

PROFESSIONAL PLATFORM OF POPULATION PROTECTION

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Abstract

Population protection conception till 2020 with the view to 2030 emphasizes the strengthening of professional cooperation between the application practice, academic floor and research organizations. The solution is the implementation of one of the conception tasks – establishment of the professional platform of population protection which would help to enlarge the mutual cooperation and form effective environment for the generation of philosophical contemplation about the direction of population protection as a multi-resort discipline.

Keywords

Conception, population protection, platform, universities, research, Scientific Board of GD FRS of the CR.

INTRODUCTION

Population protection conception till 2020 with the view to 2030 is aimed to unambiguously elaborate the predictions and tasks stated in basic strategic documents and ensure this way their generation and implementation. All newly defined strategic objectives are focused on preserving of basic state functions – protection of population, protection of their lives, health and property. This is in coherence with a wider definition of population protection such as: “the fulfillment of tasks in the area of planning, organizing and performance of activities in order to prevent the occurrence ensure the preparedness for extraordinary events and crisis situations and their solution; population protection also includes fulfillment of tasks of civil defense according to Geneva Protocols“.

In order to meet, in the conception defined top strategic objectives and visions in the area of population protection which are aimed at security of a permanent and qualitatively improving system of life, health and property protection, it is necessary to focus on key priorities. These priorities then represent a specific direction of the protection system to which maximal attention must be paid.

POPULATION PROTECTION PLATFORM

Strategic priorities of population protection were defined according to detailed analyses with regard to world evolution trends in this area. The identified strategic priorities are the following:

- Broader engagement of citizens.
- Broader engagement of legal and physical persons.
- Enhancement of resilience and elements of critical infrastructures.
- Targeted support of science and research, development and innovation.
- Balanced and comprehensively applicable tasks and tools of population protection.

Each strategic priority is in the frame of the Conception described in more details. More specific description is aimed at the following characteristic:

- motive: more detailed description of a priority (answers to the question “why“),

- target state: what is supposed to be achieved as a priority and what is supposed to be the final result (responds to the question “what“),
- strategy till the year 2030: description of basic steps to accomplish the target state (responds to the question “how?“),
- target values/indicators: unambiguously define by a measurable manner what has to be done in order to achieve the target state,
- assumptions for the accomplishment of a target state: necessary preconditions to accomplish the target, what is necessary to have for the realization of target values and therefore the target state.

One of the key questionable issues of population protection and at the same time the topic which has been repeatedly mentioned during elaborated analyses, is the establishing of the cooperation between the application sphere (practice) and the academic floor (theory). In the entire material of the Conception we can find a number of examples, linkages and connections which ask for reinforced current contacts and their application for further development of a population protection system. The most striking is a specific task which is supposed to be accomplished by the end of the year 2016 – task no. 5. The task is: “To create a platform for the effective exchange of information and experience between research workplaces, academia, and the application sphere. According to a generated system we have to strive for the unification of the approaches to the teaching of the population protection issue at universities, to analyze the possibilities to support the professional growth of the workers in the area of the research, development and innovation support of population protection, also to generate an instrument for sharing the outputs of research, development and innovation activities and mutual communication between the actors of a subject matter“.

The background for the fulfillment of this task can be found in the priority “citizen“ and “science, research, development and innovation“. The basic idea for the anchoring of this task is to exploit to a maximum degree the scientific potential with which the academia undoubtedly abounds and interconnect it with the experience of workers in the area of population protection.

At the same time the following risk factors were identified:

- The system of research, development and innovation support of population protection lacks the elaboration of personnel policy (especially regarding the continuity of activities among research workers).
- There is no closer interconnection between actors of the research, development and innovation support of population protection (especially between research workplaces universities and the final users).
- Often neglected is the propagation and popularization of reached results.
- Reduction of the funds.
- Negative trends in the ongoing education system.
- Lower quality of the education and the education level of graduates.
- Reduction of public expenses for the education.
- Overlooking the results of security research by professional public working outside this area.
- Ill-conceived preference of some less significant threats.

