materials.

- It is recommended to reinforce **budget allocation in population preparedness**, starting from a minimum of 0.3% of GDP annually, in line with NATO's The Hague Summit Declaration, which requests up to 1.5% of GDP.

- Strengthen the implementation and **scaling up of research results** by promoting their dissemination to other countries through tailored communication channels (e.g., the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network), and ensure mechanisms are in place to support the long-term sustainability of projects beyond their completion.

- Develop and formalise a **national risk and crisis communication strategy** with related guidelines, supported by a **centralised platform** to ensure a single-voice approach in both preparedness and response. Promote crisis communication training at all levels.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- The **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** represents an excellent opportunity to further improve, systematise, and align risk assessment. Collaboration on this topic should be formalised and operationalised.

- Prioritise the update of the **national risk assessment** and ensure it is revised regularly, adopting a combined bottom-up, top-down, and horizontal approach in its development.

- Risk assessment should adopt a **multi-risk, all-hazard approach** (including hybrid threats), with results guiding resource allocation to the highest-priority risks.

- Consider developing a **public WebGIS risk mapping tool** to further disseminate risk assessment results and ensure citizens can easily access risk information.

- Consider developing and implementing **foresight tools**, such as horizon scanning, to anticipate future challenges and support anticipatory governance.

- Leverage **new technologies**, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, to enhance data analysis, foresight, and decision-making.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- In addition to reaction plans, it is recommended to draft **Disaster Risk Reduction plans,** particularly for unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks, to further promote a culture of prevention across the country. Consider introducing legal requirements and a clear standardised approach on how all relevant actors should incorporate disaster risk reduction measures into their planning processes.

- Ensure alignment between crisis management plans developed at all levels. Using a **single planning process** to address emergencies and scale up response to crisis management, including requests for international assistance, would further improve coordination during emergency situations.

- Ensure **inclusive crisis management planning** at all levels. To achieve this, strengthen cooperation with organisations representing persons with disabilities and promote cross-sector collaboration, enabling more inclusive, coordinated, and effective preparedness and response strategies.

- **Crisis plans for critical entities** should be further enhanced and simplified to ensure they are practical and usable during emergencies.

- Establish a streamlined **civil-military planning mechanism** to strengthen coordination, align preparedness efforts, and ensure coherent action across civilian and military institutions.

PREPAREDNESS

- Promote the replication of the Karlovy Vary's 'World of Rescuers – Health and Safety Centre' model in other regions, as it represents excellent practice in providing practical education and training in population preparedness and protection.

- Consider introducing a '**Population Preparedness Week**' to strengthen population preparedness and explore additional methods to engage the population, civil protection and private sector to ensure the whole of government and whole-of-society approach. For example, train adults and elderly people to become trainers themselves and pass on knowledge to younger generations. For younger audiences, consider using interactive tools such as the 'UNDRR Stop Disasters game'.

- The ongoing **evaluation of the 72-hour initiative** will help understand the reasons behind its limited impact on population behaviour. Based on this, consideration could be given to developing an overarching national risk communication strategy and expanding the 72-hour guidelines to include more detailed guidance on safe behaviour in the event of different hazards.

- Develop and formally establish **disability-inclusive policies/tools** within DRM and crisis management frameworks. In addition, consider further expanding the 72-hour guidelines to include tailored guidance for persons with disabilities, including advice on how to assist them during a crisis or war.

- An **educational university programme** for future teachers of 'health and safety education' should be established and systematically implemented to ensure the sustainable integration of this subject within the education system.

- Consider creating **a repository** within the suggested centralised platform for risk and crisis communication (see Governance of DRR section) to systematically collect and share awareness campaigns and educational materials developed by different institutions.

- The **public alert system**, currently based on an analogue one-way system, should be further enhanced to overcome its limitations, particularly in the dissemination of useful information in real time. In light of the current security context, consideration could be given to reducing the frequency of siren testing and further enhancing citizens' awareness and understanding of the different signals through targeted awareness campaigns, which may contribute to a change in public awareness.

- Advance the establishment of a **cell broadcast system** and explore cooperation with countries with already functioning systems (e.g., Romania). Progress the pilot testing and implementation of the Galileo Emergency Warning Service (EWSS).

- Further improve **impact-based early warning systems** (EWS) by identifying specific thresholds from past event data and continue to invest in infrastructure, technologies, and sensors for early warning and forecasting. Consider integrating the system with population-sourced data, using citizen science to allow individuals to report observations.

- Given their key role in disseminating and communicating warnings and forecasts, consideration could be given to developing **training programmes for the media** to help them better understand and communicate disaster risk. Consideration could also be given to improving the communication of warnings by translating them into clearer and more understandable language for the general public.

- Encourage and attract students to pursue **studies in applied meteorology and water engineering** to strengthen and sustain the country's technical capacities.

- The adaptation of an existing **EWS** to **address emerging threats,** including **hybrid threats**, would significantly enhance the preparedness of critical entities. Furthermore, strengthening connections and information exchange between crisis management authorities and critical entities, as well as promoting information sharing among the entities themselves, would contribute to a more coordinated and effective response.

Manažerské shrnutí

Český systém krizového řízení a řešení mimořádných událostí je dobře strukturovaný a robustní, přičemž využívá duální přístup k řešení katastrof i konfliktů. V posledních desetiletích prošel významným vývojem, přičemž čerpal z ponaučení z minulých událostí a pravidelných hodnocení s cílem zajistit neustálý rozvoj. Cílem současných reforem není úplná revize rámce, ale spíše jeho další posílení v reakci na nová rizika a vyvíjející se hrozby v kontextu bezpečnostního a geopolitického prostředí. Spolupráce mezi Hasičským záchranným sborem (HZS) a ostatními orgány a aktéry v oblasti řízení rizik katastrof a krizového řízení je silná, a to jak na vertikální, tak na horizontální úrovni. Kromě toho bylo vynaloženo značné úsilí na zvýšení připravenosti obyvatelstva, čehož výsledkem jsou hmatatelné úspěchy při vybavování komunit pro zvládání současných i budoucích výzev.

Silné stránky a doporučení pro systém řízení rizik katastrof / krizového řízení v Česku jsou v této zprávě nastíněny pro klíčové tematické oblasti zahrnuté v tomto partnerském hodnocení (peer review): správa a řízení snižování rizika katastrof, hodnocení rizik, plánování managementu rizik katastrof a připravenost. Silné stránky a doporučení týkající se hodnocení rizik a připravenosti jsou omezeny na témata projednávaná během hodnocení. Další podrobnosti a vysvětlení níže uvedených silných stránek a doporučení naleznete v oddílech „Závěry“ u každé klíčové oblasti zájmu, konkrétně v kapitolách 2.6, 3.3, 4.6 a 5.4.

Identifikované klíčové silné stránky:

SPRÁVA A ŘÍZENÍ SNIŽOVÁNÍ RIZIKA KATASTROF

- **Český systém managementu rizik katastrof (DRM) / krizového řízení** je dobře strukturovaný a robustní, s jasně definovanými rolemi a odpovědnostmi. **Ponaučení z nedávných mimořádných událostí** (např. povodně v roce 2024) byla analyzována a využita k dalšímu zdokonalení systému.

- Současný **legislativní, institucionální a procedurální rámec** se v uplynulých letech osvědčil při řešení „tradičních rizik“ a nedávno byl restrukturalizován s cílem efektivněji reagovat na rizika a hrozby a implementovat směrnici CER. Postupy pro aktivaci odezvy, včetně zapojení regionální úrovně, jsou plně zavedeny.

- **Ústřední krizový štáb** zajišťuje jednotné velení a řízení a také strategickou koordinaci během mimořádných událostí.

- Klíčová ministerstva uznávají **dopady změny klimatu** a zabývají se jimi. Aspekty související se změnou klimatu jsou zahrnovány do nové metodiky provádění hodnocení rizik, která se v současné době připravuje.

- Strategické dokumenty, zejména **Koncepce ochrany obyvatelstva**, stanovují koordinované a zastřešující cíle směřující k vyšší odolnosti.

- **Národní platforma pro snižování rizika katastrof** je zavedena a je složena z vysoce kvalifikovaných odborníků. Platforma má významný potenciál posílit odolnost tím, že usnadňuje koordinaci mezi sektory, podporuje připravenost a umožňuje mezisektorový dialog.

- Mezi Hasičským záchranným sborem (HZS), ministerstvy a dalšími klíčovými aktéry v oblasti DRM existuje velmi dobrá **vertikální i horizontální spolupráce**.

- Dlouhodobá **spolupráce mezi HZS a výzkumnými institucemi** podporuje rozhodování a praxi podloženou důkazy. Existuje národní program výzkumu a vývoje (VaV) založený na bezpečnostním výzkumu, který vychází z analýzy reálných potřeb.

- V rozpočtové kapitole každého ministerstva je vyčleněna **specifická rozpočtová položka pro krizové řízení** a během krizí je využíván dynamický nákupní systém umožňující rychlé pořízení zboží a služeb.

- Je prováděno pravidelné **mapování zdrojů dostupných na trhu** pro krizové situace a vytvářejí se výrobní rezervy pro zachování výrobních kapacit.

- Je navázáno dlouhodobé **partnerství s Českou národní bankou**. Banka se podílí na práci odborného Výboru pro civilní nouzové plánování v rámci Bezpečnostní rady státu.

- **Při Ministerstvu vnitra (MV)** je zřízena stálá **Pracovní skupina pro krizovou komunikaci**, která podporuje strategickou komunikaci během mimořádných událostí, organizuje a realizuje školení a workshopy pro obce o tom, jak komunikovat s obyvatelstvem, a spolupracuje s organizacemi občanské společnosti.

HODNOCENÍ RIZIK

- Od roku 2016 je zavedena standardní **metodika hodnocení rizik** v souladu s normami ISO, přičemž hodnocení rizik je považováno za mezioborovou a meziinstitucionální činnost napříč všemi úrovněmi.

- Tvorba **map zranitelnosti a připravenosti** ve vztahu k expozici (např. počet obyvatel a veřejná infrastruktura) a dostupným zdrojům (např. počet hasičů a zdravotnických jednotek) v konkrétních oblastech představuje slibný postup, který by měl být dále zkoumán a šířen.

- Systematická implementace **fáze vyhodnocování rizik** za účelem identifikace nepřijatelných a podmínečně přijatelných rizik zajišťuje, že celkový proces hodnocení rizik je ucelený a efektivní.

- V některých krajích (např. ve Středočeském kraji) byl zřízen **Portál krizového řízení**, který obsahuje analýzy rizik, mapy a plánovací dokumenty. Na tomto portálu se vyhodnocují rizika specifická pro daný kraj spolu s riziky přenesenými z celostátní úrovně.

PLÁNOVÁNÍ MANAGEMENTU RIZIK KATASTROF

- Na celostátní i krajské úrovni existují zavedené a komplexní **procesy plánování krizového řízení**, které se opírají o úzkou spolupráci mezi některými kraji (např. Středočeským krajem) a Hasičským záchranným sborem.

- Pro koordinaci plánovacích procesů se konají **pravidelná setkání** na krajské i celostátní úrovni. Spolupráce mezi kraji v oblasti plánování, jakož i v připravenosti a odezvě, je dobře zavedena, přičemž mezi sousedními kraji jsou uzavřeny formální dohody o spolupráci.

- **Krizové plány** krajů a **obcí s rozšířenou působností** (ORP) jsou vypracovávány krajskými HZS ve spolupráci s krajskými úřady, dalšími složkami Integrovaného záchranného systému (IZS) a správními orgány a jejich součástí je nezbytný plán dodávek pro krizové situace.

- V některých krajích, jako je Středočeský kraj, umožňuje přístup k plánovacím dokumentům **Portál krizového řízení, který má veřejnou i neveřejnou část**.

- **Plány pro zvládání povodňových rizik** (PZPR) se zabývají říčními a přívalovými povodněmi, bleskovými povodněmi a povodněmi způsobenými protržením hrází. Při vypracovávání PZPR v mezinárodních povodích probíhá dobrá mezinárodní spolupráce se sousedními zeměmi.

PŘIPRAVENOST

- Jsou zavedeny vysoce kvalitní vzdělávací programy v oblasti ochrany obyvatelstva a managementu rizik katastrof (DRM) přizpůsobené potřebám veřejnosti, které školí studenty pro budoucí práci ve státní správě a samosprávě, včetně systému školení v oblasti DRM pro stávající i budoucí učitele.

- Existují **programy a aktivity připravenosti** pro **zranitelné skupiny**, včetně osob se zdravotním postižením a cizinců, přičemž informační materiály jsou překládány do více jazyků a znakového jazyka. Tyto skupiny se aktivně podílejí na tvorbě těchto materiálů, aby byla zajištěna inkluze a přístupnost.

- **Bezpečnostní výcvik ve školách** zahrnuje kritické myšlení a zabývá se problematikou misinformací a dezinformací.

- Zážitková pedagogika využívá **inovativní nástroje** (jako je virtuální realita, vážné hry a simulační výcviková centra) k posílení výuky, zapojení a praktických dovedností v oblasti připravenosti.

- Úzká **spolupráce mezi příslušnými univerzitami a HZS** (jakož i ostatními složkami IZS) umožňuje stáže studentů v operačních strukturách, což jim dovoluje uplatnit znalosti a dovednosti získané během studia a zároveň posilovat připravenost.

- Již byla navázána dobrá **spolupráce se soukromým sektorem a napříč ministerstvy** při vývoji a realizaci kampaní zaměřených na připravenost.

- **Programy připravenosti** jsou vyvíjeny na základě přístupu podloženého důkazy (evidence-informed), přičemž jsou prováděna šetření k identifikaci nedostatků, které je třeba řešit. V současné době probíhá proces hodnocení a je zveřejňována výroční zpráva o připravenosti.

- Byla spuštěna **kampaň na připravenost obyvatelstva „72 hodin“** a bylo provedeno hodnocení jejího dopadu.

- Z **fondů EU** byla financována výstavba karlovarského centra „Svět záchranářů – Centrum zdraví a bezpečí“, které provozuje nezisková organizace s podporou krajských úřadů. Pokračování tohoto projektu je plánováno s využitím Fondu pro spravedlivou transformaci.

- V rámci veřejných i soukromých institucí je zaveden proaktivní **přístup k cvičením a zátěžovým testům**. Probíhají společná cvičení mezi sektory, jako jsou zátěžové testy v energetice pokrývající různá nebezpečí, včetně úmyslných útoků a scénářů souvisejících s počasím.

- Většina populace je pokryta spolehlivým, zákonem ukotveným **systémem včasného varování**. Systém požívá vysoké důvěry a je veřejností vnímán pozitivně, což potvrdily i průzkumy veřejného mínění po nedávných povodních.

- **Český hydrometeorologický ústav (ČHMÚ)** zajišťuje monitorovací a předpovědní kapacity. Údaje v reálném čase a výstupy modelů nowcastingu (včetně pravděpodobnostních předpovědí průtoků řek) jsou veřejně přístupné. Během povodní s přeshraničním dopadem probíhá výměna dat mezi ČHMÚ a sousedními zeměmi.

- Při **vydání výstrahy** krajské HZS ověřují, zda byly zprávy řádně přijaty a pochopeny místními orgány (starosty), což umožňuje přijetí odpovídajících opatření.

- V posledních letech se u zvýšeného počtu místních orgánů, zejména starostů, rozvinula dobrá úroveň porozumění **varovným a monitorovacím produktům**, což podporuje informovanější rozhodování během krizových událostí.

- **Po významných povětrnostních a povodňových událostech** se provádí **hloubkové hodnocení** s cílem přezkoumat a upravit prahy varování a operační postupy, což napomáhá neustálému zlepšování. Systém také integruje **nové technologie a platformy** (např. systém FEWS s prvky umělé inteligence, vyvíjenou ve spolupráci se společnostmi Google a Deltares) pro posílení předpovědí, analýz a podpory rozhodování.

- Zavedený **systém varování veřejnosti** nabízí více komunikačních kanálů (např. Jednotný systém varování a vyrozumění, lokalizovaný SMS systém). Již existují finanční prostředky a nákupní postupy pro implementaci technologie Cell Broadcast do konce roku 2026. Nově zřízený systém Cell Broadcast, spolufinancovaný Ministerstvem vnitra a Ministerstvem obrany, představuje efektivní civilně-vojenskou spolupráci.

- Připravují se postupy pro využití **tísňové služby systému Galileo (EWSS)**, což podpoří integraci satelitních kapacit včasného varování do národního systému.

Klíčová doporučení:

SPRÁVA A ŘÍZENÍ SNIŽOVÁNÍ RIZIKA KATASTROF

- **Cílená revize stávajícího legislativního, institucionálního a procedurálního rámce**, zaměřená na jeho adaptaci na nově vznikající hrozby, by pomohla zajistit připravenost systému na budoucí výzvy vyvolané vyvíjejícími se vzorci rizik a geopolitickým vývojem.

- Zvažte revizi operačních postupů pro **vyhlašování krizových stavů**, která by pomohla minimalizovat prodlevy a kompetenční spory vyplývající z překrývajících se deklarací. Je žádoucí podpořit změnu paradigmatu směřující k integraci krizového řízení v době míru i válečného stavu. To umožní efektivní reakci na hybridní hrozby vyžadující koordinovaná, meziodvětvová opatření aktivovaná s dostatečným předstihem..

- Řešte právní omezení týkající se prodloužení **nouzového stavu** nad 30 dní a absenci zjednodušených postupů pro obnovu po katastrofě zavedením mechanismů, které poskytují větší flexibilitu při současném zajištění dohledu a odpovědnosti.

