

 <p>REVISTA MOLDOVENEASCĂ DE DREPT INTERNAȚIONAL ȘI RELAȚII INTERNAȚIONALE Chișinău, Republica Moldova</p>	<p>Revista Moldovenească de Drept Internațional și Relații Internaționale / Moldavian Journal of International Law and International Relations / Молдавский журнал международного права и международных отношений</p> <p> </p> <p>2026, Issue 1, Volume 21, Pages 97-106. ISSN 1857-1999 EISSN 2345-1963</p> <p>Submitted: 02.11.2025 Reviewed: 12.12.2025 Accepted: 20.12.2025 Published: 01.01.2026 https://doi.org/10.61753/1857-1999/2345-1963/2026.21-1.07</p>
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**ȘTIINȚE POLITICE
POLITICAL SCIENCE
ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ НАУКИ**

**SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC –
THE SUPREME CRISIS MANAGEMENT BODY**

**CONSILIUL DE SECURITATE AL REPUBLICII SLOVACE –
ORGANUL SUPREM DE GESTIONARE A CRIZELOR**

**СОВЕТ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ СЛОВАЦКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ –
ВЫСШИЙ ОРГАН ПО УПРАВЛЕНИЮ КРИЗИСНЫМИ СИТУАЦИЯМИ**

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ABSTRACT:

**SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC –
THE SUPREME CRISIS MANAGEMENT BODY**

The current highly tense international situation, as well as several internal political problems, highlight the importance of crisis management and its significance in Slovakia. Preparation for resolving crisis situations is becoming increasingly vital. The capability to respond to crisis situations that could be exacerbated by further development of the international situation, the proliferation of local conflicts and also lessons learned from internal political crises such as the refugee crisis or the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, are becoming more prominent. Crisis management is therefore among the very important areas of public administration functioning in Slovakia. In recent years, it has been tested several times, as serious crisis situations on both the domestic and international scenes had to be addressed. Specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the war in Ukraine and the associated refugee crisis, tested its functionality.

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These crisis situations revealed its strengths and weaknesses. Currently, the Government of the Slovak Republic, individual ministries and especially the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, which is primarily responsible for crisis management, face a serious task: to completely redefine and re-establish the basic parameters of crisis management. A decisive role in crisis management falls on state administration bodies. The Security Council of the Slovak Republic is the supreme body of crisis management in the Slovak Republic. It is an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic and participates in the creation and implementation of the security system of the Slovak Republic.

The Security Council is a permanent advisory, initiative, and coordinating body of the Government of the Slovak Republic. It ensures compliance with international security obligations, evaluates the security situation in the Slovak Republic and in the world. The council prepares proposals for measures for the government to maintain the security of the Slovak Republic, to prevent crisis situations, and to resolve existing crisis situations. In the event that the government is unable to function during states of crisis, during war, state of war, or state of emergency, the Security Council of the Slovak Republic exercises its constitutional powers to the extent as defined by law.

The Security Council is tasked with the responsibilities in peacetime, as well as during war, a state of war, or a state of emergency. During war and a state of war, this body carries out the tasks at the main defense management site of the state. It is therefore important to know its main tasks, structure and especially the expert departments that prepare background materials for the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Keywords: Crisis management, Security Council, respond to crisis situations.

JEL Classification: H11; H56; K10

Universal Decimal Classification: 328; 342.5; 351/354

<https://doi.org/10.61753/1857-1999/2345-1963/2026.21-1.07>

REZUMAT:

CONSILIUL DE SECURITATE AL REPUBLICII SLOVACE – ORGANUL SUPREM DE GESTIONARE A CRIZELOR

Situația internațională extrem de tensionată actuală, precum și mai multe probleme politice interne, evidențiază importanța gestionării crizelor și importanța acestora în Slovacia. Pregătirea pentru rezolvarea situațiilor de criză devine din ce în ce mai vitală. Capacitatea de a răspunde situațiilor de criză care ar putea fi exacerbate de dezvoltarea ulterioară a situației internaționale, de proliferarea conflictelor locale și, de asemenea, de lecțiile învățate din crizele politice interne, cum ar fi criza refugiaților sau gestionarea pandemiei COVID-19, devin din ce în ce mai proeminente. Prin urmare, gestionarea crizelor se numără printre domeniile foarte importante ale funcționării administrației publice în Slovacia. În ultimii ani, a fost testat de mai multe ori, deoarece au trebuit abordate situații grave de criză atât pe scena internă, cât și pe cea internațională. Mai exact, pandemia COVID-19, precum și războiul din Ucraina și criza refugiaților asociată, și-au testat funcționalitatea.

Aceste situații de criză și-au dezvăluit punctele forte și punctele slabe. În prezent, Guvernul Republicii Slovace, ministerele individuale și în special Ministerul de Interne al Republicii Slovace, care este în primul rând responsabil pentru gestionarea crizelor, se confruntă cu o sarcină serioasă: redefinirea completă și restabilirea parametrilor de bază ai gestionării crizelor. Un rol decisiv în gestionarea crizelor revine organelor administrației de stat. Consiliul de securitate al Republicii Slovace este organul suprem de gestionare a crizelor din Republica Slovacă. Este un organism consultativ al Guvernului Republicii Slovace și participă la crearea și punerea în aplicare a sistemului de securitate al Republicii Slovace.

Consiliul de securitate este un organism permanent consultativ, de inițiativă și de Coordonare al Guvernului Republicii Slovace. Acesta asigură respectarea obligațiilor internaționale de securitate, evaluează situația securității în Republica Slovacă și în lume. Consiliul pregătește propuneri de măsuri pentru ca guvernul să mențină securitatea Republicii Slovace, să prevină situațiile de criză și să rezolve situațiile de criză existente. În cazul în care guvernul nu poate funcționa în timpul stărilor de criză, în timpul Războiului, al stării de război sau al stării de urgență, Consiliul de securitate al Republicii Slovace își exercită competențele constituționale în măsura definită de lege.

Consiliul de securitate este însărcinat cu responsabilitățile în timp de pace, precum și în timpul războiului, al stării de război sau al stării de urgență. În timpul războiului și al stării de război, acest organism îndeplinește sarcinile la principalul site de gestionare a apărării al statului. Prin urmare, este important să cunoaștem principalele sale sarcini, structura și, în special, departamentele de experți care pregătesc materiale de bază pentru Guvernul Republicii Slovace.

Словесные ключи: Управление кризисов, Совет безопасности, реакция на кризисные ситуации.

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РЕЗЮМЕ:

СОВЕТ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ СЛОВАЦКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ – ВЫСШИЙ ОРГАН ПО УПРАВЛЕНИЮ КРИЗИСНЫМИ СИТУАЦИЯМИ

Нынешняя крайне напряженная международная ситуация, а также ряд внутривластных проблем подчеркивают важность антикризисного управления и его значимость для Словакии. Подготовка к разрешению кризисных ситуаций приобретает все большее значение. Способность реагировать на кризисные ситуации, которые могут усугубиться в результате дальнейшего развития международной обстановки, распространения локальных конфликтов, а также уроков, извлеченных из внутривластных кризисов, таких как кризис с беженцами или борьба с пандемией COVID-19, становятся все более очевидными. Таким образом, антикризисное управление является одной из очень важных областей государственного управления в Словакии. За последние годы оно было опробовано несколько раз, поскольку приходилось решать серьезные кризисные ситуации как на внутренней, так и на международной арене. В частности, пандемия COVID-19, а также война на Украине и связанный с ней кризис с беженцами проверили его функциональность.

