



Always there. PROTECTION.



National Risk Assessment

A new page for civil protection

Civil Defence

Civil Defence is the competent authority for National Risk Assessment in Cyprus. This is an overall assessment of the risks that threaten each EU Member-State and require the development of response plans to protect the population.

The preparation of such National Risk Assessment reports is an institutional obligation for each EU Member-State under a European directive on the restructuring of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EU 1313 / 2013EU, Article 6).

This way, Civil Defence utilizes Cyprus' participation in the European Cooperation Mechanism to promote a coherent approach to disaster preparedness.

Civil Defence makes available to the European Commission data related to the risk assessment for Cyprus and acquires the ability to exchange non-classified information and best practices.

In line with EU practice, **“disaster reduction processes could be strengthened by a legally binding holistic approach. Moreover, the whole process should be adopted at the highest possible political level”** (Peer Review Report for Cyprus, 2019).



Risks and their Consequences

The Cyprus National Risk Assessment was first implemented in 2013. The first reports to the Commission were submitted in 2015. They included climate change, distinct natural and man-made hazards such as earthquake, tsunami, marine pollution and cyber-dangers assessments.

The most recent National Risk Assessment reports were submitted by Civil Defence to the European Commission in 2018 and 2020. At the same time, in 2018, Civil Defence has submitted the first assessment report of the state's ability to manage identified risks.

Reports are prepared on the basis of guidelines set by the European Commission, in line with the relevant ISO 31000 series of international standards.

The following key risks, which could potentially have significant adverse humanistic, economic, environmental, political and social consequences in Cyprus, were examined:

- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Sea pollution
- Technological accidents
- Forest fires
- Tsunami
- Water shortage
- Coastal erosion and sea level rise
- Complex incidents

“Risk assessment” means that the chances of a disaster occurring and its potential consequences have been calculated.

The National Risk Assessment Reports of the Republic of Cyprus to date are available on the Civil Defence website www.moi.gov.cy/moi/cd, under the banners NRA2016 and NRA2018. NRA stands for National Risk Assessment.

During 2020, studies were made available for CBRN-E (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear - Explosives) as well as for airborne dust (study by the University of Cyprus), which are expected to be included in the National Report of 2021).

Risk assessment is necessary in order for disaster response plans to be targeted, in order for precautionary measures to be taken, to increase the resilience of our society, and to let the Ministry of Finance know what resources should be allocated.



Scientific knowledge and social perception

To help Member-States make use of risk assessments as a policy tool, the Commission is funding a peer review programme. In simple terms, Commission experts study and advise on issues related to Assessment and Risk Management in general, in specific countries requested and included in the programme.

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what-we-do/civil-protection/peer-review_en

According to the peer assessment for the Republic of Cyprus, it is not enough to take measures only for individual disasters (fires, earthquakes, floods, etc.) but to

- approach the issue holistically, so that we find common generative causes
- Make a joint assessment of potential risks and consider associated risks (eg earthquake in extreme weather conditions, flooding of chemicals and so on).

Cyprus Civil Defence utilized the funding of the European Commission for the elaboration of the National Risk Assessment. It collaborated with academic institutions of Cyprus, under the coordination of the Cyprus University of Technology. The risks examined so far have been the result of expert opinion.

The risk reduction strategy 2021 - 2030 will include which risks will be assessed, taking into account that in the case of particular specialized risks (digital security, financial risks) there are competent services of the Republic of Cyprus that prepare them.



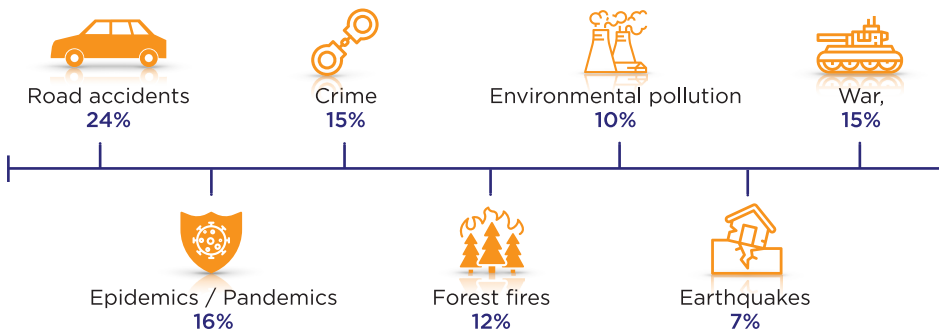
Citizens speak

The Civil Defence conducted in-depth research on citizens' perceptions of the risks and response to disasters.