- Doporučuje se dále **posilovat kapacity na obecní úrovni**, kde omezení zdrojů a značný tlak na starosty vytvářejí slabá místa. Posilte **meziobecní spolupráci** a **sdílení služeb** pro optimalizaci stávajících kapacit. Souběžně s tím zintenzivněte úsilí o zvyšování povědomí, aby obce jasně chápaly vznikající a budoucí rizika, což umožní proaktivní připravenost a silnější lokální odolnost.

- **Mechanismy sběru, sdílení a šíření dat** by měly být posíleny pro lepší podporu celého systému krizového řízení. Zvláštní pozornost by měla být věnována zlepšení datových toků z národní na krajskou a místní úroveň a naopak (přístup shora dolů i zdola nahoru). Zvažte zavedení zákonných ustanovení na podporu **systematického sběru dat**, doplněných jasně definovanými protokoly a postupy.

- Zajistěte, aby všechny **strategické dokumenty** byly doprovázeny **akčním plánem** pro zajištění implementace opatření, s jasným rozdělením odpovědností i zdrojů a také systémem monitorování s definovanými ukazateli.

- Zvažte vytvoření **jednotného strategického rámce** s cílem omezit duplicity a dále zajistit soulad všech strategií a strategických dokumentů. Takový rámec by mohl zajistit soudržnost cílů, zefektivnit implementaci a usnadnit monitorování, přičemž by tam, kde je to nutné, zůstaly zachovány sektorově specifické akční plány.

- **Národní platforma pro snižování rizika katastrof** má významný potenciál, který by mohl být dále využit. Zvažte zařazení platformy přímo pod předsedu vlády namísto pod jedno ministerstvo a zapojení soukromého sektoru pro zajištění celospolečenského a celovládního přístupu.

- Dále posilujte **partnerství s nevládními neziskovými organizacemi (NNO) a organizacemi občanské společnosti** (např. prostřednictvím formalizovaných dohod a zřízení národního registru) a zároveň jasně definujte jejich role ve fázích připravenosti a odezvy. NNO a organ-

izace občanské společnosti mohou hrát klíčovou roli při sběru dat o občanech, zejména o zranitelných skupinách.

- Vytvořte mezi příslušnými subjekty **koordinovaný systém** pro **správu finančních rezerv** a zajistěte, aby finanční prostředky vyčleněné na krizové řízení v rozpočtových kapitolách jednotlivých ministerstev nebyly přesouvány na jiné účely. Dále se doporučuje stanovit **minimální rozpočtový rámec pro krizové řízení** napříč ministerstvy, kraji, obcemi s rozšířenou působností (ORP) a obcemi.

- Rozvoj **výrobních kapacit** prostřednictvím formálních dohod se soukromými společnostmi (např. pro výrobu osobních ochranných prostředků, OOPP) by mohl pomoci zajistit rychlou mobilizaci během krizí a zachovat kontinuitu základních služeb. Dále prozkoumejte možnosti zapojení soukromého sektoru do vytváření zásob kritických surovin.

- Doporučuje se posílit **rozpočtové příděly na připravenost obyvatelstva**, počínaje minimem 0,3 % HDP ročně, v souladu s Deklarací z haagského summitu NATO, která požaduje až 1,5 % HDP.

- Posilte **implementaci a rozšiřování výsledků výzkumu** podporou jejich šíření do dalších zemí prostřednictvím přizpůsobených komunikačních kanálů (např. Unijní sítě znalostí v oblasti civilní ochrany) a zajistěte mechanismy pro podporu dlouhodobé udržitelnosti projektů i po jejich dokončení.

- Vypracujte a formalizujte **národní strategii komunikace o rizicích a krizové komunikace** včetně souvisejících metodických pokynů, podpořenou **centralizovanou platformou** pro zajištění přístupu „jednoho hlasu“ v připravenosti i odezvě. Podporujte školení v krizové komunikaci na všech úrovních.

HODNOCENÍ RIZIK

- **Národní platforma pro snižování rizika katastrof** představuje vynikající příležitost k dalšímu zlepšení, systematizaci a sjednocení hodnocení rizik. Spolupráce na tomto tématu by měla být formalizována a operacionalizována.

- Prioritizujte aktualizaci **národního hodnocení rizik** a zajistěte jeho pravidelnou revizi, přičemž při jeho vypracování uplatňujte kombinovaný přístup zdola nahoru, shora dolů a horizontální přístup.

- Hodnocení rizik by mělo využívat **přístup založený na více rizicích a všech nebezpečích (tzv. multi-risk, all-hazard approach, včetně hybridních hrozeb)**, přičemž výsledky by měly směřovat přidělování zdrojů k nejprioritnějším rizikům.

- Zvažte vývoj **veřejného WebGIS nástroje pro mapování rizik** s cílem dále šířit výsledky hodnocení rizik a zajistit občanům snadný přístup k informacím o rizicích.

- Zvažte vývoj a implementaci **metod foresightu**, jako je horizon scanning, s cílem předvídat budoucí výzvy a podporovat anticipativní vládnutí (anticipatory governance).

- Využívejte **nové technologie**, včetně umělé inteligence a strojového učení, k posílení analýzy dat, foresightu a rozhodování.

PLÁNOVÁNÍ MANAGEMENTU RIZIK KATASTROF

- Kromě plánů odezvy (reaction plans) se doporučuje vypracovat **plány na snižování rizika katastrof**, zejména pro nepřijatelná a podmínečně přijatelná rizika, aby se dále podpořila kultura prevence v celé zemi. Zvažte zavedení zákonných požadavků a jasného standardizovaného přístupu k tomu, jak by měli všichni příslušní aktéři začlenit opatření na snižování rizika katastrof do svých plánovacích procesů.

- Zajistěte soulad mezi plány krizového řízení vypracovanými na všech úrovních. Použití **jednotného plánovacího postupu** pro řešení mimořádných událostí a postupné navyšování kapacit odezvy, včetně žádostí o mezinárodní pomoc, by dále zlepšilo koordinaci během mimořádných situací.

- Zajistěte **inkluzivní plánování krizového řízení** na všech úrovních. Za tímto účelem posilte spolupráci s organizacemi zastupujícími osoby se zdravotním postižením a podporujte mezioodvětvovou spolupráci, což umožní inkluzivnější, koordinovanější a efektivnější strategie připravenosti a odezvy.

- **Plány krizové připravenosti právnických osob plnících opatření z krizového plánu** by měly být dále vylepšeny a zjednodušeny, aby bylo zajištěno, že budou praktické a použitelné během mimořádných událostí a krizových situací.

- Vytvořte **zefektivněný mechanismus civilně-vojenského plánování** s cílem posílit koordinaci, sjednotit úsilí v oblasti připravenosti a zajistit soudržný postup civilních a vojenských institucem.

PŘIPRAVENOST

- Podporujte replikaci modelu karlovarského „Světa záchranářů – Centra zdraví a bezpečí“ v ostatních krajích, neboť představuje příklad dobré praxe v poskytování praktického vzdělávání a výcviku v oblasti připravenosti a ochrany obyvatelstva.

- Zvažte zavedení „**Týdne připravenosti obyvatelstva**“ pro posílení připravenosti populace a prozkoumejte další metody zapojení obyvatel, civilní ochrany a soukromého sektoru k zajištění celovládního a celospolečenského přístupu. Například školte dospělé a seniory, aby se sami stali školiteli a předávali znalosti mladším generacím. Pro mladší publikum zvažte využití interaktivních nástrojů, jako je hra UNDRR „Stop Disasters“.

- Probíhající **vyhodnocení iniciativy „72 hodin“** pomůže pochopit důvody jejího omezeného dopadu na chování obyvatelstva. Na základě toho by bylo možné zvážit vypracování zastřešující národní strategie krizové komunikace a rozšíření pokynů „72 hodin“ o podrobnější návody na bezpečné chování v případě různých nebezpečí.

- Vypracujte a formálně ukotvěte **politiky a nástroje inkluzivní vůči osobám se zdravotním postižením** v rámci managementu rizik katastrof (DRM) a krizového řízení. Dále zvažte rozšíření pokynů „72 hodin“ o návody šité na míru osobám se zdravotním postižením, včetně rad, jak jim pomoci během krize nebo války.

- Měl by být vytvořen a systematicky implementován **univerzitní vzdělávací program** pro budoucí učitele předmětu „výchova ke zdraví a bezpečí“, aby bylo zajištěno udržitelné začlenění tohoto tématu do vzdělávacího systému.

- Zvažte vytvoření **repozitáře** v rámci navrhované centralizované platformy pro komunikaci o rizicích a krizovou komunikaci (viz sekce Správa a řízení snižování rizika katastrof) pro systematický sběr a sdílení osvětových kampaní a vzdělávacích materiálů vypracovaných různými institucemi.

- **Veřejný výstražný systém**, v současnosti založený na analogovém jednosměrném systému, by měl být dále vylepšen, aby překonal svá omezení, zejména v oblasti šíření užitečných informací v reálném čase. Vzhledem k současnému bezpečnostnímu kontextu by bylo možné zvážit snížení frekvence zkoušek sirén a dále posilovat povědomí občanů a jejich porozumění různým signálům prostřednictvím cílených osvětových kampaní, což může přispět ke změně vnímání veřejnosti.

- Pokročte v zavádění **systému Cell Broadcast** a prozkoumejte spolupráci se zeměmi, které již mají funkční systémy (např. Rumunsko). Pokračujte v pilotním testování a implementaci systému včasného varování Galileo (EWSS).

- Dále zlepšujte **systémy včasného varování založené na dopadech (EWS)** identifikací konkrétních prahových hodnot z dat o minulých událostech a nadále investujte do infrastruktury, technologií a senzorů pro včasné varování a předpovídání. Zvažte integraci systému s daty získávanými od obyvatelstva s využitím občanské vědy (citizen science), která jednotlivcům umožní hlásit svá pozorování.

- Vzhledem k jejich klíčové roli při šíření a sdělování varování a předpovědí by se dalo zvážit vypracování **školicích programů pro média**, která by jim pomohla lépe pochopit a komunikovat rizika katastrof. Rovněž by bylo možné zvážit zlepšení komunikace varování jejich překladem do jasnějšího a srozumitelnějšího jazyka pro širokou veřejnost.

- Motivujte a získejte studenty ke studiu **aplikované meteorologie a vodohospodářského inženýrství** za účelem posílení a udržení technických kapacit země.

- Adaptace stávajícího **systému včasného varování (EWS)** na **nově vznikající hrozby, včetně hybridních hrozeb**, by výrazně zvýšila připravenost kritických subjektů. Dále by k koordinovanější a efektivnější reakci přispělo posílení vazeb a výměny informací mezi orgány krizového řízení a kritickými subjekty, jakož i podpora sdílení informací mezi subjekty samotnými.

1 - Introduction

1.1 - Peer review of disaster risk management capabilities

Peer review is a common working method for assessing policy performance and implementation. The European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) introduced peer reviews as a means for improving risk management capabilities, stimulating exchange of knowledge, identifying good practices of policy and operations, and fostering integration of disaster prevention, preparedness, and response. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) operates the UCPM peer review programme.

The reviews, through independent analyses, are conducted by selected experts (the 'peers') from UCPM countries.

Since 2013, nineteen countries and one region have completed a voluntary peer review assessment.

1.2 - Scope of the review in Czechia

Czechia, represented by the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service (DG FRS), within the Ministry of Interior (MoI), submitted a request for a UCPM peer review of disaster risk management capabilities in January 2025. The scope of the assessment was co-designed through dialogue and consultations. DG ECHO appointed four peers through a call for interest circulated among the UCPM countries. During the on-site mission organised by the DG FRS and held in March 2026, the peers engaged in discussions with representatives from key institutions, including ministries, agencies, academic institutions, and civil society organisations.

Figure 4: The peer review team (peers, DG ECHO, CMCC), DG FRS/MoI, and representatives from key institutions attending a plenary meeting during the peer review mission at DG FRS's headquarters.

2 - Governance of disaster risk reduction

2.1 - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework

- Czechia's crisis management (CM) system is regulated by a 'security legislation package', whose core instrument is the **Constitutional Act No. 110/1998 Coll., on the Security of the Czech Republic**.

- The CM system is based on a **dual approach**. Military threats fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, while non-military threats fall under the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) responsibility.

- The **Integrated Rescue System** (IRS) is a coordinated action among key actors and corresponds to the operational core of the CM system. It ensures coordination among national, regional, and local authorities.

The current crisis management (CM) system of Czechia was established after the devastating 1997 floods. It is structured following a dual approach that depends on the type of crisis, which can refer either to military or non-military threats. While military threats fall under the main responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), non-military threats are under the Ministry of the Interior (MoI).

Czechia's CM system is regulated by a 'security legislation package', whose core instrument is the Constitutional Act No. 110/1998 Coll., on the Security of the Czech Republic. This Act – also called 'Act on Security' – establishes the basic framework for managing national crises, allocates decision-making powers between the government, the parliament, and the president and defines the conditions under which the country may declare a state of emergency, a state of threat, or a state of war.

Based on the Act on Security, the following derived acts provide the detailed legal and operational structures:

- Act No. 240/2000 Coll., on Crisis Management and on Amendments to Certain Acts – or 'Crisis Management Act' – defines the authority of state institutions, regional and municipal governments, as well as the rights and obligations of legal entities and individuals in preparing for and addressing crisis situations not related to the defence of the state. Defines the conditions under which a regional governor may declare a state of danger. This act serves as the backbone of CM governance, clarifying responsibilities and ensuring accountability across administrative levels.

- Complementing the Crisis Management Act, Act No. 239/2000 Coll., on the Integrated Rescue System and on Amendments to Certain Acts – or 'Integrated Rescue System Act' – establishes the Integrated Rescue System (IRS) as the operational core of the CM system, ensuring structured cooperation between relevant actors (see also below). The Crisis Management Act and the IRS Act were initially adopted as one 'package', but they now form two separate acts, despite being interrelated. While the Crisis Management Act ad-

dresses emergencies requiring broader resource mobilisation (human/financial), the IRS Act covers operational response with financial, human, and equipment resources.

- Act No. 241/2000 Coll., on Economic Measures for Crisis Situations – or 'Act on Economic Measures' – regulates the preparation of economic measures during a state of danger, a state of emergency, a state of threat, and a state of war (referred to as 'crisis states'), as well as the role of relevant authorities in preparing and adopting such measures.

- Act No. 222/1999 Coll., on Defence of the Czech Republic, deals with military threats, defining state responsibilities, territorial preparation, and measures for national defence against external threats. It complements other security laws like the Armed Forces Act and the Crisis Management Act, ensuring the nation's preparedness for wartime.

Besides the above-mentioned acts, other relevant legislation instruments include:

- Act No. 320/2015 Coll., on the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic – or 'Fire Rescue Service Act' – defines the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) as both a specialised emergency force and a central coordinating authority for crisis management, population protection, and humanitarian logistics.

- Act No. 266/2025 Coll., on the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure Entities – or 'Critical Infrastructure Act' – transposes the EU Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive and lays down the competence of state authorities in the area of increasing the resilience of critical infrastructure entities, rights and obligations of legal and natural persons to ensure the provision of essential services, and measures to increase and ensure the resilience of critical infrastructure entities.

- Act No. 254/2001 Coll., on Waters – or 'the Water Act' – provides the legal framework for defining and managing flood events. Beyond defining floods, the Act establishes comprehensive provisions on flood plain areas, risk management, prevention measures, flood plans, forecasting and warning systems, post-flood evaluation, and the responsibilities of flood authorities.

- Land-use and resilience planning are embedded in Act No. 283/2021 Coll., on Construction – also known as the 'Construction Act' – which strengthens spatial planning, building regulations, and sustainable development, while also mandating protective standards for construction in areas prone to risk.

- Act No. 224/2015 Coll., on the Prevention of Major Accidents, which establishes a system for the prevention of major accidents for facilities where hazardous substances are present – which mandates the determination of emergency planning zones and the preparation of external emergency plans for facilities classified in category B.

- Act No. 263/2016 Coll., the Atomic Act provides a comprehensive legal framework for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ionising radiation. The Act strengthens requirements for emergency preparedness and contingency planning.

Among the major revisions to the legislation undertaken in the past two decades, the 2024 revision resulted in a partial but significant update. The CER Directive fundamentally reshaped crisis legislation by moving critical infrastructure into a standalone act. As a consequence, the Crisis Management Act was amended to introduce requirements for preparing a national risk assessment and a national crisis plan.

Crisis states

In Czechia, the declaration of a 'crisis state' regulates the adoption of relevant measures as well as the role and responsibilities of key actors in a specific situation. Crisis states include State of Danger (SoD), State of Emergency (SoE), State of National Threat (SoNT), and State of War (SoW).

Type	Conditions of declaration	Declared by	Duration	Territory	Law
SoD	Lives, health, property, and the environment are threatened; the intensity of the threat does not reach a significant extent, and it is not possible to avert a threat by standard processes of public authorities, IRS bodies or critical infrastructure entities.	Regional Governor (Mayor of Prague)	Maximum 30 days; extension is only permissible with government approval	The whole region or part of it	CM Act
SoE	In the event of natural disasters, ecological or industrial accidents, accidents or other dangers that significantly threaten lives, health or property values or internal order and security.	Government (or Prime Minister)	Maximum 30 days; extension is permissible with the prior consent of the Chamber of Deputies	The whole state or part of it	Act on Security
SoNT	It can be declared for non-military (MoI) or military threats (MoD). If the sovereignty of the state, the territorial integrity of the state, or its democratic foundations are immediately threatened.	Parliament	No restrictions	The whole state or part of it	Act on Security
SoW	If Czechia is attacked or if it is necessary to fulfil international treaty obligations on common defence against attack.	Parliament	No restrictions	The whole state	Constitution

Table 1: Crisis states: definition, duration, applicability.

