

Joint Position on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area



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A Joint Position on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area is a guiding instrument assisting the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Member States in their joint efforts to further strengthen cooperation in the civil security in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

We, Directors General for Civil Protection in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region welcome recommendations on further enhancement of cooperation in the civil security and invite all agencies participating in the CBSS Civil Protection Network (CPN), and the EUSBSR PA Secure (hereinafter – Cooperation Networks) as well as in other regional cooperation constellations, to work together to accomplish following priorities:

Overall strategic priority

Building a common societal security culture in the BSR, shared attitudes towards societal security threats and an understanding of prevention, preparedness, and response as well as recovery and learning processes in connection with disasters.

Strategic priorities

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1. Combining national efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction with a particular focus on managing increasing risks from climate change.

The implementation of the Sendai Framework should serve as a platform for extending cooperation between national, regional, and local governments and civil society organisations and establishing a regional framework for risk assessment. Cooperation Networks' work will follow the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) Roadmap 2021-2030 and serve as a meeting point for the exchange of best implementation practices, contribute to regionalisation of the Framework and facilitate communication between the UNDRR and the national authorities, responsible for Sendai Framework implementation.

2. Enhancing resilience of the BSR to disasters by strengthening systemic multi-hazard approach and fostering existing, emerging, and future risk awareness, prevention, preparedness, and response.

The BSR faces risks of increased interconnectedness and complexity. When combined, they present a severe challenge for the region. These risks include climate change, demographics, critical infrastructure, pandemics, and other threats. Particular concerns should be given to the complex challenges related to potentially harmful aspects of CBRN risks. Cooperation Networks will contribute to improving understanding of the systemic nature of these risks, monitoring and assisting in building cross-border systems to integrate a multi-hazard approach into national strategies and policies.

3. Increasing cross-sectorial cooperation and societal partnerships

Strong cross-sectorial partnerships create a solid foundation for societal security in the BSR and are the key in prevention activities, raising public awareness regarding hazards, preparing and mobilising resources in emergencies as well as making recovery processes well-tailored to genuine needs and existing conditions.

Recognising the importance of cross-sectorial, multi-level and multi-disciplinary approaches, the Cooperation Networks will strengthen and actively support engagement with relevant government authorities, civil-society organisations, private sector, and other partners at the national and local level to develop and strengthen effective and sustainable disaster risk reduction.

4. Building capacity of Member States in the civil security area.

Cooperation Networks will support Member States by developing demand-driven, and well-tailored joint thematic workshops for various target groups, information and training materials, organising study visits, establishing platforms for information sharing and constructive discussions at different levels and initiating transnational projects, subject to funding. The rotating high-level Baltic Excellence Programme and workshops are vital platforms in this effort.

5. Supporting mutually beneficial interaction between research and practitioners.

Cooperation Networks will facilitate the effective incorporation of research questions and project results into the national systems and the regional capacity-building work. Knowledge-based efforts should effectively convey the findings and results of research-based projects to policymakers and practitioners to improve their everyday work.

Implementation

An Overview of the Implementation of the Joint Position has been developed to structure the cooperation aimed at achieving the listed priorities. The Overview is a primary implementation tool of the Joint Position, and it will be updated according to the needs and resources of the countries in the BSR.

Cooperation Networks will constantly monitor and explore current and emerging priorities in the civil protection area and initiate transnational projects to implement the priorities.