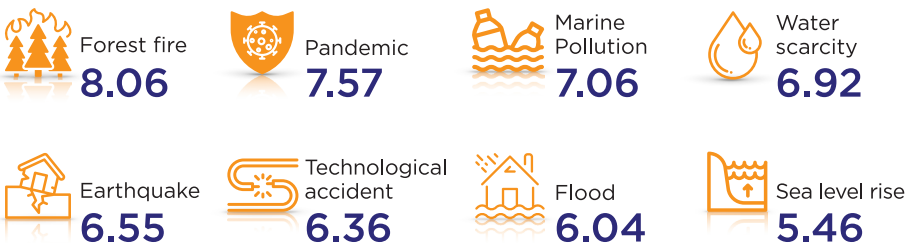
Purpose of the research:

- To record social perceptions.
- To compare these data with the scientific assessment.
- To evaluate additional measures and actions for addressing risks.

What do you consider to be the biggest risks for you today?



How serious do you think the consequences will be if the following risks occur:

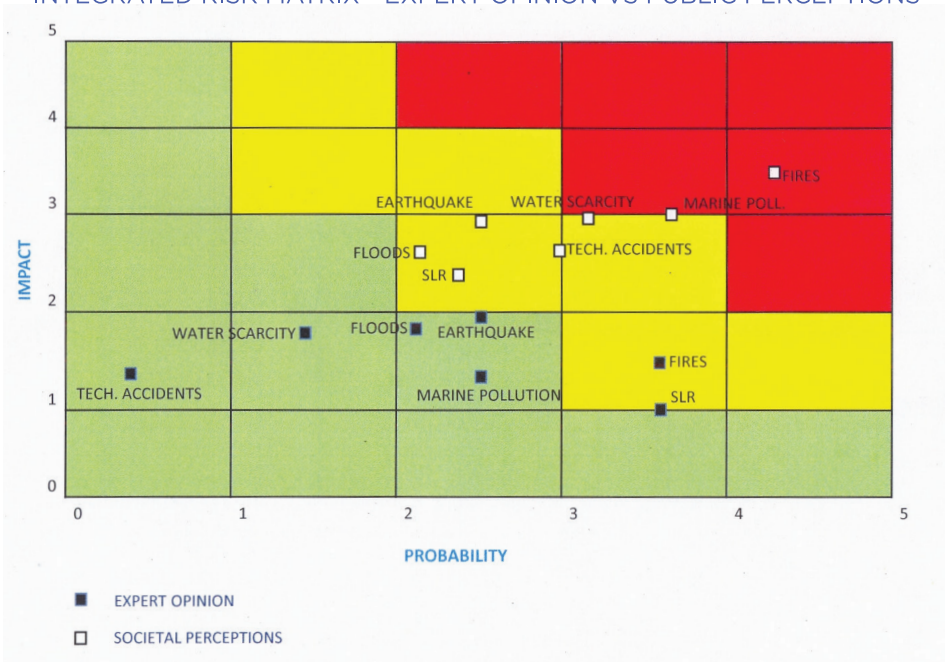


Social perception of risk

Citizens' beliefs differ from scientific assessment. Citizens believe that they are more exposed to danger.

The following diagram maps both the scientific assessment and the perception of citizens in a simple diagram, in which the horizontal axis represents the chances of a disaster occurring and the vertical axis represents the consequences if it occurs. Low probability and small impacts are represented by the least dangerous "green area". High probability and large impacts are represented by the most dangerous "red area". The yellow area is an intermediate state.

INTEGRATED RISK MATRIX - EXPERT OPINION VS PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS





4 reasons why public opinion is important!

- it is a matter of democracy and transparency
- it complements scientific knowledge
- emergency planning concerns citizens
- social perceptions help design policies

The modern role of Civil Defence

Participation in the European Protection Mechanism and National Risk Assessment give new content to civil protection.

The main suggestions of experts for the future of Civil Defence are:

- To establish a civil protection authority that manages risks holistically.
- Risk management plans to be simplified and strengthened with particular generic plans e.g. for feeding and housing victims, medical care, etc., regardless of the type of disaster.
- To maintain a central, uniform and coherent record of minor or major disasters occurring in Cyprus. The relevant data should be statistically processed.
- To pay special attention to prevention, rather than post-disaster response.



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