Institutional framework

As mentioned above, the CM system of Czechia is structured on a dual approach based on the type of threat. Military threats fall under the responsibility of the MoD in coordination with other ministries and entities. Non-military threats fall under the MoI's responsibility, with cooperation from actors of the IRS, state administration, local authorities, the private sector, and citizens.

The Integrated Rescue System (IRS) is a coordinated action among key actors and corresponds to the operational core of the CM system. It aims to coordinate rescue and post-emergency operations when an emergency requires the joint action of several authorities. Coordination may be managed at the municipal, regional, or national level, depending on the scale of the incident. The main IRS bodies are the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, fire protection units included in the regional area coverage, providers of emergency medical services, and the Police of the Czech Republic. Additional supporting bodies which provide planned assistance upon request include armed forces and security services, public health authorities, specialised and emergency services, civil protection organisations, and non-governmental organisations involved in rescue activities.

The Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic (FRS CR) is one of the main bodies of the IRS. Its primary mission is the protection of life, health, and property of citizens against fire, and to provide effective help in emergencies. It consists of the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service (DG FRS CR) – which is part of MoI –, 14 Regional Fire Rescue Services[2] (Regional FRS), the Emergency Unit of FRS CR, and the Special Secondary School of Fire Protection and the High Special School of Fire Protection in Frýdek-Místek. The DG FRS CR manages the Regional FRS, which are organisational bodies of the state, accounting entities, and administrative authorities, and the Emergency Unit of FRS CR, which is an organisational body of the state and an accounting entity.

Crisis management authorities of non-military threats

At the national level, the government is entrusted with ensuring the state's preparedness for crisis situations, both natural and human-induced. Within this role, the government assigns tasks to other CM authorities, supervises their activities, and determines which ministry or central administrative authorities coordinate responses to specific crises when not otherwise prescribed by law. Furthermore, the government establishes the Central Crisis Staff as its working body for addressing crisis situations, decides on the declaration of a state of emergency, and declares and adopts crisis measures. Finally, it is also responsible for approving two fundamental strategic tools: the Crisis Plan of Czechia[3] and the National Risk Assessment (NRA), which together serve as the backbone of preparedness planning and hazard identification across institutions.

Ministries and Central Administrative Authorities (CAAs) are responsible for ensuring crisis preparedness within their sectoral jurisdiction, establishing crisis management offices, developing and approving Crisis plans (see Section 4.1), and forming Crisis staffs to coordinate actions during emergencies (see Section 2.3). They also cooperate in the preparation of the NRA and the Crisis Plan of Czechia. Among others, they are tasked with risk monitoring, threat analyses, and preventive measures to eliminate deficiencies that could escalate into crisis situations. Ministries are obliged to exchange relevant data with each other, the Central National Bank (which is a CAA), and regional or municipal authorities, ensuring smooth information flow across governance levels.

2 The list of the Regional FRS is available at this link.

3 As explained in Section 4.1, the Crisis Plan of Czechia has yet to be developed.

The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) has a main role in the CM system, with main tasks related to ensuring the state's preparedness. Specifically, MoI coordinates and directly unifies procedures of other ministries and CAAs, regions and municipalities, and legal entities and self-employed natural persons in the area of preparedness for emergencies, IRS, and civil protection. Additionally, it has a main responsibility for Czechia's involvement in international response operations and assistance, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To perform these core tasks, the MoI carries out several activities, including: organising and coordinating training, briefings, and exercises focused on the IRS; approving the Central IRS alarm plan (see Section 5.1); overseeing the preparedness of other ministries; auditing the crisis plans of the regions; developing a Concept of Population Protection (see Sections 2.2, 4.1); ensuring and operating a unified warning and notification system and a public alert system; preparing the NRA and the Crisis Plan of Czechia. In specific cases – e.g., for operations abroad, and when lower-level authorities request support – it coordinates response operations and the post-emergency phase. As mentioned above, the DG FRS CR operates as its executive body.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Transport also have key roles in the CM system, as specified in the IRS Act and Crisis Management Act. Specifically, the MoH coordinates, among others, the activities of the emergency medical rescue service provider and the provider of medical transport services. The Ministry of Transport is responsible for providing and maintaining a nationwide transport information system to support rescue and post-emergency operations related to mobile sources of danger in transport.

At the regional level, regional authorities and mayors of Municipalities with Extended Authority (MEA) are the main actors responsible for the CM system. Regional authorities are represented by the Regional Governor, holding primary responsibility, and the Regional Office. The Regional Governor is responsible for: ensuring regional preparedness; managing and controlling crisis response measures; declaring a state of danger; leading coordination of rescue operations during major emergencies that affect more than one district, especially when the highest alert is declared or when requested; coordinating activities across territorial administrative authorities, MEA, and relevant legal and natural persons, including measures necessary to secure the safety of the population and ensuring the protection of property (particularly in areas where evacuation has been carried out); organising the IRS in the region; approving key emergency documents and plans, such as the regional Crisis Plan – after discussion with the Regional Security Council; and ensuring the implementation of tasks outlined in the Crisis Plan of Czechia. To support these functions, the Governor establishes and oversees the Regional Security Council and the Regional Crisis Staff. Finally, the Regional Office establishes a crisis management unit, cooperates with the Regional FRS in the preparation of the Regional Crisis Plan, and performs tasks in accordance with the approved Regional Crisis Plan.

The Regional FRS and the Police are state authorities operating within the region. They ensure preparation for emergencies, the implementation of response and post-disaster activities, and the protection of the population. In accordance with the applicable legislation, the Regional FRS carry out the following tasks: unifies the procedures of municipal authorities of MEA and territorial administrative authorities with regional competence in the area of population protection; maintains an overview of potential sources of risk and performs threat analyses; prepares the Regional emergency plan, Regional crisis plan, and participate in the preparation of crisis plans of MEA; processes the Regional

IRS alarm plan; cooperates in the preparation and updating of the Regional flood risk management plan in accordance with the Water Act; prepares external emergency plan establishments classified as upper-tier establishment under the Seveso legislation as well as external emergency plan for nuclear power plant; and concludes agreements with the relevant territorial unit of a neighboring state.

The Regional FRS is also responsible for response and selected post-disaster operations focused on emergency intervention and mitigation actions, as detailed in Section 10.5 of the IRS Act, but it does not participate in post-disaster recovery, which remains the responsibility of the regional authorities and other competent bodies. In performing its activities, the Regional FRS also carries out tasks assigned by MoI, as well as tasks set by the Regional Governor within the scope of the Regional Crisis Plan and by the Mayor of a MEA within the scope of the MEA Crisis Plan.

The MEA are represented by the mayor and the local MEA Office. The mayor ensures the preparedness of the entire administrative district for emergencies and crisis situations and manages preventive, response, and recovery activities carried out by municipal authorities, territorial administrative bodies, legal entities, and individuals. The mayor establishes and leads the Municipal Security Council and Crisis staff, organises crisis preparedness, approves the crisis plan, and ensures that prescribed crisis measures are implemented. In carrying out these responsibilities, the mayor also fulfils tasks assigned by superior crisis management bodies and implements measures specified in the Crisis Plan of the MEA. During an emergency, the mayor coordinates rescue and mitigation operations when requested by the incident commander and may use the municipal crisis staff for this purpose. It also approves external emergency plans and must report on the progress of coordinated rescue activities to the MoI through the IRS's operational centres. Finally, the MEA Office cooperates with the Regional FRS in the preparation of the Regional and MEA Crisis Plan, keeps an overview of possible sources of risk and eliminates deficiencies that could lead to a crisis, and establishes a crisis management unit.

At the local level, municipal authorities, represented by the mayor, ensure the municipality's preparedness for emergencies and crisis situations and actively participate in rescue operations and population protection. Their responsibilities include organising preparedness activities, supporting the IRS, warning and informing residents, managing civil protection resources, maintaining records of civil protection facilities, and providing documentation and data for regional and municipal crisis planning. Other tasks include establishing, if necessary, a crisis staff of the municipality; fulfilling the tasks set by the mayor of MEA and crisis management bodies in preparedness and response, and tasks and measures specified in the MEA Crisis Plan. During a crisis or state of emergency, the mayor ensures public warning and information, orders and organises evacuation, manages emergency survival activities, enforces crisis measures, and may require individuals and organisations to provide personal or material assistance. Municipal offices also monitor local risks and maintain population records needed for crisis management.

Fire protection within a municipality is the responsibility of the municipal authority, which is fully accountable for the organisational, material, and financial readiness of its Municipal Volunteer Fire Brigade Unit (SDH) in accordance with Act No. 133/1985 Coll. Municipalities may also establish a joint fire protection unit through an inter-municipal agreement approved by the Regional FRS. The total number of SDH units in Czechia is approximately 6800, with approximately 68500 firefighters[4].

4 Ministry of the Interior – Directorate-General of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 'Module G: Integrated Rescue System and Fire Protection', 2020.

Environment and climate change

In the area of environment and climate change, the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is the main responsible actor. It is considered by law the central body of state administration and the supreme supervisory body in environmental matters, and is the national coordinator for climate change adaptation. It is responsible for the development of the following strategic documents: State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030; Flood risk management plans; Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Czech Republic; National Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change; Environmental Security Concept. Finally, MoE, through its Department of Security and Crisis Management, serves as the responsible body for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and coordinates the activities of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

2.2 - Disaster risk reduction strategy and policy coherence

- Czechia's **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework** is guided by strategic documents that promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to resilience.

- The **Concept of Population Protection** and the national climate and environmental strategies provide a common strategic basis for addressing both natural and human-induced risks.

Crisis management (MoI)

The Security Strategy of the Czech Republic (2023) sets out the fundamental values, approaches, and tools for safeguarding national security, defence, and the protection of citizens. Its guiding principle is a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, emphasising resilience against both natural and human-induced threats, and the need for systematic long-term preparation, planning, and prevention. Strategic priorities include international relations, defence, cybersecurity, economic security, internal security, and civil protection and crisis management.

Implementing one of the strategic priorities of the Security Strategy, the Concept of Population Protection until 2025 with an outlook to 2030 provides a strategic framework for protecting the population in the areas of prevention, preparedness, and response to both military and non-military threats, under the motto '*Prepared citizen. Prepared system.*' – for more details, see Sections of Risk management planning.

Climate change (MoE)

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Czechia (2015) provides a national framework for addressing the security implications of climate change-related impacts. Coordinated by MoE with input from over 170 experts and institutions, it is anchored in both international commitments and national policies. The Strategy addresses seven key manifestations of climate change which affect the state's key sectors – i.e., long-term drought, floods and flash floods, heavy precipitation, rising temperatures, extremely high temperatures, extreme wind, and vegetation (wildland) fires.

Environment (MoE)

The Environmental Security Concept 2021-2030, with a view to 2050, provides a comprehensive view of environmental security, including both nature and human society and its activities, as well as linking the time horizon of crisis management and the time horizon of achieving sustainability and adaptation to climate change. The concept was prepared with the aim of reducing the risk of disasters

caused by the interaction of the environment and society, reducing the impacts of crisis situations if they could not be prevented, and increasing environmental security.

The State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030 with an outlook to 2050 (SEP 2030) is the key document guiding the transition toward a safe, healthy, and resilient environment by 2050. Its objective is to ensure a healthy and high-quality living environment for citizens living in Czechia, to contribute to the efficient use of all resources and to minimise the negative impacts of human activity on the environment, including impacts beyond national borders. Its section 'Environment and Health' addresses extraordinary events independently, within the topic/strategic objective '*Preparedness and resilience of society to extraordinary events is increasing*'.

2.3 - Whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach

- The **National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** is an advisory body to the Ministry of Environment. Representatives from several actors meet twice a year to identify areas of improvement and elaborate recommendations for central authorities.
- The **Central Crisis Staff is an expert** body activated during response operations and tasked with ensuring coordination and strategic harmonisation among key actors.
- A **long-standing cooperation** among the Fire Rescue Service, ministries, NGOs, research institutions, and the private sector helps foster evidence-informed decision-making and practice.

According to the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic, ensuring a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach is key and integral to Czechia's security. In Czechia, a series of bodies exists to enhance cooperation and coordination among relevant actors in the field of crisis management, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate change adaptation.

Disaster risk reduction bodies

The Czech Republic National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) was established in 2015 by Ministerial Order No. 6/2015 as an advisory body to the MoE on matters related to DRR and mitigation of impacts from disasters. The Chair is the Director of the Department of Security and Crisis Management of MoE, and the Vice-Chair is the Head of the Crisis Management Division of this Department. Other members of the Platform are representatives of: MoI/DG FRS CR; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry for Regional Development; Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI); Population Protection Institute of the DG FRS CR/MoI; T. G. Masaryk Water Research Institute; VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava; Global Change Research Institute (CzechGlobe); Czech Academy of Sciences; Mendel University in Brno; Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic; and the Czech National Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction. Joint meetings of the NPDRR with representatives from the above-mentioned institutions take place twice a year and are aimed at identifying areas of improvement and lessons learnt, resulting in recommendations for central authorities.

Crisis management bodies

Czechia's CM system is structured at the central and local levels. Each level is supported by specific

bodies designed to enhance coordination among the various actors involved in preparedness and during response operations.

Security Councils are preparedness-oriented bodies established at each administrative level. The National Security Council, composed of the Prime Minister and representatives of relevant ministries, prepares and presents proposals for measures to safeguard the state's security. It operates through Specialised Committees dedicated to various key areas, such as the Civil Emergency Planning Committee, headed by the MoI. Regional Security Councils, represented by regional governors, include representatives from the Regional FRS, Police, the Army, Emergency Medical Services, and regional administrative authorities. It is further composed of sub-bodies, which include the Crisis Management Body of Police, of FRS, of IRS Bodies, and other subjects involved. Municipal Security Councils (MEA) typically comprise the Mayor, Police, Regional FRS, Army, and other municipal authorities. The Regional and Municipal Security Councils address and discuss identified risks and threats, key plans (e.g., crisis plans), and various documents relevant to the preparedness of the areas, the components of the IRS, and are tasked with informing the communities about risks and crisis measures.

Crisis Staff are non-permanent bodies which are activated during response operations to ensure coordination among actors. Crisis Staffs include: the Central Crisis Staff; Crisis Staffs of Ministries and other CAAs; Regional Crisis Staff; the Crisis Staff of MEA; and the Municipal Crisis Staff – the establishment of the latter is not mandatory and depends, among others, on the number of inhabitants.

At the central level, the Central Crisis Staff (CCS) is an expert body – thus, not a political body – with the function of advising the government and preparing proposals for measures to undertake during crisis situations. Overall, the CCS ensures vertical and horizontal coordination and cooperation with international crisis management authorities, assesses the evolving situation and the adequacy of measures taken, coordinates interdepartmental actions, prepares proposals for government decisions, and aligns the activities of the Regional and MEA Crisis staff. It can be activated by the Prime Minister when a state of emergency is declared, when resources are exceeded, or when a crisis is expected. Depending on the nature of the emergency, it can be chaired by MoI or the MoD.[5] CCS is composed of senior representatives of key state authorities (e.g., Ministries, Police, Armed Forces, Representative of Association of Regions, etc)[6], and includes specialised permanent and non-permanent working groups, such as the Group for crisis communication.

Additionally, during response operations, coordination and information flow among key actors involved is also ensured through the Operational and Information Centres of the IRS, namely the operational centres of the Regional FRS (KOPIS) and the National Operational and Information Centre of the DG FRS CR (NOPIS).

Citizens

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and humanitarian organisations focusing on security and crisis management provide planned assistance upon request, based on pre-agreed written commitments with municipal, regional, or state authorities, or with basic IRS components. NGOs that are formally recognised as components of the IRS, or those with signed cooperation agreements, take part in professional training organised by the Regional FRS and contribute through material human-

5 As of early 2026, MoD has never headed the CCS.

6 Not all members shall participate in the CCS; it depends on the type of crisis situation.

itarian aid, psychosocial support, volunteer assistance, or fundraising. At the highest level, NGOs participate in a coordination platform together with the Regional FRS and local or regional authorities.

Box 1 - Visit to the National Operational and Information Centre of the DG FRS (NOPIS)

The National Operational and Information Centre (NOPIS) of the DG FRS serves as the central hub for national crisis information flow, and thus it plays a central coordination role in crisis situations. It coordinates communication between regional operational centres and national authorities during emergencies, and supports coordination of critical resources such as power generators and oxygen supplies. The DG FRS CR is responsible for the 112/155 emergency number. The NOPIS maintains communication with international partners, including EC/ERCC and NATO/EADRCC. Also, it manages warning systems such as sirens and operates online information tools to support situational awareness. Some other IRS components, including the police, operate their own operational system. The government does not have a separate operational crisis management system, making NOPIS the primary channel for crisis information flow.

Figure 5: Photo from the visit to the Operational and Information Centre of DG FRS.

Universities and research institutions

The FRS encompasses two specialised organisations that are engaged, among other activities, in research and development (Organisation Institute of Population Protection (IOO) and the Technical Institute of Fire Protection (TÚPO). Beyond these entities, a broader network of institutions contributes to security-oriented research. In several cases, this cooperation is formalised through partnership agreements – for example, with the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering (FBMI) of the Czech Technical University – whose study programmes are specifically oriented toward preparing graduates for roles within the crisis management and civil protection system.

