Performance potentials of civil protection

The Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance [Bundesamt für Bevölkerungsschutz und Katastrophenhilfe (BBK)] provides the Federal Republic of Germany with a central organizational unit for civil security. It takes an interdisciplinary approach by incorporating all areas of civil safety precaution, combining them into an efficient protection system for the population and its livelihood. As a result, not only does the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance represent a portfolio of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, but it is also gives professional advice and support to other federal and regional authorities in the fulfillment of their objectives.

This means that one central authority has been established for:

• The fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities of the federal state when it comes to civil protection and the coordination of international cooperation.
• The development of nationwide, as well as sector by sector risk analyses; cadastral surveys of areas at risk from earthquakes or other natural disasters; and crisis control contingency planning.
• Conceptual planning and interdisciplinary coordination to protect critical infrastructure.
• Nationwide information, communication and resource management in the event of damage or loss.
• The coordination of scientific and technological research when it comes to civil protection.
• Conceptual planning and further development with regard to the protection of the population from CBRN dangers (i.e. weaponised or non-weaponised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials that can cause great harm and present significant threats in the hands of terrorists).
• Preparedness training for senior and top administration levels in civil protection.
• The national coordination of the European integration process in the area of civil safety precaution.
• Civil protection of public health.
• The procurement of facilities and equipment for disaster management in civil defence.

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The Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning and Civil Protection

Its role

The Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning and Civil Protection – forming Division IV of The Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance – is the central educational institution of the federal state regarding risk and crisis management, and regarding civil protection. The Federal Ministry of the Interior has commissioned it to develop itself further into an educational institution for civil safety precaution with a national and international network, within the framework of a strategic educational alliance. Already now, the seminars and courses that the Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning and Civil Protection offers are geared towards executive roles in all the five pillars that constitute civil safety precaution on a national level (civil protection, police, the armed forces, services, critical infrastructure companies).

Its duties and responsibilities

• Provision of education and training for civil protection executives and teachers and for staff involved in matters of civil safety precaution.
• Conducting of seminars, exercises and other events in the interest of the country’s overall crisis management and of civil-military cooperation.
• Conducting of training events on behalf of the federal ministry.
• Running a virtual learning platform.
• Evaluation of mass casualty incidents at home and abroad.
• Evaluation of national and international analyses, publications and documentations.
• Making available scientific support for research projects as well as the evaluation and implementation thereof.
• Conducting of studies and investigations.
• Contributing towards the policy developments of the responsible top executive portfolio holders in the federal authorities; assistance in federal and regional government commissions, as well as in EU committees.

Education and training topics

• Civil safety precaution as an objective in the overall interest of the country
• Crisis management in the overall interest of the country (administration and economy in particular)
• Communication in the event of risk and crisis
• Leadership and staff training
• Risk analysis, risk management
• Disaster medicine, health care
• Self-protection, self-help
• Civil-military cooperation
• Provision and safeguarding in areas of critical infrastructure
  – Economy/business
  – Energy supply
  – Transport
  – Communications
  – Food
  – Water supply
• Crisis management/disaster relief on an international level (EU, NATO, UN)

Target groups

• Senior employees of the federal, regional and municipal authorities, as well as companies and public services.
• Personalities and movers and shakers from public life, the economy, societies, unions, churches, foundations and the media.
• Executives in the security services (especially federal state and regional police, the armed forces).
• Executives in disaster management.
• Employees of other education and research institutions.
• Foreign experts.

A contemporary educational establishment

Aside from 120 different types of seminars, the Academy for Crisis Management, Emergency Planning and Civil Protection offers workshops, conferences, trade fairs and conventions of current interest. At the disposal of aforementioned are seminar rooms and training facilities specially designed for executive duties and responsibilities in disaster management. These serve as prototypes for corresponding facilities in cities and municipal districts. A permanent group of qualified lecturers guarantees seminar participants an education and training that is recognised both domestically and abroad. The full-time lecturers are complemented by approximately 100 contract and guest lecturers, who enjoy great recognition both in the academic and scientific world, and in the field.

New concepts

In order to reach the ambitious targets that have been set, content-related and organisational adaptations are becoming necessary. Among others these are:
• Intensification of efforts to provide education and training in the area of civil protection of public health.
• Improving the precautions taken regarding ABC risks and other dangers through risk assessments; developing scenarios that pose a danger or hazard; and drafting crisis management concepts.
• Conceptualisation and conducting of seminars for both executives and coordination committees on a ministerial level.
• Strengthening of international collaboration.
• Ensuring that the education and training repertoire on offer is updated subject-specifically in all areas of the Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance and that capacity is expanded to ensure that supply meets demand.
• Also to be expanded is the ‘Virtual Academy’.
• IT based simulation as a leadership aid.