Эти кризисные ситуации выявили его сильные и слабые стороны. В настоящее время перед правительством Словацкой Республики, отдельными министерствами и особенно перед Министерством внутренних дел Словацкой Республики, которое в первую очередь отвечает за антикризисное управление, стоит серьезная задача: полностью пересмотреть и перестроить основные параметры антикризисного управления. Решающая роль в управлении кризисными ситуациями принадлежит органам государственного управления. Совет безопасности Словацкой Республики является высшим органом управления кризисными ситуациями в Словацкой Республике. Он является консультативным органом при правительстве Словацкой Республики и участвует в создании и внедрении системы безопасности Словацкой Республики.

Совет Безопасности является постоянно действующим консультативным, инициативным и координирующим органом правительства Словацкой Республики. Он обеспечивает соблюдение международных обязательств в области безопасности, оценивает ситуацию с безопасностью в Словацкой Республике и в мире. Совет готовит для правительства предложения о мерах по поддержанию безопасности Словацкой Республики, предотвращению кризисных ситуаций и разрешению существующих кризисных ситуаций. В случае, если правительство не может функционировать во время кризисных ситуаций, во время войны, военного или чрезвычайного положения, Совет Безопасности Словацкой Республики осуществляет свои конституционные полномочия в объеме, определенном законом.

На Совет Безопасности возложены обязанности в мирное время, а также во время войны, военного или чрезвычайного положения. Во время войны и военного положения в стране этот орган выполняет задачи главного органа управления обороной государства. Поэтому важно знать его основные задачи, структуру и особенно экспертные подразделения, которые готовят справочные материалы для правительства Словацкой Республики.

Ключевые слова: Антикризисное управление, Совет Безопасности, реагирование на кризисные ситуации.

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Introduction

Crisis management is one of the most important areas of public administration in Slovakia.¹ In recent years, it has passed a challenging test, as serious crisis situations had to be addressed on both the domestic and international scene. Especially the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as instability in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, and the associated refugee crisis, have verified its functionality. In particular, the weak points and potential failures that were experienced in the past require extensive changes. Currently, the Government of the Slovak Republic and its individual ministries face the serious task of re-defining the basic parameters of crisis management. The decisive role in crisis management falls to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, which is primarily responsible for the area of crisis management. One positive aspect is that the functioning of crisis management is centrally organized and operates on a hierarchical principle. This system works from the Government of the Slovak Republic, through the Ministry of Interior, other sectoral ministries, and continues down at the regional level. This principle allows operational and clear decision-making which, with good coordination among the various components of crisis management, can lead to a quick and correct solution to crisis situations without significant damage or threats to the property and lives of citizens.²

Security Councils of the Slovak Republic

The highest crisis management body is the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. This council serves as an advisory body to the government and plays a key role in creating and implementing security system of the Slovak Republic.³ In addition to the Security Council, crisis staffs hold a significant position in the crisis management process. At the central level, these staffs are established by ministries and other central state administration bodies. Within this structure, the Central Crisis Staff, which operates under the Ministry of Interior, holds a special status.⁴ The Security Council of the Slovak Republic is the country's highest authority for crisis management. This council serves as a proactive, permanent and coordinating advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic.⁵ The council is involved in creating and implementing the security system of the Slovak Republic⁶ and ensures compliance with international security obligations, evaluates the security situation both within Slovakia and globally, and prepares proposals for the government on measures to maintain security, prevent crisis situations, and resolve existing ones.⁷ In the event that the government is unable to function during states of crisis such as war, a state of war, or a state of emergency, the Security Council of the Slovak Republic exercises the government's constitutional powers within the scope defined by law.⁸ The State Security Council performs its duties both in peacetime and in times of

¹ The submitted study, presented at a scientific conference, is based on adapted materials published in the university textbook Karol Janas. *Bezpečnostné rady Slovenskej republiky – dokumenty*. (Trenčín, Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka v Trenčíne, 2024).

² For more on the organization of state administration, see Zuzana Berčíková –Peter Berčík –Jozef Báčik –Miloslav Kiš, *Organizácia a výkon štátnej správy s Slovenskej republiky*. (Bratislava: Municipalia, 2008).

³ Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic. Bratislava: Národná rada Slovenskej republiky, 2021; Obranná stratégia Slovenskej republiky, Bratislava: Národná rada Slovenskej republiky, 2021.

⁴ Statute of the Central Crisis Staff. Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 127/2019.

⁵ Statute of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved at the 112th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2004, Resolution No. 1177/2004, with changes and amendments approved at the 191st session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 16, 2015, Resolution No. 702/2015, as amended by changes and amendments approved at the 4th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on June 7, 2023, Resolution No. 279.

⁶ Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic. Bratislava: National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2021; Defense Strategy of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava: National Council of the Slovak Republic, 2021.

⁷ Statute of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved at the 112th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2004, Resolution No. 1177/2004, with changes and amendments approved at the 191st session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 16, 2015, Resolution No. 702/2015, as amended by changes and amendments approved at the 4th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on June 7, 2023, Resolution No. 279.

⁸ Ján KÚTIK, *Organizácia a krízový manažment verejnej správy*. (Trenčín, Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka v Trenčíne, Fakulta sociálno-ekonomických vzťahov, 2006).

crisis.¹ During a state of war, its duties are carried out at the main location for state defense management.²

The Security Council of the State is convened by its chairman, who is the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. In the chairman's absence, a meeting of the council is convened by the deputy chairman, with the chairman's prior consent. Meetings of the security council are chaired by its chairman, following an approved work plan. In their absence, the deputy chairman presides over the meeting. For urgent issues within the council's competence and based on reasoned proposals from its members, the chairman may convene an extraordinary meeting. The President of the Slovak Republic also has the right to propose a meeting of the council and to participate in its sessions. President can request information from the Security Council and its members and discuss issues with them within the scope of valid legislation. Regarding specific agenda items, and at the proposer's request and with the chairman's consent, individuals who prepared or contributed to the material may participate in the discussion. Other people who can contribute to a proper assessment of the matters under discussion may also be invited.³ Materials are to be submitted and drafted in a specified format.⁴ The meetings are also attended by the council's secretary and the staff of the Security Council Office, who process the audio and subsequent written record of the meeting.⁵ The Security Council generally decides on matters through a resolution, the final wording of which is formulated by the chairman. The consent of an absolute majority of all its members is required for a resolution or other decision to be adopted. The resolution is prepared in both written and electronic form. If a matter is not particularly serious or complex, the chairman may ask members to decide on a proposed resolution even outside of a meeting (by a *per rollam procedure*).⁶ Per rollam decisions are not permitted when the council is exercising the constitutional powers of the Government of the Slovak Republic during a state of war or an emergency.⁷

The Security Council establishes committees to fulfill its needs and tasks. Upon the deputy chairman's proposal and after review by the Security Council, these committees are approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic.⁸ For a long time, the standing working bodies within the security council were the Committee for Foreign Policy, the Committee for Defense Planning, the Committee for Civil Emergency Planning, and the Committee for the Coordination of Intelligence Services. Following the most recent legislative changes, the Committee for Energy Security, the Committee for Cybersecurity, and the Committee for Hybrid Threats have been added in response to new security threats.⁹ These committees are guided by their own rules of procedure, which are approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic after being reviewed by the Security Council. If necessary, the Security Council can establish or dissolve expert working groups, usually upon the proposal of one of its members. These groups are typically led by a member of the Security Council

¹ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 110/2004 Coll. on the Functioning of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic in Peacetime, § 2; Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security in a Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis as amended by later regulations, Art. 8, para. 3.

² Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 319/2002 Coll. on the Defense of the Slovak Republic as amended by later regulations, § 2, para. 4.

³ Rules of Procedure of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Security Council of the Slovak Republic Resolution No. 536/2017 of 5 April 2017.

⁴ Methodology for Drafting the Report on the Security of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Security Council of the Slovak Republic Resolution No. 814 of 1 March 2023.