Academic experts participate in the National Adaptation Platform, set up in 2016 within the Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Protection to provide expert support to the MoE in coordinating national adaptation to climate change, ensuring that scientific knowledge directly informs climate adaptation and DRR policies. In addition, the Climate Commission, established in 2019 under the Research, Development, and Innovation Council (RVVI), provides expert advice on climate-related research.

Cross-border agreements

According to the IRS Act, regions can provide mutual assistance to neighbouring areas of different countries. Regional FRSs are authorised to conclude such regional agreements with the competent territorial unit of the neighbouring country.

Czechia has established cross-border disaster assistance agreements with all neighbouring countries (i.e., Slovakia, Poland, Germany, and Austria), as well as with Hungary. These agreements allow emergency units to cross state borders under a simplified regime in the event of an emergency.[7]

Private sector

The private sector plays a crucial role in emergency management. Under the Crisis Management Act, during a crisis, the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) may require energy sector operators (gas, oil, electricity, heat, and related infrastructure) to ensure the stability of the state's energy system and restore critical infrastructure. The Ministry of Transport may also require transport operators (rail, road, air, and naval) to meet state transport needs.

Television and radio broadcasters must immediately and free of charge disseminate official crisis information without altering its content. Additionally, businesses may be required to contribute to crisis planning, prepare internal preparedness plans, provide documentation and resources, and carry out assigned tasks to address serious threats to life, health, property, or the environment.

Box 2 - Good practice from Sweden: Business continuity

In **Sweden**, in January 2026, the new 'Preparedness for businesses – In case of crisis or war' brochure was distributed to all companies with at least five employees, reaching around 130,000 workplaces, as well as selected organisations, including foundations, churches, and sports associations. This publication complements the national household brochure 'In case of crisis or war', which was sent to the general public in 2024 and provides clear, actionable guidance on how to prepare for and act in crises and during periods of heightened alert, including information on air-raid sheltering, evacuation, and a minimum of one-week home preparedness. In the event of a crisis or a war, companies play a decisive role in ensuring that society continues to function.

The brochure provides clear, practical guidance on how Swedish companies can maintain their operations for as long as possible. It provides advice on how to strengthen a company's preparedness through planning, practising, training, and strengthening business resilience. It provides companies with advice on how to identify their critical functions and dependencies, and strengthen continuity through measures such as backup power, stockpiling, and alternative procedures. It also helps firms assess their staffing needs, including key roles, remote-work options, and reinforcement planning. It recommends establishing a dedicated crisis or wartime organisation with defined roles and communication channels to ensure rapid decision-making.

Cybersecurity is addressed through reviewing access authorisations, improving authentication procedures, and creating regular offline backups. The brochure also advises companies to train staff in critical thinking and resistance to disinformation to strengthen their psychological defence. Regular training and exercises are encouraged to embed preparedness into daily routines. Finally, companies are encouraged to prepare to adapt their operations to support society during crises, establishing cooperation structures with public authorities in advance.

7 Ministry of the Interior – Directorate-General of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 'Module G: Integrated Rescue System and Fire Protection', 2020.

2.4 - Disaster risk financing

- The Czech **disaster risk financing framework** combines national budgetary instruments, material reserves, state aid mechanisms, and EU funds to support the entire DRM cycle.
- Crisis management financing is primarily based on **public budgets**, supported by legally mandated emergency preparedness and crisis management funding at all administrative levels.
- The **Administration of State Material Reserves** (SSHR) is responsible for economic measures for crisis situations and for the management of state material reserves.

The legal framework for disaster risk financing in Czechia is primarily anchored in crisis management legislation, including the Crisis Management Act, the IRS Act, and the Act on Economic Measures for Crisis Situations, Act on Budgetary Rules (No. 218/2000 Coll.), along with associated Ministry of Finance (MoF) regulations.

The Crisis Management Act defines roles and responsibilities across various government levels and private entities in the system of economic/financial measures (Section 25):

- CAA and ministries allocate the funds necessary for crisis preparedness within their respective budget chapters. These allocations are considered a binding indicator of the state budget.
- The MoF, in consultation with the MoI, proposes a 'special-purpose reserve' to address crisis situations and mitigate their consequences (see below).
- Regions and municipalities are required to include in their annual budgets the funds needed for crisis preparedness. In addition, they must set aside a dedicated financial reserve specifically for crisis management and post-crisis recovery for the relevant budget year.

The Act on Economic Measures for Crisis Situations clearly defines responsibilities across different levels of government within the system of economic, material, financial, and organisational measures for crisis situations (Art 5-8):

- The government sets national priorities by deciding on key economic measures during crises, including the use of state material reserves, regulatory measures, and the activation of the economic mobilisation system, and by approving the national plan for material reserves.
- CAAs develop sectoral strategies and ensure the supply of essential goods and services when regional capacities are insufficient.
- Regional governors and municipal mayors implement plans at the regional and local levels, ensure deliveries, manage economic measures, ensure humanitarian aid supplies, and enable regulatory actions, with Prague's responsibilities carried out by the City Hall and designated district authorities.

- The Administration of State Material Reserves (SSHR) – as a CAA – is a specialised organisation responsible for economic measures for crisis situations and for the management of state material reserves. The SSHR procures state material reserves, the establishment of which is based on crisis plans. The fundamental document guiding the development of state material reserves is the Plan for the Creation and Maintenance of State Material Reserves to Ensure the Security of the Czech Republic. The SSHR develops a government-approved plan for creating and maintaining reserves, updated every two years or sooner in emergencies. State material reserves include: national defence material reserves intended to ensure national defence and to address the consequences of crisis situations; mobilisation reserves to secure mobilisation supplies; emergency stocks designated to provide supplies for the population and to support the activities of emergency services during crisis situations; and humanitarian aid stocks, which are provided free of charge to individuals affected by crisis situations.

Financial provisions and state aid

The main source of funding for crisis management of public administration in Czechia is public budgets, including state budgets, budgets of local government units, and autonomous budgets of entities with extra-budgetary funding[8]. Ministries, other CAAs, regions, and municipalities allocate financial resources needed to ensure preparation for emergencies in their budgets.

In addition, there are also 'special-purpose reserves', such as the General Treasury Administration Reserve, which is a dedicated state budget reserve for crisis management, prevention, and recovery. These funds are intended for extraordinary expenditures during emergencies, such as emergency survival expenses; purchase of materials and services; repairs to infrastructure; support for volunteer fire brigades; crisis prevention under IRS emergencies.

The CAAs, regions, DG FRS, and municipalities for their units of the volunteer fire brigades in their region can apply for funds. For 2026, it was proposed to allocate CZK 140 million to the reserve.

Reserve for additional expenses pursuant to the IRS Act is intended to ensure the financial security of the IRS, with CZK 60 million proposed for 2026. It reimburses extraordinary expenses from rescue and post-disaster operations, covering costs incurred by IRS units during deployments. Regional FRS primarily submit applications, mainly for purchasing or repairing crashed vehicles and special equipment to maintain operational readiness.

The Crisis Management Act establishes state aid to individuals and municipalities affected by major accidents or natural disasters. Such aid may be granted to natural people and municipalities that find themselves in particularly difficult circumstances as a result of a crisis event. State aid may take the form of:

- Lump-sum cash benefits (granted by local municipal authorities from earmarked social benefit subsidies within the general financial relationship between the state and municipal budgets)

- Other exceptional financial assistance or material assistance (to individuals and municipalities by the government that can earmark funds from the crisis management reserve) (Section 37).

8 Ministry of Finance and Czech National Bank, 'Module D: Security Funding and Protecting the Economy. Prague', 2019.

Rapid subsidies for regions. Since 2014, the system for releasing funds to affected regions was adapted to allow for a rapid special-purpose subsidy of up to CZK 10 million following the declaration of a state of danger or emergency due to a major event, allowing the region to cover initial costs quickly (within 2–3 working days)[9]. This subsidy is intended to cover initial costs in cases where the regional funds have been depleted.

Damage Prevention Fund of the Czech Insurers' Bureau. Since 2015, this fund has also been used for the purchase and replacement of technology for the IRS components. These funds are raised in the budget of the MoI, on the basis of the Insurance Act (No 277/2009). This fund ensures a minimum of 60% of its annual revenue for the FRS and a minimum of 20% for municipalities (e.g., for municipal volunteer fire brigades).

EU and international funding

Also, various EU funds and programmes are used to support disaster risk financing and adaptation to climate change in Czechia, including the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF):

- The Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP): It is a critical source for the IRS. It finances the acquisition of specialised technology for dealing with floods, droughts, and extreme weather. In the programming period 2014-2020, roughly CZK 4 billion were dedicated to projects aimed at increasing preparedness for dealing with risks and disasters (including IRS stations and technology with an emphasis on climate change adaptation).

- Operational Programme Environment (OPE/OPŽP): It draws funds from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund for projects related to flood prevention and water management. It supports the construction of flood warning systems, digital flood plans, and nature-based measures like water retention in the landscape and revitalising watercourses. In addition, within OPE, building a new, fully digital Early Warning System (EWS) is planned, based on the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Thus, multiple financing sources are available. This can be illustrated by the example of the Municipal Volunteer Fire Brigade (SDH), whose activities are financed through several channels, including: municipal budgets (basic funding source); private donations; regional subsidies; special-purpose subsidies from the MoI (e.g., for interventions outside the municipality, training, and specialization courses); targeted investment subsidies from the MoI (e.g., for firefighting equipment), and additional subsidies from the EU funds[10].

Research and innovation funding. Research supporting DRM and population protection is financed primarily through national programmes such as the Security Research Programme and its successor initiatives, as well as climate-oriented projects like PERUN (2020-2026), which analyses drought impacts, national vulnerability, and climate projections. At the European level, Czechia aligns with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and its Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC), particularly in the assessment of multiple and cascading risks, and actively contributes to EU knowledge platforms such as Climate-ADAPT.

9 Ministry of the Interior – Directorate-General of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, *Report on the State of Protection of the Population in the Czech Republic* (2015).

10 Ministry of the Interior – Directorate-General of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 'Module G: Integrated Rescue System and Fire Protection', 2020.

Within Interreg Central Europe projects co-funded by the EU, Czechia is a part of a project called Clim4Cast, which aims at monitoring, forecasting, and tracking heatwaves and droughts in the country[11].

Czechia hosts the 'Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence' and cooperates with it, particularly in the field of training.

Also, MoI is a beneficiary of projects funded within the UCPM Technical Assistance for Disaster Risk Management (Track 1) projects, including the Wildfire Early Detection System in the Czech Republic (WEDS) and the Fireskill project.

2.5 - Innovation and knowledge services

- Czechia has increasingly integrated **digital tools, information systems, and geospatial services** into the entire DRM cycle.
- The national crisis management system is supported by **specialised forecasting and open-data platforms** that improve risk awareness and operational coordination.
- **Innovation policy** is progressively oriented towards sophisticated and advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), to support long-term emergency planning and risk assessment under different scenarios.

Digitalisation and information systems are consistently acknowledged as essential tools across the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic and the State Environmental Policy (SEP) 2030, which promotes the use of open data, big data analytics, and data science to enhance environmental monitoring and assessment. MoI is responsible for the periodic identification of security research priorities and for implementing national security research programmes.

The Information System for Crisis Management is established by the Crisis Management Act and operated by the MoI. It integrates data from key national registers (population, land cadastre, immigration, public health) and ensures continuous remote access for crisis management authorities. Also, several specialised decision support systems (DSS) and platforms are in place to support preparedness and response. These include:

- The HAMR system for medium-term hydrological and drought forecasting,
- CzechAdapt – a national knowledge platform on climate impacts and adaptation measures,
- Crisis-management-specific systems such as IS Krizkom and IS Argis for resource planning and economic measures during crisis states. The Unified Warning and Notification System (UWNS) is undergoing modernisation, transitioning from analogue to digital, bi-directional infrastructure that enables real-time data exchange between sensors (e.g., water level or radiation monitoring) and operational centres.

11 Interreg Central Europe, 'New Monitoring of the Heat Wave Risks – Interreg Central Europe', accessed 24 March 2026, www.interreg-central.eu/news/new-monitoring-of-the-heat-wave-risks/.

Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS). MoI is the authorised user for activating this service to obtain satellite imagery for preparing for and managing disasters like floods or the Vrbětice ammunition depot explosion. Practical applications of Copernicus data date back more than a decade and include its use during the 2010 floods in the Liberec Region, the 2013 floods in Southern, Central, and Northern Bohemia, and the response to the explosions at the Vrbětice ammunition depot in late 2014. The CEMS has also been applied in non-urgent mode, for example, during the RESTART 2013 exercise simulating a large-scale blackout across several regions. A Copernicus Implementation Plan, prepared in cooperation with MoE, defines concrete measures for the systematic use of Earth observation systems to enhance human security and emergency management.

Geospatial Information System (GIS). GIS constitutes a core analytical and operational tool for the IRS. The current GIS architecture is functionally divided into two interlinked components. The first supports the operational management of IRS units and is based on a single, unified GIS platform used across the system. The second component covers non-operational activities, including population protection, crisis management, planning, training, and analytical tasks. The central hub of the IRS GIS architecture is the data warehouse located at the Population Protection Institute in Lázně Bohdaneč, which collects, harmonises, and processes geospatial data from a wide range of national and sectoral providers. National Geoportal INSPIRE collects all geospatial data.

Open datasets. The National Database of Hydrometeorological Data and Products was established by Act No. 262/2024 Coll. on the Public Hydrometeorological Service. Its implementation is supported by EU funds (NextGenerationEU) under the National Recovery Plan through the project 'Creation of New Open Datasets'. The project, implemented by the Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA) – a subsidised organisation of MoE – will create an application environment to support the cataloguing and publication of open data, build the necessary infrastructure, and develop a tool that connects Local Catalogue of Open Data (LKOD) and the National Catalogue of Open Data (NKOD), including an Application Programming Interface (API) interface for the automatic downloading of published data[12].

Looking ahead to the 2025-2030 period, national concepts explicitly anticipate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for processing large datasets and developing predictive scenarios to support long-term planning and the assessment of cascading and compound risks.

Other innovations and operational mapping tools:

- Satellite navigation systems are increasingly used by default to support IRS operations, including the guidance of intervention units and helicopter landings under reduced visibility conditions. Modernisation efforts prioritise receivers compatible with EGNOS corrections and multi-constellation Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

- Preparations are ongoing for the deployment of the Galileo Public Regulated Service (PRS), which will provide a secure, robust, and guaranteed positioning and timing signal to authorised users, including IRS components, even in situations where standard signals are degraded or compromised. These efforts are coordinated in cooperation with the National Cyber and Information Security Authority (NUKIB).

12 Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, 'Data and Evaluation', accessed 24 March 2026, https://en.chmi.cz/web/chmi.cz/o-chmu/produkty-a-sluzby/data-a-vyhodnoceni.

- Implemented within the C-Roads project, the Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems (C-ITS) enables real-time communication between vehicles and infrastructure, which allows authorities to transmit targeted warnings and instructions to drivers during weather-related disruptions, accidents, or other emergency situations, thereby enhancing both traffic safety and emergency response effectiveness.

Box 3 - Visit to the Faculty of Biomedical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague

The Faculty of Biomedical Engineering (FMBI) of the Czech Technical University, located in Kladno, provides multidisciplinary education programmes at the Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels, contributing to the preparation of professionals capable of responding to emergency and crisis situations. At the Bachelor's level, the faculty offers programmes such as Paramedics and the Security and Population Protection programme covering topics such as natural and technological hazards, risk analysis and crisis response. At the Master's level, the faculty offers programmes including Civil Emergency Planning, designed primarily for mid-level professionals working in security institutions (e.g., fire rescue services or police). The programme provides multidisciplinary training in risk analysis, emergency and crisis management, crisis healthcare, CBRN protection, industrial accidents, and natural disasters.

A key characteristic of the faculty is its strong cooperation with IRS components, such as the DG FRS and the Population Protection Institute, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This cooperation includes joint exercises, internships, expert lectures, and the development of student theses and research projects. Students regularly participate in practical simulations of emergency scenarios, such as large-scale accident response exercises. In addition to education, the faculty contributes to research and innovation in security and crisis management. For example, virtual reality technologies are being explored to support the training of emergency responders. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the faculty demonstrated its operational support capacity by cooperating with local hospitals and providing medical equipment and technical expertise.

Figure 6: Photo from the visit to the FMBI of the Czech Technical University.

2.6 - Conclusions

The Czech DRM and crisis management system is well structured and robust, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. In recent years, it has been further strengthened through the systematic analysis and integration of lessons learnt from past emergencies, including the 2024 floods. As a result, the current legislative, institutional, and procedural framework has proven effective in addressing 'traditional risks'. Additionally, it has been recently restructured to better respond to emerging risks and threats, as well as to requirements stemming from the CER Directive. Activation of response procedures, including the integration of the regional level, is also in place.

At the same time, further targeted revision of the legislative, institutional, and procedural framework would help ensure preparedness for future challenges driven by evolving risk patterns and geopolitical developments. In particular, operational procedures governing the declaration of crisis states should be refined to minimise delays and conflicts of competence resulting from overlapping declarations. A broader paradigm shift is also needed to integrate the emergency and crisis management system across both peacetime and wartime contexts, enabling effective responses to hybrid threats through coordinated, cross-sectoral measures activated in advance. In addition, existing legal limitations on extending a state of emergency beyond 30 days, as well as the absence of simplified post-disaster reconstruction procedures, should be addressed. In this perspective, introducing new mechanisms that provide greater flexibility while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability would further enhance the system's overall resilience.

