

**Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University
Faculty of Military Science Kossuth Lajos
Doctoral School of Military Sciences**

TÓTHI Gábor:

**Civilian crisis management capabilities of the Republic of
Hungary. Possibilities for further development**

PhD Thesis
Abstract

Scientific supervisor:

Col. Dr. Miklós JÁROSCSÁK

senior lecturer, PhD

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1. Title of the research

„Civilian crisis management capabilities of the Republic of Hungary. Possibilities for further development”

2. The scientific problem

In recent years the international community gave a new quality to crisis prevention, management and post-conflict stabilisation, during their peace and security efforts. In addition to the tasks of the international military operations, law enforcement and rule of law activities have become dominant. As a trend the military's initial intervention have been replaced in all cases by non-military commitments and missions. This scenario happened in Iraq or Afghanistan, but for Hungary the Western Balkans is a higher priority.

The use of civilian experts in international peace support and crisis management operations appears as a long-term strategy for states and international organizations. Hungary's membership in international organizations, role and ambitions require a widely accepted, supported and controlled participation of the civilians including the properly implemented international standards. Few people know that with the involvement of Hungarian gendarmes crisis management related tasks were carried out in between 1903 and 1909 in the area of today's Kosovo.

During last years the European Union (EU) compared with any other international organization has gained major advantages in this area, but it is uncertain how long it will be recognized as a leader in the increasingly changing international environment. The United States of America and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) faced with some negative military crisis management experiences has also recognized the need for civilian capabilities. It must be also recognized, that the United Nations (UN), building on the experience acquired during peace operations, began to transform and enhance the peace operations system, which served as an example for other international organisations.

The formulation of the topic is based on the assumption that Hungary must be an active player in the different crisis areas of the world and the Euro-Atlantic area, during which civilian capabilities is increasingly demanded. The national engagement, planning, implementation and decision-making is in general based on ad-hoc decisions. A comprehensive framework of operation is missing, and the involved organisations have not the appropriate coordinating and

implementing bodies and mechanisms. The practical activities are hindered due to the lack of adequate concepts and resources. The most important national civil crisis management bodies have not the right, dedicated departments, personnel, legal and infrastructural conditions. The main problem stems from the fact that the benefits of civil experts is difficult to reconcile. The functional purpose of the members of police, prosecutors or even the finance guard are essentially for national (peace-time) use. The engagement in international tasks - particularly in crisis areas - is difficult to interpret for them. These aspects related to civilian crisis management activities are not exploited in the mass media. The public opinion is only aware about the "military" tasks.

It can be concluded that in particular these factors urges the development of the national framework and related implementation tasks. The listed - interrelated - factors can justify the establishment of a more effective national system.

3. Research objectives

1. Test and demonstrate the domestic civil crisis management operations and the factors determining the legal framework;
2. Explore and analyze the functioning of state administration;
3. Analyze the international practices and experiences in order to identify possible ways of efficient operation and experiences ready for national adaptation;
4. Examine the national economic impact of crisis management missions;
5. Identify proposals for modernizing the national civilian crisis management framework.

4. Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were set up:

1. The operation of relevant national laws, procedures and organization is not sufficiently substantial to serve the current requirements / obligations;
2. The available resources are not sufficient to perform civilian crisis management activities;

3. By planning, preparing and organizing civilian crisis management activities more effectively and efficiently, it can be cost-effective for all contributing, for the country, and also profitability can be achieved;
4. The modernization of the civilian crisis management activities is necessary to create a comprehensive strategy and consistent implementation;
5. It is possible at the national level to develop a modern and internationally recognized civilian crisis management system.

5. Research methods

The above mentioned research methods were used:

1. Personal involvement in different forums;
2. Interviews (missions staff, national and international bodies and representatives);
3. Questionnaires of individuals and EU member states representatives;
4. Comparative analysis of civilian and military legal basis
5. Comparative analysis of some EU Member States' crisis management procedures;
6. SWOT analysis of the the national civilian crisis management system;
7. National and international literature, law and public law, normative controls, concepts and other materials, resources available on the Internet.

Development constraints:

8. The manuscript was closed in May 2011.
9. The results of the research and analysis can not be objective as "in vitro" tests.
10. The thesis focuses mainly on the domestic system and the EU.
11. The analysis of the international relations theory is out of the topic.
12. The thesis is based on the non-contingent (individual experts) approach.
13. The election-related activities and the participation in international exercises (CMX, CME) is also out of the topic.

6. Research conditions

I believe that the research topic is not sufficiently explored, analyzed and processed. The research was complemented by using extensive literature. The international scientific community deals only with the general CFSP, CSDP and mainly military crisis management issues. The research is mainly based on interviews and consultations mainly with the concerned ministries and national organizations, the ITCMC and also civilian experts serving in different crisis management missions.

7. Structure of the thesis

In the first chapter I give a possible definition of the civilian crisis management (as used in the thesis), I present the national and the international framework of the activities, the relevant international experiences, and Hungary's role in this system.

In the second chapter I give an overview of the national legal and conceptual basis, the availability of resources, the operational and organisational aspects, as well as the communication and PR related activities.

In the third chapter I assess the efficiency of the previously presented aspects using the SWOT analysis in order to detect anomalies and define possible solutions and recommendations to overcome the difficulties associated with the operation.

In the fourth chapter, in the light of the previous proposals I draw up a concept and way forward for the possible modernization of the national crisis management system.

8. Conclusion of the research

We can conclude that in the coming period the need for the use of civilian experts will increase. In my thesis I presented a possible framework for civilian crisis management activities, based on international rules. Reviewing the duties in the international, particularly EU environment, we can adapt some experience in order to enhance our national system. I outlined and evaluated in detail the domestic legal and conceptual background, the available resources, determining the organizational, operational, human and financial needs. I proved that a new, modern national civilian crisis management system is necessary.

It was proved that the current financial resources and the available resources is sufficient, as well as a there is a form of return on investment. In many cases, the financial interests should not be a realistic option. I proved, that the national engagement, planning, decision-making and implementation are generally based on ad-hoc decisions, taking into account only actual interests. I determined the conceptual framework and principles (including the financial aspects) of the new operating system, and also prepared the legal matching. I also defined the necessary human and financial resource needs as well. Implementing the present operational model, the quality and visibility of the tasks can be significantly improved.

9. Scientific results

1. Based on the practices and legal basis, I formulated the principles that can be used as a guideline for the governmental bodies during the future development of civilian crisis management strategy.
2. I created a possible, functional and executable model of the national civilian crisis management system, efficient in terms of budget planning and organization.
3. Based on the new principles of the regulatory standards I defined the „room for maneuver” of the Hungarian civilian crisis management system.

8th August 2011, Budapest

(Tóthi Gábor)