⁵ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 215/2004 Coll. on the Protection of Classified Information and Amendments to Certain Acts, and the Regulation of the National Security Authority No. 338/2004 Coll. on administrative security.

⁶ Rules of Procedure of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Security Council of the Slovak Republic Resolution No. 536/2017 of 5 April 2017, Art. 5.

⁷ Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on the security of the state during a time of war, a state of war, a state of emergency, and a state of crisis, as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2004 Coll., Art. 8, para 3.

⁸ Rules of Procedure of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Security Council of the Slovak Republic Resolution No. 536/2017 of 5 April 2017.

⁹ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 110/2004 Coll. on the functioning of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic in peacetime, Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 10a, 10b, 10c, and 11.

and their head is approved by the chairman of the council. Upon the request of the chairman or deputy chairman of the Security Council, ministers and heads of other central state administration bodies and other state bodies second their employees to these expert working groups. These groups are responsible for preparing materials for the Security Council's meetings.¹

When creating and implementing the security system of the Slovak Republic, the Security Council cooperates closely with the Committee for Defense and Security of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, as well as with ministries, other central state administration bodies, and other state authorities. For its work, the Security Council utilizes knowledge, analyses, and information from ministries, other central state administration bodies, other state administration bodies, local state administration, and higher territorial units. The Security Council may also invite other experts to its meetings as needed. The Office of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic plays a special role in supporting the council's activities. It is headed by a director, who also serves as the secretary of the Security Council. Their duties are determined by the council's rules of procedure.² The number of employees of the Security Council Office is determined by the Government of the Slovak Republic, based on the chairman's proposal. The office is part of the organizational structure of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic and ensures the fulfillment of coordinating, expert, and consultative tasks in the area of the security of the Slovak Republic. In preparing positions and proposed measures for the chairman and deputy chairman of the Security Council, the office relies on the expert knowledge and experience of ministries and other state administration bodies, as well as the expert opinions of universities, research institutions, and other institutions.³ Among its main tasks is the coordination of planning, preparatory, and implementation measures for the security of the Slovak Republic during the creation and implementation of the national security system. It assesses proposals for these measures and submits its position on them to the chairman and deputy chairman of the Security Council. In cooperation with ministries and other state administration bodies, it participates in the drafting of the report on the security of the Slovak Republic, should the Security Council decide to submit one. It also participates in the drafting inter-ministerial conceptual documents aimed at preserving the security of the Slovak Republic, which are submitted to the Government for discussion.⁴

The Security Council Office also participates in the assessment of proposed generally binding legal regulations and international treaties that relate to the security and defense of the state. It submits its positions on these to the chairman and deputy chairman of the Security Council. The office also fulfills important tasks in implementing international security obligations. In this area, it assesses proposals related to fulfilling the Slovak Republic's international commitments. It also evaluates proposals concerning the Slovak Republic's participation in activities aimed at saving lives, protecting health, and safeguarding property outside of its territory. In cooperation with ministries and other state administration bodies, the office evaluates the security situation in the Slovak Republic and globally, with a particular focus on risks to state security that could lead to a crisis. It submits its positions and proposals for measures to reduce or eliminate these risks to the chairman and deputy chairman of the Security Council. Tasks related to this activity are handled by the Permanent Situational Center for Monitoring the Security Environment in the Slovak Republic and Globally, which is part of the

¹ Statute of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved at the 112th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2004, Resolution No. 1177/2004, with changes and amendments approved at the 191st session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 16, 2015, Resolution No. 702/2015, as amended by changes and amendments approved at the 4th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on June 7, 2023, Resolution No. 279.

² Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 312/2001 Coll. on State Service and on the Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Laws, as amended.

³ Statute of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved at the 112th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2004, Resolution No. 1177/2004, with changes and amendments approved at the 191st session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 16, 2015, Resolution No. 702/2015, as amended by changes and amendments approved at the 4th session of the Government of the Slovak Republic on June 7, 2023, Resolution No. 279.