At the municipal level, vulnerabilities arising from resource constraints and the significant responsibilities placed on mayors should be addressed by further strengthening capacities and optimising existing ones, while reinforcing inter-municipal cooperation and shared service arrangements. In addition, awareness-raising efforts should be intensified to ensure that municipalities have a clear understanding of emerging and future risks, enabling more proactive preparedness and enhancing local resilience.

Czech strategic documents, particularly the Concept of Population Protection and the Environmental Security Concept, set coordinated and overarching objectives aimed at strengthening resilience. To ensure their effective implementation, all strategic documents should be systematically accompanied by Action Plans that clearly define responsibilities, allocate resources, and include monitoring systems with established indicators. In addition, establishing a unified framework for strategies would help reduce duplication and ensure alignment across all strategic documents. Such a framework could enhance coherence of objectives, streamline implementation, and facilitate monitoring, while still allowing for sector-specific action plans where necessary. It is worth noting that climate change impacts are acknowledged and addressed by key ministries, and related considerations are being integrated into a new methodology for conducting risk assessments currently under development.

As explicitly stated in the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic, ensuring a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach is a main objective. Several bodies have been established to enhance cooperation and coordination among DRM actors, including the Central Crisis Staff, which is activated during emergencies to ensure unified command, control, and strategic harmonisation, and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Headed by MoE and composed of highly qual-

ified experts, the Platform has significant potential to strengthen resilience by facilitating cross-sectoral coordination, promoting preparedness, and enabling dialogue across sectors. Its potential could be further enhanced if the Platform were placed directly under the Prime Minister rather than under a single ministry, and if it incorporated the private sector to ensure a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

Overall, strong vertical and horizontal cooperation exists between the Fire Rescue Service, ministries, and other key DRM actors. A notable example is the long-standing partnership with the Czech National Bank, which participates in the specialised committee on Civil Emergency Planning within the National Security Council. Cooperation with NGOs and CSOs could be further strengthened through formalised agreements and the establishment of a national register clearly defining their roles in preparedness and response. These actors also play an important role in data collection, particularly regarding vulnerable groups. A long-standing collaboration between the FRS and research institutions contributes to evidence-informed decision-making and practice. While this cooperation is well established through the National R&D Programme, which is based on security research and a systematic needs analysis, further efforts are needed to scale up and disseminate research outcomes to other countries. This would not only enhance knowledge sharing but also support the long-term sustainability of projects beyond their initial implementation phase. Dedicated communication channels, such as the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, could be further leveraged to support this dissemination.

From a disaster risk financing perspective, a specific budget line within each ministry's chapter is allocated for crisis management, and a dynamic procurement system is in place to enable the rapid purchasing of goods and services during crises. To ensure that financial resources dedicated to crisis management are safeguarded and not redirected to other purposes, a more coordinated system among relevant entities should be established for managing funding related to risk prevention, preparedness, and response. In this context, a common approach to funding could be explored, promoting investments in dual-use capacities and multipurpose assets that can be deployed across a range of crisis scenarios, including disaster and conflict situations. Establishing minimum budget thresholds for crisis management across ministries, regions, MEA, and municipalities would further enhance consistency and preparedness. Specifically, financial allocations should be reinforced in the area of population preparedness, for instance, by aiming towards a minimum threshold of 0.3% of GDP annually, in line with NATO's The Hague Summit Declaration, which invites allies to account for up to 1.5% of GDP annually to ensure civil preparedness and resilience. In parallel, efforts to map market-available resources and develop production reserves represent important steps towards strengthening national preparedness. These efforts could be further enhanced through formalised agreements with private sector actors to secure production capacities – such as for personal protective equipment (PPE) – and ensure the continuity of essential services during crises. Additional opportunities to involve the private sector in stockpiling critical raw materials should also be explored.

With regards to communication, a permanent Group for Crisis Communication within the MoI has been established to support strategic communication during emergencies. This group also organises training and workshops for municipalities on communication with the population and cooperates with CSOs. To further strengthen this area, the development of a national risk and crisis communication strategy, supported by operational guidelines and a centralised communication platform, would help ensure a coherent, single-voice approach across preparedness and response phases.

This should be complemented by the systematic promotion of crisis communication training at all administrative levels.

Finally, data collection, sharing, and dissemination mechanisms should be strengthened to better support the entire crisis management system. Particular attention should be given to improving data flows between national, regional, and local levels. This could be supported by introducing clearer legal provisions for systematic data collection, alongside well-defined protocols and procedures to ensure consistency, accessibility, and usability of information across all stakeholders.

Box 4 - Good practice from Portugal: Promoting resilience

In **Portugal**, parishes, municipalities, and inter-municipal entities are invited to participate in a national initiative that aims to promote DRR by disseminating virtuous practices and by encouraging population preparedness and citizen participation, particularly vulnerable groups. The initiative was launched by the Portuguese National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) and recognises and publicly honours local projects that strengthen local governance and community resilience against major disasters.

This national initiative falls within the scope of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the national commitment to the goals set by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, particularly regarding risk governance and the empowerment of local authorities in promoting more resilient communities. More information can be found at this link.

Box 5 - Good practice from Poland: Financing solutions

In **Poland**, the responsibilities of civil protection and civil defence are set out in the Civil Protection and Civil Defence Act. The Act establishes a stable annual financing level of 0.3% of GDP and a multiyear programme adopted by the Council of Ministers. The programme aims to establish an efficient, integrated civil protection and civil defence system capable of responding to various threats in line with the National Crisis Management Plan and other crisis management plans. The programme emphasises the consolidation of planning, the interoperability of structures, and the ongoing cooperation between the public administration and non-governmental organisations. It is updated every two years.

3 - Risk assessment

3.1 - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework

- Czechia conducted its first **National Risk Assessment** (NRA) in 2016, which was validated in 2023. After the adoption of the Critical Infrastructure Act in 2025, a legal obligation to prepare a new NRA was introduced.
- The NRA development is **coordinated by the MoI**, with contributions from a broad range of ministries and authorities.
- The NRA process and framework have been **progressively strengthened** through regional assessment, risk mapping, and the recent legal obligations for the new NRA.

The previous version of the Concept of Population Protection, adopted by the Czech Government in 2013 through Resolution No. 805, included the task of performing a national risk analysis and integrating its outcomes into methodological and strategic documents in the field of national security. As a result, in response to the growing complexity and interconnection of natural and human-made threats, Czechia conducted and approved its first National Risk Assessment (NRA) in 2016 to strengthen population protection and national security.

Mandated by the Concept and aligned with the UCPM requirements, in particular Art. 6 of Decision No. 1313/2013/EU, responsibility for its implementation is assigned to the MoI/DG FRS CR, in collaboration with other ministries and CAAs.

To carry out the analytical activities, a specialised task force was established within the MoI, composed primarily of representatives of the national FRS and several experts from various fields who provided significant sector-specific expertise and knowledge to the analysis. These included also the MoI – Department of Security Policy and Crime Prevention, Police Headquarters, the MoF, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the MoH, the MoA, the Ministry of Justice, the MIT, the Ministry of Regional Development, the MoD, the MoE, the Administration of State Material Reserves (SSHR), the National Security Authority (NSA), the State Office for Nuclear Safety (SÚJB), and the Czech Telecommunication Authority (CTA)[13].

The whole process comprises several key activities, including risk identification, analysis, and evaluation, as well as cross-cutting activities, such as communicating risk assessment results, monitoring, and reviewing the risk analysis. In parallel, the same methodology was used to conduct regional risk assessments in all fourteen administrative regions of Czechia. The results of these analyses, evaluated and statistically summarised, serve as the starting point for crisis plans compiled by the Regional FRS, with only relevant risks being elaborated in detail (see Section 4.1, 'Crisis plans').

The NRA framework has been further strengthened through the Risk Mapping of the Czech Republic 2018-2021 project, financed by MoI and developed by VSB – Technical University of Ostrava. The project aimed to create a certified methodology, analytical tools, and web-based applications to

13 Ministry of Interior – Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 'The Risk Analysis of the Czech Republic', 2015.

support emergency planning, resource allocation, spatial planning, and public information. As part of the project, risk maps were created by combining danger, vulnerability, and preparedness maps. These maps integrate information on hazards (both natural and human-induced), exposure (such as residents and public infrastructure), and available resources (including fire protection units, medical emergency services, and police).

In 2023, the National Security Council confirmed the validity of the 2016 NRA. Nonetheless, due to recent amendments to the Crisis Management Act, after the adoption of the Critical Infrastructure Act in August 2025, a legal obligation to prepare a new NRA was introduced. A new version of the assessment is currently being prepared.

Legislative framework for flood risk assessment

The Czech legislative framework for flood protection is a multi-layered system that has been harmonised with European standards and is governed by specific national laws, decrees, and technical standards[14]. The framework is administered by several central and regional bodies, including the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the MoE, River Board state agencies, and the CHMI.

Since 2007, the Czech flood protection concept has been aligned with the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC. Beneath the primary laws, several obligatory decrees provide specific technical and administrative requirements for flood risk assessment. Among them, Decree 79/2018, Coll. concerns the identification, documentation, and delimitation of flood areas and their active zones, based on the principles used in flood mapping according to the EU Floods Directive. The active zones of the flood area also include other areas defined in the flood threat map as a high-threat area or a medium-threat area, in places where some of the conditions laid down by the Decree are met. The active zones of the floodplain must not permit the placement or construction of any structures, except for hydraulic structures intended for water resource management and flood protection.

3.2 - Risk identification, analysis, and evaluation

- The methodology for conducting risk assessment follows ISO standards and therefore consists of three main phases, namely **risk identification, analysis, and evaluation**, as well as cross-cutting activities, such as communication, monitoring, and review of results, which are also foreseen.

- High-priority risk areas, which are affected by either **unacceptable or conditionally acceptable risks**, are identified and visualised by combining danger, vulnerability, and preparedness maps.

- A **Crisis Management Portal** – containing risk analyses, maps, and planning documents – that centralises operational plans, communication procedures, and risk information has been established in some regions (e.g., the Central Bohemian Region).

The NRA followed a three-step methodology consisting of risk identification, analysis, and evaluation.

14 D. Duchan et al., ***Flood Protection in the Czech Republic***, Management of Water Quality and Quantity, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-18359-2_14.

Risk identification. A total of 72 types of hazards were identified and classified as either natural (46%) or human-induced (54%). The former included natural hazards, such as drought, flood, and epidemics, while the latter included anthropogenic risks, including technological failures, migration waves, and economic disruptions.

Risk analysis. Identified hazards were subjected to a detailed multi-criteria analysis. The probability of occurrence was assessed using a semi-quantitative scale, where lower values represent a remote likelihood, while higher values indicate a concrete possibility of occurrence. The potential impact was then calculated, including the consequences in terms of loss of life, health impacts, environmental damage, economic losses, and social consequences. The result of this equation represents the numerical value of the overall impact. The level of risk was given by the product of these two numbers (probability and impact). To determine the risk level more precisely, other parameters were entered into the equation – vulnerability and preparedness. These elements have the characteristics of increasing (vulnerability) or, conversely, mitigating (preparedness) the consequences of a disaster event.

Risk evaluation. High-priority risks were identified by subdividing them into three groups, based on their assessed risk level and required measures:

- Acceptable risk: when they do not require the adoption of emergency measures. These situations are generally manageable within the normal operations of the IRS bodies and the relevant administrative authorities.

- Conditionally acceptable risk: when they require preparedness and emergency planning. This category falls within the area of emergency preparedness and primarily includes emergency planning and the preparation of standard procedures for the IRS bodies.

- Unacceptable risk: when they demand priority attention. Measures aimed at their mitigation fall within the area of crisis preparedness and include, in particular, crisis planning.

In total, 22 risks were evaluated as posing an unacceptable risk, indicating that their occurrence could reasonably lead to the declaration of a state of crisis. High-priority risks included long-term droughts and extreme weather events; large-scale epidemics affecting humans, animals, or crops; major disruptions to energy, water, food, and communication systems; cybersecurity incidents targeting critical information infrastructure; large-scale migration, terrorism, and serious public order disturbances; and, finally, severe financial and economic system disruptions. These results form the basis for crisis planning and preventive measures at both central and regional levels, ensuring that Czechia can better prevent, manage, and reduce the impacts of major emergencies and crises.

Flood risk assessment and flood risk mapping

As stated in the Floods Directive, the flood risk management plan is based on two key elements: preliminary flood risk assessment and flood risk mapping.[15] The preliminary flood risk assessment consists of identifying and defining areas where more detailed risk-based methods should be applied. Flood extent maps provide a starting point for preliminary risk assessment of the demarcation

15 D. Duchan et al., ***Flood Protection in the Czech Republic***, Management of Water Quality and Quantity, 2020, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-18359-2_14.

of Czech watercourses with potential significant flood risk. To preliminarily estimate the potential impact, the number of residents in the floodplain area, property in urbanised areas, pollution sources, and transport infrastructure were combined with flood extent maps.

The second stage of the Floods Directive implementation focuses on creating flood hazard and flood risk maps. For the creation of the maps, a semi-quantitative method has been proposed based on a matrix for the determination of the danger level (expressed in a four-stage colour scale for high, medium, low, and residual threat). The categorisation of danger enables the assessment of the suitability of existing or planned land use and provides recommendations for restrictions on activities or the development of corresponding areas with higher danger rates.

Finally, comprehensive studies and assessments of impacts, vulnerabilities, and sources of climate change-related risks in Czechia have been carried out by the MoE, which is the national coordinator for climate change adaptation, and are fully available at this link.

3.3 - Conclusions

A standardised methodology for conducting national and regional risk assessment, aligned with ISO standards, has been in place since 2013 and consists of three main phases, namely risk identification, analysis, and evaluation. Cross-cutting activities, such as communication, monitoring, and review of results, are also foreseen. Risk assessment is considered an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional effort across all administrative levels. The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR), aimed at identifying areas of improvement and lessons learnt, represents an excellent opportunity to further improve, systematise, and align risk assessment. Therefore, collaboration on this topic should be formalised and further operationalised.

Along with danger maps, the development of vulnerability and preparedness maps represents a promising practice that should be further explored and disseminated to support institutional preparedness, resource allocation, and emergency planning. Prioritising regular updates and reviews of the risk assessment, combining the adoption of a bottom-up, top-down, and horizontal approach to its development, would ensure a more accurate understanding of current and emerging threats and hazards, as well as more evidence-informed disaster risk management.

The systematic implementation of the risk evaluation stage to identify unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks ensures that the overall process is effective, enabling Czechia to better prevent, manage, and reduce the impact of major emergencies and crises. However, emerging and hybrid threats have not yet been fully incorporated into the analysis. To address this gap, risk assessment should adopt a multi-risk, all-hazard approach, allowing for a more comprehensive evaluation of potential threats and supporting a more effective risk prioritisation.

A Crisis Management Portal, containing risk analyses, maps, and planning documents, has already been established in some regions (e.g., the Central Bohemian Region), where region-specific risks are assessed alongside those transferred from the national level. To further disseminate risk assessment results and ensure citizens' access to risk-related information, the development of a public WebGIS risk mapping tool should be considered.

To anticipate future challenges and support anticipatory governance, consider developing and implementing foresight tools, such as horizon scanning, as well as leveraging new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, to enhance data analysis, improve risk prevention, and inform strategic decision-making.

4 - Disaster risk management planning

4.1 - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework

- The **Concept of Population Protection** is the main strategic planning document for population protection in Czechia, as it translates the civil protection and crisis management priority of the Security Strategy into a preparedness framework.

- **Crisis plans** are crucial planning tools which guide key actors in preparing and addressing crisis situations. With the adoption of the Critical Infrastructure Act in 2025, the national Crisis Plan of Czechia shall be developed under the MoI's responsibility.

- The **Environmental Security Concept** provides a strategic framework for protecting society and ecosystems from both natural and human-induced threats, emphasising a transition from reactive crisis management to proactive risk prevention.

The Concept of Population Protection

The Concept of Population Protection until 2025 with an outlook to 2030 ('the Concept') is a key planning document developed to achieve one of the strategic priorities of the Security Strategy ('civil protection and crisis management'). Building on the previous 2013 strategy, the Concept was developed by the MoI-DG FRS CR in 2020, in accordance with Section 7(2e) of the IRS Act. It provides a strategic framework for safeguarding the lives, health, property, and environment of Czech citizens, defining population protection as a comprehensive system of prevention, preparedness, and response to both military and non-military threats, with resilience as a central principle.

As of early 2026, a new Concept of Population Protection is under development. This document, prepared by the DG FRS CR in close cooperation with the Regional FRS, aims to support a more comprehensive development of the system, in line with the evolving security landscape and by addressing additional areas of the DRM system, including responses to external threats (e.g., armed conflicts). Different from the previous document, an Action plan is foreseen.

Crisis plans

Based on relevant risk assessments, crisis plans guide state authorities, regional and local governments, and selected private entities in preparing and addressing crisis situations as well as mitigating their consequences, ensuring alignment in their actions and responsibilities when facing emergencies.

At the national level, the MoI, in cooperation with other ministries and CAAs, is responsible for preparing the Crisis Plan of Czechia, which shall be approved by the government. Individual ministries and CAAs are also required to develop crisis plans within their respective areas of responsibility. At the regional level, the Regional FRS develops regional crisis plans under the authority of the regional governor. At the local level, the Regional FRS develops MEA crisis plans, which shall be approved by mayors. Smaller municipalities below the MEA level are not legally required to prepare their own crisis management documentation.