The opportunities for the further development of the population protection system and at the same time possible ways of the minimization of risk factors are as follows:

- Streamlining personnel policy.
- Closer cooperation with universities, domestic and foreign subjects.
- Elaboration of multi-source funding.
- More effective exploitation of the growing variability and complexity of threats.
- Establishment of the professional platform of population protection.

Right the last mentioned opportunity, the establishment of the professional platform of population protection represents the real possibility to eliminate the defined threats and at the same time a huge challenge and the opportunity for the academia to contribute to the population system development.

From the very beginning the professional platform of population protection has been intended as a purely working body which will actively contribute to the philosophical development of population protection and the elaboration of specific strategic and conceptual documents. However, several basic problems had to be solved:

- What will be the position of a platform like?
- What will be its composition?
- How to interconnect the platform with current bodies?
- Etc.

Regarding population protection, there are at present more than 20 universities (state and public) and a wide range of research organizations. For the purpose of selecting appropriate candidates the decision about the platform was made, i.e. the platform will consist maximally of 10 persons. This number was determined with regard to „manageability“ and work efficiency. More than 10 persons may complicate the fulfillment of the primary platform assumption - “efficiency“. It is intended the following deployment of individual organizations:

- 2 x state universities,
- 3 x public universities,
- 2 x research organizations,
- 3 x state administration.

Regarding the fact that the state universities are just two – Defense University and Police Academy, the number of appropriate representatives from public universities amounted to three. For this purpose, at a regular meeting, which took place at the end of the year 2013, the representatives of most public universities which teach the issue of population protection were addressed. They were asked to send a motivation paper „why should our university be a member of the platform“ and reasoning the choice of a representative (together with a substitute) of the university. However, the responses came only from less than a half of the number of universities. Moreover some of the responses did not respond to a required matter. All responses were carefully evaluated and subsequently the representatives of public universities were chosen.

The procedure with research organizations was based on the experience, quality of work and innovation in the frame of research activities. The composition of the platform was formed as follows:

- Defense University
- Police Academy of the CR in Prague
- Mining University – Technical University Ostrava
- Czech Technical University in Prague
- Tomas Bata University in Zlin
- Population Protection Institute Lazne Bohdanec
- Security Policy Center of Charles University

State administration representatives will be from the Ministry of Interior – General Directorate of Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of the CR and partly (as non-permanent members) the representatives of the Ministry of Interior – Department of Security Policy and the Department of Security Research and Police Education.

So the question of the composition has been solved. As far as the platform position is concerned we chose the format which will enable to join the already existing bodies and this way, the findings, conclusions and outputs will be transferred. Specifically it is the Scientific Board of the FRS director which was established as an advisory body of the general director

and encompasses the leading functionaries of universities. The platform will represent a working body of this Scientific Board and will regularly report on the activities at the meetings. By means of the Ministry of Interior, the interconnection to the Committee for Emergency Planning and to the government as well will be ensured together with regular “Reports on the state of population protection“. At the same time, with regard to the narrower composition of the platform, the information will be submit at regular meetings with the representatives of all universities at the end of each year.

Formal steps to the establishment of the Population Protection platform were taken at the meeting of the Scientific Board of the General Director of the FRS CR which took place on February 21, 2014. The resolution on the establishment of the platform was adopted and at the same time col. Eng. Daniel Miklos was chosen as its coordinator. The suggested representatives of universities and research organizations will be, in the coming days, informed about their nomination and at the same time the date of the first working meeting will be specified. The number of yearly meetings will be 3 or 4. The platform is conceived as a working body where the members will actively contribute to the generation of visions, intentions and strategies in the area of population protection. It is necessary to emphasize that in any case it is not another place for comment procedures but active generation of materials. The membership in the platform is without fee, it represents the opportunity for all representatives to participate in further development of population protection and “contribute their bit” this way. I believe that the participation in this platform will be for its members prestigious and responsible.

References

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Information about the author

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