⁴ Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on the security of the state during a time of war, a state of war, a state of emergency, and a state of crisis, as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2004 Coll.

office's organizational structure.¹ In its activities, the office also cooperates with the Secretariat of the Central Crisis Staff and with the Security Councils of the Regions.² It assesses proposals for measures to maintain regional security and prevent a crisis, which are submitted to the Security Council by the regional security council.³ In case a Security Council meeting is needed, the office ensures the notification of its members, the members of the Security Council Committee for the Coordination of Intelligence Services, and the office staff. It also ensures the protection of classified information during the Security Council's activities, in accordance with the provisions of a special regulation.⁴

The Situational Center of the Slovak Republic, whose last statute was approved by the government on October 17, 2018, holds a special position within the Security Council Office of the Slovak Republic. It functions as a government information and analytical center with a nationwide scope. Its primary task is to evaluate changes in the security environment, and it does so in cooperation with foreign partners. The center gathers and assesses information that impacts the security environment in Slovakia and globally at a strategic level. Based on this information, it prepares analytical products for the highest state officials and relevant state bodies. It also provides pertinent information to cooperating organizations and bodies. The most important task of the Situational Center is the comprehensive and continuous evaluation of information about security incidents and events. It obtains this information from state bodies, legal entities under state establishing or founding authority, and from cooperating bodies in other countries. This is accomplished by monitoring the security situation, processing information, and producing its own analytical materials. Based on its unclassified outputs, the Situational Center provides information to the public. It also serves as the national point of contact for hybrid threats.⁵

The Situational Center of the Slovak Republic is headed by a director and the center itself has two parts: analytical and organizational. All employees of the Situational Center must have authorization to handle classified information at the SECRET level, including NATO and European Union classified information at the SECRET level. The Director of the Situational Center of the Slovak Republic is accountable for their work to the Director of the Security Council Office of the Slovak Republic. They are responsible for preparing an annual plan, which is approved by the Director of the Security Council Office. The Director of the Situational Center also decides on the preparation of extraordinary reports and is responsible for their content and formal aspects. They must have authorization to handle classified information at the TOP SECRET level, and this same authorization is required for NATO and European Union documents.⁶

Crisis management also plays a vital and indispensable role at the level of district offices in regional seats and in districts.⁷ The most important body for crisis management in every district is the

¹ Statute of the Security Council of the Slovak Republic. Approved at the 112th meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 8, 2004, by Resolution No. 1177/2004, with amendments and supplements approved at the 191st meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic on December 16, 2015, by Resolution No. 702/2015, as further amended and supplemented at the 4th meeting of the Government of the Slovak Republic on June 7, 2023, by Resolution No. 279/2023. Statutes of the Situational Center of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 88 of February 14, 2024.

² Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 387/2002 Coll. on the Control of State in Crisis situations Outside Wartime and State of War, as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 515/2003 Coll.

³ Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security at the Time of War, State of war, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis, as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2004 Coll.

⁴ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 215/2004 Coll. on the Protection of Classified Information and on Amendment to Certain Acts.

⁵ Statute of the Situational Center of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 88 of February 14, 2024.

⁶ Statute of the Situational Center of the Slovak Republic. Approved by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 88 of February 14, 2024.

⁷ Zuzana BERČÍKOVÁ – Peter BERČÍK – Jozef BÚŠIK – Miloslav KIŠ, (Organizácia a výkon štátnej správy s Slovenskej republiky. Bratislava: Municipalia, 2008), 49 – 50.