Until 2025, Czechia was not required to have a national Crisis Plan. However, with the recent adoption of the Critical Infrastructure Act, transposing the CER Directive, the Crisis Management Act was partially amended to introduce the Crisis Plan of the Czech Republic, for which the MoI is the responsible authority. The Crisis Plan of Czechia is planned to be developed following the results of the new NRA, currently under development.

A crisis plan is composed of three main parts: a basic part (threat analysis), an operational part (crisis measures and supply plans), and an auxiliary part (geographical data and legal references). As part of the operational part, the model action plans (or type plans) include procedures, principles, and measures to address a specific type of crisis situation identified in the NRA as presenting an unacceptable risk for which a declaration of a state of crisis can reasonably be assumed. It serves as a framework for the development of crisis plans, which translate these general procedures into detailed operational arrangements for managing specific crisis scenarios identified through the threat analysis.

Environmental Security Concept

Developed by the MoE in 2020, the Environmental Security Concept 2021-2030, with a view to 2050, outlines the Czechia's strategic framework for protecting society and ecosystems from both natural and human-induced threats. It emphasises a transition from reactive crisis management to proactive risk prevention, aligning national goals with international standards like the Sendai Framework and NATO security strategies. Under the SENDAI framework (Target E), the Environmental Security Concept is presented as the 'National disaster risk reduction strategy' of Czechia.

The document identifies critical hazards such as climate change, industrial accidents, and potential eco-terrorism while highlighting the dangers of cascading effects where one disaster triggers another. It further details specific environmental pressures, including prolonged droughts, smog situations, and the increasing frequency of forest fires. To bolster national resilience, the concept advocates for inter-departmental cooperation and the integration of sustainable development with security research. A specific Action plan aimed at implementing the Concept's objective does not exist.

Flood risk management plans

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), regulated by the Water Act, are a core element of integrated water management in Czechia. Together with River Basin Management Plans, they provide a coordinated framework to reduce flood risk while ensuring coordination between national authorities, regional offices, and local stakeholders. In line with the 6-year implementation cycle of the EU Floods Directive, FRMPs were prepared for the period 2015-2021, and for the period 2021-2027, specifically for the Elbe, Danube, and Oder river basins[16]. They are developed by the MoE and the MoA in cooperation with relevant basin authorities and locally competent regional authorities[17].

4.2 - Identification and prioritisation of measures

- The **Concept of Population Protection until 2025 with an outlook to 2030** takes into account achievements under the previous Concept as well as lessons learnt from past emergencies.

16 The FRMPs of the river basins are available at these links: Elbe, Danube, Oder.

17 For more information see this link.

- The **forthcoming Concept** is expected to put more emphasis on the changing security environment and the limitations of information, warning, evacuation, and shelter systems.

- The **Environmental Security Concept** is built on the evaluation of the previous Concept and a broad SWOT analysis, which covers both human-induced and natural risks.

The **Concept of Population Protection**. For the period 2021-2025, the Concept focuses on three key themes (the so-called Strategic Objectives, SO), which take into account developments over the period 2013-2020, achieved under the previous Concept of 2013, as well as lessons learnt from past emergencies and crisis situations. Through its three SO[18] and twelve tasks, the Concept aims to ensure that legal frameworks, education, training, and warning systems are coordinated and forward-looking, emphasising the roles of multiple actors, including national, regional, and local authorities, the private sector, and citizens, with the FRS serving as the key coordinating body.

The new Concept will focus specifically on two main themes: the change in the perception of the security environment, focusing on limits of regulation, comprehensive risk management, crisis preparedness, resource constraints, and the need to change approaches to the training of experts and to public education; and warning and informing (and related limitations), including problems in the event of evacuation, revision of emergency survival objectives, sheltering capacity, personal protection equipment limits, limits of the promotion of the interests of civil protection in the territory and within the framework of constructions, limit other civil protection tasks.

Environmental Security Concept. The measures included in the document were primarily identified based on an evaluation of the previous 2016-2020 Concept and a comprehensive SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. This analysis drew from a wide array of strategic, conceptual, and scientific research materials to address both anthropogenic risks (such as chemical accidents and environmental terrorism) and natural hazards like floods and droughts.

4.3 - Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

- **Regional and MEA Crisis Plans** are submitted for discussion to the Regional Security Council and the Security Council of MEA before being processed.

- Monitoring of the **Environmental Security Concept** is linked to the Sendai Framework Monitor reporting, while its implementation is reviewed through assessment of research outputs, legislative progress, and non-legislative measures, with interim and final evaluations scheduled throughout the implementation cycle.

Crisis Plan. Before their processing, the Regional FRS submits the Regional Crisis Plan and the Crisis Plan of MEA to the Regional Security Council and the Security Council of MEA, so that they can be respectively assessed and discussed by all actors. Updates to Regional and MEA Crisis Plans are conducted in four-year cycles.

Environmental Security Concept. Monitoring and evaluation are conducted in coordination with the Sendai Framework Monitor under the UNDRR, focusing on indicators like the number of victims,

18 SO are: (1) Development of conditions for population protection; (2) Support for population protection tasks and measures; (3) Increasing the effectiveness of the organisation of population protection.

injuries, and economic losses. The document notes that a systematic method for tracking all these indicators is still being refined, as a specific measure (3.3.4) was created to establish a unified procedure for impact evaluation.

Additionally, the fulfilment of the established measures is also part of the update. Outputs of research programmes (especially certified methodologies) and their application in practice are assessed. Further, progress in the preparation of legislative proposals (laws, decrees) as well as non-legislative documents is monitored. The evaluation is prepared as a separate document and is submitted for discussion together with the concept. Another interim evaluation will take place in 2026, and the following evaluation, together with a new update of the concept, will take place at the end of 2030.

4.4 - Participatory process and local knowledge

- As per legislation, a **participatory process** shall be ensured when developing the new Crisis Plan of Czechia.

Crisis Plan. According to legislation, the CAAs shall actively participate in developing the Crisis Plan of Czechia within the scope of their responsibilities, ensuring that financial stability is fully integrated into national preparedness planning.

The development of the model action plans/type plans, which are the core part of the Crisis plans, requires the cooperation of ministries, other CAAs (including the CNB), and other related entities[19].

4.5 - Cross-sectoral policy coherence

- Cross-sectoral policy coherence in Czechia is ensured through the **alignment of key national strategic and planning documents**, which integrate security, environmental, socio-economic, and climate dimensions, while promoting institutional synergies among ministries and stakeholders.

- **Flood Risk Management Plans** (FRMPs) are explicitly linked to the Concept of Population Protection, the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Czechia.

In Czechia, cross-sectoral policy coherence primarily relies on the Czech Strategic Framework 2030 involving key ministries, and the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic, which is the core document that links political, military, economic, financial, legislative, and social sectors to ensure state security. Moreover, the inter-sectoral policy coherence in Czechia is supported by institutional mechanisms, such as the Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Protection and Adaptation Platform, which includes representatives from ministries, academia, the non-profit sector, and professional organisations (see Section 2.3).

As already mentioned, the Concept of Population Protection is explicitly grounded in the Security Strategy, which defines population protection as a strategic security interest of the state. The Concept further develops this priority by detailing the overall approach to ensuring this security interest.

19 This requirement follows the methodological guideline on the preparation of type plans issued by MoI/DG FRS CR, following the task set out in Government Resolution No 369 of 27 April 2016 on the Risk Analysis for the Czech Republic.

Moreover, for each strategic task defined up to 2025, the Concept specifies concrete 'synergies' among relevant institutions. For example, the creation of appropriate legal conditions requires co-operation between the MoI, the Ministry of Regional Development, the MoA, the MoD, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and other stakeholders. Specifically, the Concept recognises that operability of protecting the population depends on broad cooperation at all levels of government, as well as in the business and non-profit sectors. However, it also highlights that an effective system cannot exist without the active involvement of the public.

The Environmental Security Concept is designed to function as a unified whole with other national documents, specifically the Security Strategy and the Concept of Population Protection, which together with this concept form a coherent framework (protection of people and the environment), as explained in the document. Furthermore, the Environmental Security Concept is aligned with the Strategic Framework of the Czech Republic 2030, the SEP 2030, the NRA, and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Czechia. A core goal of the document is to align the short-term timeframes used in crisis management with the long-term horizons of sustainable development and climate adaptation to ensure they work synergistically rather than in isolation.

Flood risk management plans

FRMPs are explicitly linked to the Concept for the Protection of the Population, the Czech Security Strategy, and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Czechia. Similar to NAP, the FRMPs are a key implementation tool of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Czechia. FRMPs are made publicly available on the portal for the Flood Information System (POVIS – *Povodňový informační systém*).

The FRMPs are aligned with urban planning tools, emphasising the need to avoid designating new buildable areas where acceptable risk thresholds would be exceeded. The measures focus primarily on restricting development, especially the siting of new buildings or other construction projects in risk-prone areas, or on applying alternative procedures under relevant legislation (e.g., the Building Act No. 183/2006 Coll. and, for non-construction projects, Act No. 283/2021 Coll.). The main tool for enforcing these measures is spatial planning, supported by consistent and coordinated decision-making by administrative authorities, including building and water management authorities. Flood risk maps are integrated into Local Spatial Plans (ÚPD).

Box 6 - Visit to the Headquarters of the FRS of the Central Bohemian Region

During the visit to the FRS of the Central Bohemian Region (CBR) in Kladno, the discussion was focused on the regional approach to risk assessment and DRM planning. The CBR is the largest region in Czechia with 1144 municipalities organised into 26 administrative districts of MEA, facing several significant risk sources, including major rivers and waterworks (natural and special floods), industrial facilities handling hazardous substances under major accident legislation, major transport corridors (road, rail and air), and energy pipelines transporting oil, petroleum products, and gas.

Risk assessment at the regional level. Risk assessment at the regional level is based on the 2016 NRA. The regional analysis distinguishes between area threats affecting the whole region and local threats with identifiable origins. While some hazards may not be classified as critical at the regional level, they may still be considered high priority by individual municipalities. For example, natural floods are assessed as an unacceptable risk at the regional level, while flash floods or special floods may be considered less severe regionally but still require planning at the municipal level.

DRM Planning at the regional level. The results of risk assessment feed directly into the Crisis Plan of the CBR, which constitutes the main planning document for managing crisis situations. Prepared by the Regional FRS in cooperation with the regional authority, municipalities, and other IRS components, the plan contains a set of coordinated measures and procedures for crisis response. At the regional level, 15 type plans have been elaborated, based on the national set of 22 model crisis scenarios developed by ministries. The region maintains an overview of available resources, including emergency services, transport routes, suppliers, and material reserves, while identifying gaps in essential supplies.

Participatory approach. Workshops and meetings bring together representatives of emergency services, regional authorities, municipalities, and specialised agencies to discuss risks and jointly assign risk scores, which ensures that both expert knowledge and local experience are integrated into the assessment. The region operates a **Crisis Management Portal of the CBR,** which centralises operational plans, communication procedures, and risk information. The platform contains both restricted sections for authorities and public sections providing information to citizens.

Box 7 - Good practice from Poland: Crisis management planning

In **Poland**, the National Crisis Management Plan (KPZK) is a central coordination framework and planning document developed by the Government Centre for Security in cooperation with ministries, national agencies, and regional authorities under the Crisis Management Act. The plan is updated at least every two years, or earlier if legal or operational changes require adjustments.

The plan is based on standardised action modules assigned to different institutions and organised into catalogues linked to specific types of threats. During a crisis, the Government Crisis Management Team or the designated lead authority activates the relevant catalogues, enabling ministries and responsible institutions to implement predefined procedures. The modular structure ensures flexibility, allowing authorities to combine catalogues or add additional ones depending on the nature of the crisis.

The plan's security matrix covers 22 categories of risks, including natural disasters, public health emergencies, technological incidents, and hybrid threats, enabling coordinated responses while maintaining the flexibility to address unforeseen events.

4.6 - Conclusions

Crisis management planning processes are well established and comprehensive at both national and regional levels, with certain regions, such as the Central Bohemian Region, demonstrating effective cooperation with the FRS. Regular meetings at regional and national levels further ensure coordina-

tion in planning, preparedness and response activities, while cooperation among neighbouring regions is firmly embedded through formal agreements.

Among the various planning instruments, crisis plans constitute the backbone of the Czech planning system and are developed at multiple administrative levels. Regional and MEA Crisis Plans are elaborated by the Regional FRS, in collaboration with regional authorities, the IRS components, and administrative bodies, and include a necessary supply plan for various crisis situations. In some regions (e.g., Central Bohemian Region), these planning documents are made available through a web portal – with public and restricted sections –, alongside results from risk analyses. In terms of crisis plans for critical entities, these should be further strengthened and simplified to ensure they remain practical and usable during emergencies.

Beyond crisis and reaction plans, it is recommended to develop dedicated Disaster Risk Reduction plans that specifically address unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks, with the aim of further promoting a prevention-oriented culture across the country. In addition, introducing legal requirements alongside a clear and standardised framework would help ensure that all relevant actors systematically integrate disaster risk reduction measures into their planning processes.

Regarding the risk of floods, Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) address a wide range of flood risks, including fluvial and pluvial flooding, flash floods, and floods resulting from dam breaks. As for the management of international river basins, Czechia cooperates with neighbouring countries in the development and coordination of dedicated FRMPs.

Overall, given the large number of planning documents available, it is important to ensure strong alignment between crisis management plans developed at different levels. To this end, the use of a unified planning process is recommended, enabling authorities to address emergencies more efficiently and to scale up response mechanisms when necessary, including in cases requiring international assistance. Such an approach would further enhance coordination during emergency situations. Further, inclusive crisis management planning should be ensured at all levels. To achieve this, cooperation with organisations representing persons with disabilities and cross-sector collaboration should be strengthened and promoted, enabling more inclusive, coordinated, and effective preparedness and response strategies.

Lastly, focusing on civil-military planning, it is recommended to establish a streamlined civil-military planning mechanism to strengthen coordination, align preparedness efforts, and ensure coherent action across civilian and military institutions.

5 - Preparedness

5.1 - Legislative, institutional, and procedural framework

- Preparedness in Czechia is based on a **comprehensive legal framework** defining crisis states, responsibilities, and planning obligations at all levels of government.
- The **MoI plays a central coordinating role** in preparedness and response, supported by structured crisis, emergencies, alarm, and sectoral planning arrangements.
- The preparedness framework is being further strengthened through **updated resilience planning requirements** for critical entities.

The legal framework for risk preparedness in Czechia is anchored in several crisis management regulations. Most importantly, the Crisis Management Act provides a legal basis for declaring various crisis states (a State of Danger, a State of Emergency, a State of National Threat, and a State of War – see Table 1, Section 2.1) and defines the roles and responsibilities of state bodies and regional/local authorities. Specifically, the MoI is assigned a coordinating role in risk preparedness and response. This includes, inter alia, overseeing the preparedness of other ministries and CAAs, and developing the crisis-management exercise plan in cooperation with those authorities (Art. 10).

Further, the Ordinance No. 380/2002 of the MoI sets: procedures for establishing civil protection facilities and training their personnel; evacuation measures, sheltering, and individual protection of the population; requirements for the maintenance and operational readiness of protective shelters; the structure and content of emergency and evacuation plans; civil protection requirements for the municipal zoning plan; the responsibilities of ministries, regional and municipal authorities, and other institutions in ensuring the protection of the population.

Also, Decree No. 328/2001 of MoI regulates planning, training, and logistical support for the IRS. It outlines procedures for joint exercises, establishes rules for the creation of regional emergency plans, external emergency plans, alarm plans, and the provision of material and personal assistance during interventions.

Contingency planning. In Czechia, several types of contingency plans exist[20]. These include, among others, the alarm plans, which define how and when individual components of the IRS are mobilised; the regional emergency plan, specifically prepared for large-scale emergencies; and crisis preparedness plans. Specifically, important legal entities and Critical Infrastructure Entities (CIEs) in Czechia are already required to maintain crisis preparedness plans. Under the 2025 Critical Infrastructure Act, however, designated CIE operators will need to update their procedures and transition to a Resilience Plan aligned with the CER Directive requirements. This newly introduced mandatory document sets out specific organisational, technical, and operational measures to ensure continuity of essential functions and services in the event of disruptions or emergencies.

20 The full list of plans is available on the MoI website.

Another relevant plan, prepared by MoE in accordance with the Water Act, is the Flood Plan of the Czech Republic, which is a basic document for the implementation of flood protection measures at the level of central governmental bodies and organisations with national or regional authority[21].

Training and exercises. Training of employees at all levels of public administration, including officers in state and regional administration (particularly mayors), members of the FRS, police, municipal police, armed forces, workers from private companies and entrepreneurs (e.g. critical infrastructure operators, operators of facilities dealing with hazardous substances) is described in the Concept of Education in the Field of Population Protection and Emergency Management. Besides courses and seminars, most public-sector professionals are also required to sit a specialised exam in population protection and emergency management.

5.2 - Early warning systems

- Czechia relies on a **well-established and legally anchored Early Warning System (EWS)**, covering the majority of the population.
- The **EWS** is supported by established technical procedures, regular testing, and dedicated systems for hydrometeorological hazards.
- The ongoing **modernisation of the system**, which includes digitalisation and the Cell Broadcast system, aims to improve the speed, reach, and reliability of public alerts.

The Unified Warning and Notification System (UWNS, known as JSVV – *Jednotný Systém Varování a Vyrozumění*) operated by the MoI is the main mechanism of public warning in Czechia. In the event of an imminent emergency incident or upon the occurrence of an actual emergency incident, and after considering the extent and degree of risk, UWNS may be activated throughout the whole country or in a chosen area only.

Currently, 85% of the populated areas in Czechia are covered with UWNS. It consists of notification centres, data and radio networks, and end warning elements (sirens and local information systems). The end warning elements are either electronic (electronic sirens and local information systems), which are capable of transmitting emergency information to the population in addition to the warning signal, or electric (rotary sirens), which are only capable of transmitting a warning signal. Based on the provisions of Decree No. 380/2002 Coll., end-point warning devices are installed within municipalities with more than 500 inhabitants, within emergency planning zones, and in other locations where an emergency incident may potentially occur.

A secondary function of this system operated by the DG FRS CR is alerting the fire brigades in case of their deployment[22].

In the event of a threat or emergency, the population is warned primarily through the 'General Alert' warning signal. After the siren sounds, people receive further information about what has happened and what to do through radio, television, municipal announcements, loudspeakers, emergency ser-

21 More information on flood plans can be found at the following links (1) (2).

22 Ministry of Interior – Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, *Disaster Risk Management Summary Report – Czech Republic 2020 in Accordance with Article 6 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU* (2020).

vice vehicles, and other communication channels. If necessary, in the event of a serious emergency, the DG FRS CR can also inform the population by sending mass text messages.

There is only one emergency warning signal in Czechia, the 'General warning', which is an oscillating siren that lasts 140 seconds and may be repeated up to three times at about three-minute intervals. Other signals that are not intended to warn the public include:

- 'Fire Alarm' is an interrupted siren tone lasting one minute, used to alert fire brigade units[23].

- 'Test of Sirens' is a steady, uninterrupted tone lasting 140 seconds, which is distinctly different from the emergency warning signal. The siren test is performed regularly on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00, unless suspended by MoI (for example, during significant national events or after major emergencies). On electronic end warning elements, a standard voice announcement may accompany the test, informing the public that it is only a scheduled test. The siren test serves to ensure the permanent functionality and operability of UWNS.

Although UWNS is very reliable and robust, its mainly analogue and one-way design causes some limits. Therefore, a plan has been developed to build a new, fully digital warning system, whose execution will nevertheless be very lengthy and expensive. This modernisation is covered predominantly by European Structural and Investment Funds (specifically by the Integrated Regional Operational Programme).

Before being connected to the national alert system, end devices of public warning systems (such as sirens and local information systems) are checked and approved according to a detailed methodology and process issued by MoI and addressed to Regional FRS and municipalities, including documentation checks, on-site installation checks, remote activation tests, and acoustic coverage tests[24]. Overall, modernisation of the UWNS and related systems is a strategic priority outlined in the Concept of Population Protection until 2025 with an outlook to 2030. Future development goals include the digitalisation of infrastructure. Currently, it has only been implemented in isolated areas, e.g., within the emergency planning zones of nuclear power plants; the integration of advanced sensors for flood, chemical, and radiation monitoring; and the adoption of mobile technologies to deliver verified alerts via public communication networks.

In addition to sirens, people can be informed through mobile phone alerts. So-called localised SMS are a supplementary system for informing the population. This system allows sending a standard SMS message to up to hundreds of thousands of mobile phone users located in a defined area where the danger is present or is expected to be present in the foreseeable future. The disadvantage of LB-SMS is the capacity limitation on mobile operators, which causes a delay in SMS delivery of up to several tens of minutes.

In 2025, through the Government Resolution of the Czech Republic of 21 May 2025 No. 350, the Czech government approved the project for the construction of the Cell Broadcast (CB) system and allocated funding for its implementation. According to the project overview, the CB system is proposed as an integrated tool for alerting and informing the population in the event of emergencies and

23 More information can be found in the Citizens' Handbook and on the website of the FRS.

24 Ministry of Interior – Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, 'Methodology for the Acceptance of Single Alert and Notification System', 2025.

military threats, and it will be linked to other warning instruments. The system will enable messages to be sent at both regional and national levels, depending on the authorisations granted and the nature of the incident or crisis situation being addressed.

As for emergency numbers, there are four of them, including 150 (FRS), 155 (medical emergency services), 158 (police), and 112 (the single European emergency number).
In addition, EWS also incorporates specialised warning subsystems for distinct hazard types, which serve as a source of information on the basis of which the warning and informing of the population are subsequently carried out.

The CHMI, operating under MoE, has the exclusive authority to issue and revoke hydrometeorological alerts, covering extreme weather events that pose risks to life, property, and the environment. The CHMI communicates these alerts directly to the IRS centres and operates the Flood Reporting Service, which supports local flood authorities and coordinates information flow during flood events.

The Radiation Monitoring Network, managed by the State Office for Nuclear Safety (SÚJB), plays a vital role in radiation hazard monitoring. This system operates under both normal and emergency conditions and requires nuclear power plant operators to provide verified information to affected populations during accidents, subject to approval by the SÚJB, FRS, and the relevant regional governor. Broader coordination is guided by the National Radiation Contingency Plan, developed jointly by SÚJB and the MoI.

The system will be gradually equipped with various sensors for continuous monitoring[25], including water level sensors, sensors of pressure inside closed vessels or pipelines, and sensors for the detection of chemical leakages, which are placed in the vicinity of chemical plants, dairies, skating rinks, etc. When any of these sensors detect values higher than safe limits, they automatically send a signal to the system. The system then activates the warning devices, and people in the danger area are alerted and provided with basic information about the warning. Currently, only a limited number of these sensors are installed.

Box 8 - Good practice from Romania: the RO-ALERT system

In Romania, the RO-ALERT national Cell Broadcast alert system is designed to rapidly inform the population about imminent or ongoing emergency situations, such as extreme weather events, floods, wildfires, or other major risks. Messages typically include a description of the threat and recommended protective actions for the population. The system is operated by the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), with technical support from the Special Telecommunications Service (STS). It allows authorities to send location-based alerts directly to mobile phones, without the need for prior subscription. The system is designed to be fast, reliable, and effective even when mobile networks are congested. Following the adoption of the legal framework and the national technical implementation, the system became operational in 2018. Since its introduction, it has significantly strengthened the capacity of authorities to warn the population in real time, thereby contributing to improved public safety and a faster response during emergencies.

25 This remains largely at the stage of future intention, as the current infrastructure does not allow for data transmission from sensors. To date, sensor integration has been implemented only locally, in areas where digital infrastructure has already been deployed.

5.3 - Risk awareness and population preparedness

- Risk awareness and population preparedness are essential components of the **Czech crisis management system.**

- The **regulatory framework** combines the right to receive information about potential risks with systematic training, awareness campaigns, and preparedness initiatives targeting the entire population, including vulnerable groups.

- Preparedness efforts increasingly promote a **whole-of-society approach**, strengthening individual readiness alongside institutional capacity.

In view of the rapid increase in both natural and human-induced hazards-related disasters, Czechia has acknowledged the need to prevent emergencies from occurring and, above all, to prepare citizens to respond effectively if they happen. Adequate preparation and training are essential to reducing loss of life and minimising damage, as informed citizens are better able to protect themselves and their property from the impacts of such events.

Risk awareness during and immediately before disasters

According to the Crisis Management Act (Section 31) and the Integrated Rescue System Act (Section 7 to 15), individuals have the right to receive information about potential threats, planned emergency measures, and how these measures would be carried out, while authorities are responsible for providing this information before, during, and after a crisis. This information is typically provided by ministries, regional and municipal authorities, usually through their noticeboards, websites, or specialised information offices, via flyers, brochures, and similar printed materials. The content and extent of the provided information are determined based on the regional threat analysis and can be further discussed with emergency and security experts.

The Crisis Management Act (Section 30) also introduces the obligation for the television and radio broadcasters to immediately and accurately broadcast information upon request from crisis management authorities, without compensation. This usually takes the form of a text banner on the TV screen or a special announcement on the radio. For some specific emergencies, such as floods and radiation accidents, warnings can be pre-recorded. Additionally, people in high-risk areas (e.g., near nuclear power plants, chemical facilities, or water dams) receive targeted information about specific risks, preventive measures, and expected actions in the case of an emergency.

Population preparedness

Population protection is one of the cornerstones of the modern security strategy, summarised by the motto '*Prepared citizen. Prepared system.*' outlined in the Concept of Population Protection until 2025 with an outlook to 2030, as previously mentioned. Its importance stems from the recognition that the state cannot guarantee immediate protection for everyone in all circumstances, making the active involvement and preparedness of citizens essential for a functional society.

Another example of a strategic supporting legal document is the State Programme of Environmental Education, Training and Awareness for the years 2026-2035 (or State EVVO Programme), approved by Government Resolution No. 660/2025. It focuses on topics such as fair transformation, circu-

lar economy, climate and energy security, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and nature conservation, and the links between social, economic, and environmental topics. It also covers topics such as sustainability and environmental topics in educational programmes, the development of green skills for the labour market, support for volunteering and civic engagement, and an emphasis on quality standards and certification in EVVO. In the context of current societal challenges, particularly climate change and security uncertainties, the programme emphasises building resilience and the ability to respond flexibly at individual and societal levels, as well as reflecting this in EVVO content.

Population preparedness for emergency events focuses on the continuous education of children and young adults at schools, as well as on reaching target groups that are no longer subject to systemic education through several further projects, public events, and other training activities (including university students, teachers, companies and work teams, general public, and elderly). The FRS cooperates closely with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and the National Pedagogical Institute on the issue of education of pupils in schools in the area of population preparedness. In January 2025, the final version of the revised Framework Educational Programmes for preschool and school education was approved. The issue of 'Protection of the person under ordinary risks and emergencies' has been included in a new educational field and will be mandatory from the 2027/2028 school year. Other preventive educational activities are mostly performed by the FRS in close cooperation with regions, municipalities, and NGOs.

Since 2011, as a result of the introduction of the Coordinator of Preventive Educational Activities, these activities have shifted from a marginal task to a systematic approach[26]. As reported in the FRS Preventive Educational Activities for 2024 report, these activities are implemented at all levels of education and involve all age groups, including preschoolers, primary and secondary students, adults, seniors, as well as vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and foreigners. Activities are tailored to participants' age and capabilities, covering topics of increasing complexity, such as how to call emergency numbers, how to behave in dangerous situations, recognise siren signals, or survive in nature. A wide range of educational tools were used, including board games, short animated films, leaflets and brochures, DVDs, guided tours to fire brigade stations, special sports events, debates and seminars, and advertisements in public transport[27].

The OČMU portal aims to provide teaching staff with educational materials and methodological guidance for integrating the issue of population protection in emergencies into educational areas. The website was created in collaboration between the DG FRS and the non-profit non-governmental organisation Centre for a Safe State. Teachers are provided with educational activities and training programmes to teach safety topics in schools. The organisers of emergency population preparation also receive regular training in workshops and specialisation courses, as well as systematic methodological support (educational material can be found at this link).

Key educational programmes, focused on teaching children and students how to behave safely during common risks and emergencies, include:

- Firefighters for Schools is a programme designed for the second grade of elementary schools

26 *Analysis of the Implementation of Preventive Educational Activities at the EIGs of the Czech Republic from 2012 to 2017* (n.d.).

27 Ministry of Interior – Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, *Disaster Risk Management Summary Report – Czech Republic 2020 in Accordance with Article 6 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU* (2020).

that uses interactive presentations, videos, photographs, worksheets, and a methodological guide for teachers. All materials are freely available for download on the project website.

- Hasík CZ is an educational programme accredited by the MoEYS. It provides primary and secondary school students with information on emergency preparedness through interactive discussions. The lessons are delivered by trained instructors from DG FRS or volunteer firefighters with knowledge verified through playful activities.

- Your Ways to Safety is an online project aimed mainly at secondary schools. Experts from the Fire Brigade, Police, and Diocesan Charity of the South Moravian Region provide practical guidance on how to respond to common threats, including risks to personal safety and property.

- Lifebuoy Association operates a comprehensive online safety portal offering free educational materials created in cooperation with FRS and other organisations. After simple registration, schools gain access to interactive multimedia textbooks, worksheets, image databases, educational videos, and testing tools.

- World of Rescuers Karlovy Vary is an experiential education centre where children can practice appropriate behaviour in emergencies, such as accidents and fires. Schools can attend age-appropriate educational programmes free of charge (see Box below).

The 72-hour population preparedness campaign is the largest state information campaign aimed at increasing population resilience and crisis preparedness in Czechia. The campaign was organised by MoI, in collaboration with the FRS and several other organisations, to help people cope with the most challenging first phase of a crisis, before essential services are fully restored. Being prepared reduces stress and health risks, while allowing rescue services to focus on those facing immediate, life-threatening danger. The handbook offers practical advice, checklists of useful items, and clear instructions for sheltering and evacuation. It also emphasises the importance of community support, encouraging residents to check on elderly or disabled neighbours and communicate calmly with children.

For those experiencing high levels of stress, the guide recommends utilising specific resources[28] or contacting dedicated crisis helplines for psychological support. In life-threatening emergencies, it provides clear protocols for immediate action, advising people to call 155 or 112 and perform basic first aid until professional aid arrives. The manual was prepared to be accessible to various groups of the population. It is available in several languages, including English, Czech, Ukrainian, and Mongolian. Spanish and Vietnamese versions are being prepared. A version in Czech sign language is available for the deaf, and an audio format is available for the visually impaired.

Another activity within the campaign framework, helping municipalities and regions in creating solutions adapted to local risks, was that the Academy of Emergency Communications offered free, in-person educational and practical training programmes focused on developing emergency communication skills during crises. The training courses were intended for representatives of public administration, local authorities, law enforcement agencies, schools, and other institutions that may

28 An example can be found at this link.

face threatening situations. Almost 400 crisis managers, mayors, and officials from across the country have already registered for these programmes[29].

Box 9 - Visit to the Karlovy Vary's 'World of Rescuers – Health and Safety Centre'

Karlovy Vary's 'World of Rescuers – Health and Safety Centre' (KVK) is an innovative education and training centre for disaster preparedness, located in Karlovy Vary and organised as an NGO. Established in 2015, the centre represents the first of its kind in the country and was inspired by similar educational initiatives in Canada that focus on raising safety awareness through all the target groups. The project was developed through cooperation among multiple components of the IRS, including the DG FRS, emergency medical services, water rescue services, and the police, which contribute to the centre's educational programmes and training activities.

The centre's main objective is to improve public preparedness and safety awareness through experiential education. It provides practical training programmes for children, young adults, adults, and persons with disabilities, focusing on topics such as fire safety, water safety, personal safety, traffic safety, and first aid. These educational activities are delivered free of charge and closely align with the real operational practices of rescue services. The facilities include a wide range of interactive training environments and simulators designed to recreate real-life emergency situations. Participants are also introduced to practical tools such as the Záchranka emergency app, which enables rapid contact with emergency services and supports video communication during emergencies. In addition, the centre runs outreach projects allowing schools to use virtual reality tools for safety education in their own classrooms.

The construction of the centre was financed primarily through European funding programmes. The first phase was supported by the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP), while a second development phase is planned under the Just Transition Fund. Plans are in place to expand the centre and create a new crisis simulation facility featuring advanced training technologies, such as virtual reality environments, emergency operation simulators, and immersive projection systems to simulate climate-related hazards, including floods and other extreme weather events, as well as cyber incidents, disinformation during crises, and other IT-related risks. The centre is supported by local and regional authorities, with operational funding mainly provided by the city and the region. Rescue professionals who contribute as trainers sign special contracts allowing them to teach outside their service hours. The organisation has a small permanent staff of around five full-time employees, supported by a network of approximately 85 trained volunteer instructors, many of whom are active rescue professionals.

Demand for the programmes is very high. Around 20,000-25,000 participants complete a three-hour training programme every year. Each class can have a maximum of 30 participants and is supported by four to six trainers. In addition to school activities, the centre also offers safety training for adults and occasionally for private company employees; however, these courses are offered for a fee. The centre represents a good practice in public disaster preparedness education, demonstrating how cooperation between IRS components, local authorities, and educational institutions can strengthen community resilience. Similar centres are currently planned or under development in other Czech regions.

Figure 7: Group photo at the KVK premises with Fire tower prototype in the background.

29 Ministry of Interior, 'Příručku 72 Hodin Si Přečetly Téměř 4 Miliony Čechů. Kampaň Posílila Povědomí o Krizové Připravenosti – Ministerstvo Vnitra České Republiky', accessed 24 March 2026, https://mv.gov.cz/clanek/prirucku-72-hodin-si-precetly-temer-4-miliony-cechu-kampan-posilila-povedomi-o-krizove-pripravenosti.aspx.

Box 10 - Good practices from Portugal and Romania: Population preparedness

In **Portugal**, the Elderly Academy – Amadora Civil Protection project offers the elderly population the opportunity to voluntarily collaborate with the Amadora Municipal Civil Protection Service (SMPC). Given the wide-ranging nature of civil protection issues (i.e., the adoption of self-protection measures and the creation of mechanisms to protect people and property), it is essential to establish channels of risk communication, discussion, awareness, and training for this specific population segment. Thus, the SMPC proposes the creation of 'Elderly Civil Protection Agents' to give the elderly population a more active role in sharing prevention concepts and participating in the creation of a safety culture within the municipality. After receiving basic training in population protection, participants become responsible for disseminating basic safety recommendations, transmitting self-protection guidelines, and encouraging a closer relationship with the local Civil Protection Service.