District Security Council.¹ These are crisis management bodies for legally defined crisis situations. Security councils are established in every district. However, at the district offices located in the regional seats, they establish Regional Security Councils, not District Security Councils. Security councils in districts located in regional seats have a dual function. They have competencies and exercise powers not only at the regional level but also address tasks to the same extent as Security Councils at the district level. Since they also exercise powers at the entire-regional level, they become de facto superior to the Security Councils established in other district offices in certain legally specified cases. Regional Security Councils assume management competencies, especially in cases where a crisis situation affects more than one district. The chairmen of the regional security councils are the heads of the district offices in the regional cities. The deputy chairmen are the deputies of the heads of the district offices. The members include the directors of the District Directorates of the Fire and Rescue Corps, the directors of the District Directorates of the Police Corps, representatives of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, and employees of the district offices.² The Regional Security Council establishes a Secretariat for the Security Council. The head of the Regional Security Council Secretariat is the head of the Department of Crisis Planning and Economic Mobilization at the district office located in the regional seat. His role is to ensure the organizational operation of the security council.³ The Regional Security Council is accountable to the Government of the Slovak Republic for the performance of its duties.⁴ In the event that the constitutional powers of the government are exercised by the Security Council of the Slovak Republic, the regional security council is accountable to the Security Council of the Slovak Republic for the performance of its duties.⁵

In addition to the district offices in regional seats, other district offices also play a very important role in the field of crisis management. It is these district offices that provide the initial actions to maintain public safety and are the first to take measures to save lives and property.⁶ At their level, basic commissions are established to ensure civil protection.⁷ These bodies include the District Security Council, the District Evacuation Commission, and, in the event of floods, the District Flood Commission. The highest crisis management body at the regional level is the District Security Council. The District Security Council is a collective body. Its chairman is the head of the district office, and the deputy chairman of the security council is the deputy head of the district office. The head of the district office directs the activities of the security council.⁸ In the event of his absence, his authority is transferred to the deputy. The members of the district security council are the director of the District Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Corps, the director of the District Department of the Police Force, and the commander of the Military Unit whose area of operation covers the district. The security council establishes a secretariat, which is usually headed by an employee from the civil protection and crisis management department of the relevant district office. Membership in the security council is non-substitutable, and members have a legal obligation to attend its meetings, make decisions, and be responsible for their implementation in their respective areas.⁹

¹ Karol JANAS – Rudolf KUCHARČÍK, Crisis management in the Slovak Republic at a higher regional level. In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Law and Political Science. Volume 1. (Delhi, Taipei City: National Law University Delhi: International Business Academics Consortium, 2014), 372 – 380.

² Rules of Procedure of the Regional Security Council. Approved by Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 152/2017 of April 5, 2017.

³ Crisis Plan of the District Office Trenčín. Trenčín: District Office, 2012.

⁴ Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 1177/2004.

⁵ Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security at the Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis, as amended by Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2004 Coll., Art. 9.

⁶ Karol JANAS – Marián BUŠŠA, Tasks of Crisis Headquarters on local level. In: University Review. Vol. 7, 2013, n. 1, (Trenčín, Trenčianska univerzita A. Dubčeka, 2013), 15-19.

⁷ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 335/2007 Coll., Amending and Supplementing Certain Laws in Connection with the Abolishment of Regional Offices.

⁸ Constitutional Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 227/2002 Coll. on State Security at the Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency, and State of Crisis, as amended.

⁹ Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 387/2002 Coll. on the Control of State in Crisis situations Outside Wartime and State of War, as amended by Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 515/2003 Coll.

Conclusion

Crisis management in Slovakia is a very important part of the civil protection of the population. In the Slovak Republic, the system for handling crisis situations is managed centrally and hierarchically. Thanks to this, crisis management in the Slovak Republic has a solid organizational framework and is prepared to deal with emergencies. State administration bodies have a sophisticated methodology for managing emergencies, and specific annual cases prove that they can handle them effectively in practice. Despite several, not always the most successful, state administration reforms in recent years, the crisis management system has been maintained in an unchanged and functional form. This is a good sign for the future, which may see an increase in crisis and extraordinary events, especially at the regional level. In the event of an emergency, the functioning of the individual components of the civil protection system in Slovakia is extremely important. Today, state administration at all levels is clearly structured hierarchically. The possibility of dual management has been eliminated, and the mutual hierarchy of the individual offices is clear.

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