In **Romania**, the national Be Prepared platform is dedicated to informing and educating the population on risks and preparedness measures. It aims to provide citizens with clear, practical, and reliable guidance on how to act before, during, and after emergencies, thereby contributing to the development of a stronger culture of safety and preparedness. The platform offers citizens practical guidelines, awareness materials, and educational resources tailored to different target groups, including a dedicated guide for teenagers. To improve accessibility and interaction, it also includes a chatbot function that allows users to quickly identify relevant information and recommended actions in various emergency situations. In addition, a new podcast section featuring the Department for Emergency Situations has recently been introduced to raise awareness and share expert insights on preparedness topics, as well as further engage the general public. The platform is currently available in English, with additional language versions planned to increase accessibility for a wider audience. In line with a Government Decision, a link to the platform is published on public institutions' websites, increasing its visibility and facilitating public access to trusted preparedness information.

The DSU (Department for Emergency Situations) mobile application complements this platform by providing additional functionalities for citizens. It includes links to preparedness guides and official information, as well as interactive maps displaying shelters and key institutions within the emergency management system. It also enables the public to report incidents and transmit emergency information. In addition, it functions as an alert system, allowing users to receive notifications and warnings about emergency situations, thereby contributing to improved public awareness and preparedness.

Another example is the Stop Disasters online game, developed by the UNDRR and translated into Romanian with their support, which is actively promoted as an educational tool within national preparedness and awareness campaigns targeting young adults. This interactive simulation places players in the role of a community planner, allowing them to explore how decisions related to urban development, building construction, ecosystem protection, and community preparedness influence hazard impacts. Players learn how early warning systems, evacuation planning, education, and risk-informed land use can significantly reduce disaster losses.

Lastly, the Civil Protection Week in Romania is an annual nationwide initiative organised by the DSU and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) around National Civil Protection Day to raise public awareness and strengthen preparedness for emergencies and disasters. Throughout the week, numerous educational, training, and public engagement activities are organised across the country. These include school sessions on risk awareness and first aid, evacuation exercises in institutions and companies, public information campaigns, prevention workshops, and demonstrations of emergency response capabilities. It also includes open days at fire and rescue stations, allowing citizens to interact directly with emergency personnel, learn about response equipment, and better understand the role of population protection services. Public awareness efforts are complemented by information stands in public spaces, volunteer engagement activities, and demonstrations of emergency response techniques. Additional activities, such as national warning system tests (e.g., 'Siren Wednesday') and community outreach initiatives, further contribute to familiarising citizens with alert systems and recommended behaviours during emergencies.

Box 11 - Good practice from Sweden: Additional support

In **Sweden**, public preparedness guidance also emphasises the need for inclusive crisis preparedness for those who need extra support in crisis or war. National guidance highlights that people with reduced functional abilities (e.g., visual impairments, hearing impairments, mobility limitations, cognitive disabilities, or deafblindness) may face specific challenges during crises or wartime and therefore require tailored preparedness measures. The recommendations encourage individuals and their support networks, including relatives, neighbours, caregivers, and personal assistants, to plan and prepare together so that necessary assistance can continue even if services are temporarily disrupted. This approach recognises that community cooperation and accessible information are essential for ensuring that vulnerable groups can maintain safety and autonomy during emergencies, while also strengthening overall societal resilience.

5.4 - Conclusions

Overall, Czechia demonstrates a well-developed and proactive approach to disaster preparedness, supported by strong institutional cooperation, advanced early warning capabilities, and a growing culture of risk awareness at all levels of education and across society.

The integration of DRM and population protection into educational programmes, including specialised university courses and innovative learning tools (such as virtual reality, serious games, and simulation training centres), contributes to building long-term capacity and strengthening the link between academic knowledge and operational practice. Cooperation between relevant universities, the FRS, and other components of the IRS further enhances this approach by providing students with practical experience within operational structures. Teachers are already provided with methodological materials, educational activities, and training programmes to teach safety topics in schools. However, an educational university programme for future teachers of 'health and safety education' should be established and systematically implemented to ensure the sustainable integration of this subject within the education system.

Preparedness efforts also demonstrate a clear commitment to inclusiveness and evidence-informed policymaking. Programmes specifically targeting vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and foreigners, are developed with their active participation, ensuring that awareness materials and preparedness initiatives are accessible and relevant. At the same time, surveys, evaluation processes, and post-event analyses support a culture of continuous improvement and allow preparedness programmes to be adjusted based on identified gaps.

The country also benefits from a well-established and reliable EWS, legally anchored and covering the majority of the population, supported by the CHMI's monitoring and forecasting capabilities. Public warnings are disseminated through multiple channels in a coordinated manner, ensuring that local authorities are informed and able to act upon warning information. Continuous technological development, including improvements in forecasting models and the integration of new platforms, further strengthens the system's effectiveness.

In addition, continued modernisation of the EWS and alert system would be important. The full operationalisation of the cell broadcast technology, the testing and integration of satellite-based warning services (e.g., GNSS), and the adaptation of the existing EWS to address emerging and hybrid threats represent key next steps. Strengthening cooperation with the media and improving the clar-

ity and accessibility of warning messages would further support effective communication with the general public.

A proactive approach to exercises and stress-testing is in place across public and private sectors, including cross-sectoral exercises such as energy sector stress tests addressing multiple hazards. At the same time, the public alert system could be further modernised to improve the dissemination of real-time information. In the current security context, reviewing the frequency of siren testing and strengthening awareness campaigns could also help improve citizens' understanding of warning signals and appropriate responses.

Preparedness campaigns, including the 72-hour initiatives, have been proven effective in increasing household awareness and ensuring a whole-of-society approach. Nevertheless, the ongoing evaluation of the initiative has so far shown a limited impact on population behaviour, indicating the need for a more comprehensive and strategic approach to risk communication and public engagement. Based on this, developing an overarching national risk communication strategy and improving coordination in the dissemination of awareness materials, potentially through a centralised platform and initiatives such as a 'Population Preparedness Week', could further strengthen public engagement. In addition, it is recommended to develop tailored guidance for persons with disabilities, including advice for those around them on how to assist a person with specific needs during a crisis or war.

The Karlovy Vary's 'World of Rescuers – Health and Safety Centre' represents an excellent practice in providing practical education and training on population preparedness and protection, especially for schoolchildren. Its planned continuation and enlargement with support from the European Just Transition Fund provides an opportunity to further develop this model and consider replicating it in other regions to further strengthen preparedness and risk awareness across the country.

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Annex 1: List of stakeholders consulted in the Peer Review mission

ČEZ	ČEZ Group
ČHMI	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
ČNB	Czech National Bank
ČVÚT	Czech Technical University in Prague
DG FRS	General Directorate of Fire Rescue Service
GŠ AČR	General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces
FRS JHC	FRS of the South Bohemian Region
FRS MSK	FRS of Moravian-Silesian Region
FRS PHA	FRS of the Capital City of Prague
FRS STC	FRS of the Central Bohemian Region
IOO	Population Protection Institute (under DG FRS)
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MPO	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MV	Ministry of the Interior
MZ	Ministry of Health
MŽP	Ministry of Environment
NOPIS	National Operational and Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior – General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
SB	Mayor of Bílichov municipality
SSHR	Administration of State Material Reserves
STC	Central Bohemian Region
TUL	Technical University of Liberec
UTB	Tomas Bata University in Zlín
VŠB	Technical University of Ostrava
ZK	Lifebuoy Association

Annex 2: List of Acronyms

CAA	Central Administrative Authorities
CEMS	Copernicus Emergency Management Service
CENIA	Czech Environmental Information Agency
CHMI	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute
CM	Crisis management
CMCC	Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change
ČNB	Czech National Bank
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DG FRS CR	General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service
DRM PRAF	Disaster Risk Management – Peer Review Assessment Framework
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
DSS	Decision support system
EWS	Early warning system
FRMPs	Flood Risk Management Plans
FRS CR	Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
GIS	Geospatial Information System
IRS	Integrated Rescue System
LCP	Local Contact Point
MEA	Municipalities with extended authority
MIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MSK	Moravian-Silesian Region

NAP	National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation
NRA	National Risk Assessment
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
NOPIS	National Operational and Information Centre of the MoI-DG FRS CR
SEP	State Environmental Policy
SSHR	Administration of State Material Reserves
SÚJB	State Office for Nuclear Safety
UWNS	Unified Warning and Notification System
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
VSB	Technical University of Ostrava

CZECHIA: peer review on disaster risk management *in brief*

OVERVIEW

What: A UCPM Peer Review of disaster risk management and civil protection systems provides a country or region with an opportunity to reflect on its readiness to cope with natural and human-induced hazard-related disasters and to identify ways of improving prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The European Commission's Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), under the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), supports eligible countries to review their disaster risk management (DRM) policies and practices by taking stock of strengths and weaknesses and putting forward recommendations to increase effectiveness.

Why: Czechia, represented by the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service (DG FRS), within the Ministry of Interior (MoI), requested to undergo a peer review of DRM capabilities under the UCPM Peer Review Programme in 2025. In light of recent crises – including the COVID-19 pandemic and the refugee influx following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine – the country is reassessing its overall resilience from multiple perspectives. Against this backdrop, a clear need has emerged to modernise the existing system and adapt it to evolving and complex risks.

Who: The assessment was conducted by four independent experts ('peers') from Romania, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden, selected by the European Commission. The entire process was supported by DG ECHO and the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC, the 'facilitator' contracted by DG ECHO), and implemented in close cooperation with the DG FRS.

How: The process commenced with the definition of the review's scope and objectives, followed by the selection of independent peers and completion of preparatory activities. The peer review team subsequently undertook an on-site mission to collect insights and, drawing on its findings, prepared the final report, which was reviewed by the DG FRS before finalisation.

When & Where: The on-site mission took place in Prague and lasted one week (from 2 to 6 March 2026), during which the experts met with various stakeholders and gathered information on the national DRM system.

Key points

- The Czech emergency and crisis management system is well-structured and employs a dual approach to address both disasters and conflicts. Drawing on lessons learnt and regular evaluations, the system has undergone significant improvements to strengthen its framework in response to emerging risks and threats.
- Cooperation between the Fire Rescue Service (FRS) and other authorities and stakeholders involved in disaster and crisis risk management is well established at both vertical and horizontal levels. In parallel, significant efforts have been made to strengthen population preparedness, leading to concrete progress in equipping communities to face current and future challenges.
- Key focus areas covered in this peer review are: governance of disaster risk reduction, risk assessment, disaster risk management planning and preparedness. Identified strengths and recommendations for improvement are included in the final report and summarised below.

STRENGTHS

Governance of disaster risk reduction

The Czech DRM/crisis management system is well-developed, with a clear allocation of roles and responsibilities and a recent reorganisation aimed at improving response to emerging risks and EU requirements such as the Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive. Experience from recent emergencies, including the 2024 floods, has been reviewed and incorporated into system improvements, reinforcing an already established crisis response structure led by the Central Crisis Staff for coordinated command and control. Climate change is increasingly being integrated into risk assessment methodologies and is recognised across key ministries. Strategic documents, particularly the **Concept of Population Protection**, set coordinated and overarching objectives towards greater resilience. Coordination mechanisms are further supported by a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which brings together experts and promotes cross-sector cooperation. Strong operational collaboration exists between the FRS, ministries, and other stakeholders, complemented by long-standing links with research institutions and a dedicated security-focused R&D programme. Financial and operational preparedness is supported through dedicated crisis management budget lines, dynamic procurement procedures during emergencies, and efforts to map available market resources and maintain production capacity. Additional resilience is reinforced through institutional partnerships (e.g., the Czech National Bank) and crisis communication capacities within MoI that support training and workshops to inform municipalities, in coordination with civil society actors.

Risk prevention

A standardised risk assessment methodology aligned with ISO standards has been in place since 2016 and is applied as a cross-sector, multi-level process involving different institutions. Risk evaluation procedures are systematically implemented to identify unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks, ensuring a comprehensive and effective assessment process. Good practice is emerging in the development of vulnerability and preparedness mapping, which combines exposure data, such as population and critical infrastructure, with available response capacities, such as firefighters and medical services, and is considered a model worth further expansion and dissemination. In some regions, such as the Central Bohemian Region, Crisis Management Portals have been established to integrate risk analyses, mapping tools, and planning documentation, supporting both region-specific assessments and the integration of risks identified at the national level.

Emergency response

Crisis management planning in the Czech system is well established at both national and regional levels, supported by strong coordination between certain regions (e.g. the Central Bohemian Region) and the FRS. Regular coordination meetings at different administrative levels ensure alignment of planning activities, while formal cooperation agreements between neighbouring regions further strengthen interregional collaboration. Regional FRS prepare crisis plans for regions and municipalities with extended authority, in cooperation with regional authorities, components of the Integrated Rescue System, and other administrative bodies. These plans include detailed supply arrangements for a range of emergency scenarios. In some regions, Crisis Management Portals provide structured access to planning documents and related material through both public and restricted sections, improving information sharing and preparedness. Flood risk management is addressed through dedicated plans that cover various scenarios, and good international cooperation also exists with neighbouring countries for shared river basins.

Preparedness

A comprehensive educational framework for civil protection and DRM is in place, including various academic programmes and the training of existing and future teachers. Tailored preparedness initiatives address vulnerable groups through accessible, multilingual materials and inclusive participation. School education increasingly integrates critical thinking and counter-disinformation elements, complemented by innovative training tools such as simulations, virtual reality, and serious games. Strong cooperation between universities, the FRS, and other emergency actors allows students to gain practical experience through operational secondments. Preparedness campaigns are developed across ministries and with the private sector using evidence-based approaches and regular evaluation, including nationwide initiatives such as the 72-hour preparedness campaign. Public awareness is further reinforced through EU-funded infrastructure and systematic exercise programmes that test resilience across sectors, including that of critical infrastructure. Early warning systems are well-established, trusted, and multi-channel, supported by advanced meteorological monitoring, real-time data sharing, and cross-border cooperation, with continuous improvement ensured through post-event evaluations and integration of new technologies such as AI-based forecasting. Operational reliability is strengthened by procedures that ensure alerts are properly received and understood by local authorities, alongside increasing preparedness at the municipal level and ongoing development of additional communication channels, including cell broadcast and satellite-based emergency warning systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governance of disaster risk reduction

A targeted revision of the legislative, institutional, and procedural framework is recommended to better address evolving risks, including hybrid and geopolitical threats, and to enable integrated crisis management across peacetime and wartime. Operational procedures for declaring crisis states should be streamlined to reduce delays and overlaps, while introducing greater flexibility to extend emergency periods and accelerate post-disaster reconstruction with appropriate safeguards. Strengthening municipal capacities remains essential, supported by enhanced inter-municipal cooperation and increased awareness of emerging risks. Improvements in data collection, sharing, and legal frameworks should ensure efficient two-way information flows across all levels of governance. Strategic documents should be aligned under a unified framework, each accompanied by clear action plans, responsibilities, and monitoring systems. Governance mechanisms should be reinforced by elevating the role of the National Platform for DRR, strengthening partnerships with NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector, and clearly defining their roles. Financial resilience should be enhanced through coordinated management of reserves, dedicated minimum budget allocations, and increased investment in preparedness. Further efforts are needed to develop national production capacities, support research uptake and sustainability, and establish a comprehensive risk and crisis communication strategy with a centralised, single-voice approach and systematic training.

Risk assessment

Strengthening the role of the National Platform for DRR is recommended with a view to improve coordination, systematise processes, and align risk assessment efforts through formalised collaboration. The national risk assessment should be regularly updated using a combined bottom-up, top-down, and horizontal approach, while adopting a multi-risk, all-hazard perspective that includes hybrid threats to better guide resource allocation. Enhancing transparency and accessibility through tools such as a public WebGIS platform would support wider dissemination of risk information. In parallel, the development of foresight capacities, including horizon scanning, is encouraged to anticipate emerging challenges and enable proactive governance. Leveraging advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence can further strengthen data analysis, risk assessment, and evidence-based decision-making.

Disaster risk management planning

Beyond reaction plans, it is recommended to develop dedicated Disaster Risk Reduction plans, particularly for unacceptable and conditionally acceptable risks, to strengthen prevention and embed a proactive risk culture. A standardised and legally supported approach should guide how all actors integrate DRR measures into planning processes. Greater alignment of crisis management plans across all levels is needed, including the adoption of a unified planning process that enables seamless escalation from emergency response to full crisis management, including international assistance. Planning should be inclusive, with stronger engagement of organisations representing persons with disabilities and enhanced cross-sector collaboration. Crisis plans for critical entities should be simplified and made more operational, while a streamlined civil-military planning mechanism should be established to improve coordination, align preparedness, and ensure coherent action across institutions.

Preparedness

Promoting population preparedness and awareness should be prioritised, replicating successful initiatives such as the Karlovy Vary 'World of Rescuers' model and introducing a dedicated 'Population Preparedness Week' to engage citizens, institutions, and the private sector. Education and training efforts should be expanded to empower communities by integrating health and safety education into school systems and developing university programmes for future educators. Strengthening risk communication is essential, supported by the evaluation and enhancement of existing initiatives, the development of a comprehensive national strategy, and the creation of a centralised platform to share materials and campaigns. Inclusivity should be ensured by embedding disability-sensitive approaches in policies and guidance. Early warning systems should be modernised by upgrading alert technologies, advancing cell broadcast and satellite-based systems, and improving impact-based forecasting through better data, infrastructure, and citizen participation. Clearer communication, including media training and simplified messaging, should enhance public understanding. Finally, investing in technical expertise, fostering international cooperation, and strengthening coordination and information sharing between authorities and critical entities will improve preparedness for both traditional and emerging risks, including hybrid threats.

For more info: the full report is available at UCPM Peer Review Programme | UCP Knowledge Network.

For any question, the European Commission may be contacted at: ECHO-CP-PEER-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu.

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