EXTREMISM AS ONE OF THE MAIN THREATS TO SECURITY OF THE CZECH REGIONS

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Abstract: Area security ensuring belongs to the major activities undertaken by territorial authorities. Area security management includes legislative, administrative, economic, sociological and managerial elements, which are usually suitably mixed.

Safety aspect within the strategic management at the level of territorial units at present - wrongly - is still quite underestimated, although it is necessary to understand that the provision of security in all circumstances must be one of the basic daily tasks for local governments.

The aim of the article is to define the focus of safety management as an important real part of strategic management and strategic planning of territorial units, to identify the most important threats to the Czech regions in the early 21st century with emphasis on extremism.

Keywords: Area Security; Safety Management; Atrategic Management; Regions; Micro-regions; Threat; Extremism; Terrorism.

1. Introduction

Throughout his previous existence, mankind interferes with emergencies that threaten the lives and health of people, their property or the environment. Human society is trying to prevent the occurrence of such events, or minimize their effects to acceptable levels. It builds different effective defense and protective mechanisms depending on the degree of its development.

Large-scale natural disasters, extreme environmental and industrial accidents, terrorism and extremism lead not only to an imminent threat to both people and the environment, but also may affect internal security, public order and state and local authorities operations.

The Czech Republic as a sovereign state has the duty to care for the welfare of its people. It uses all democratic tools for it. One of the most important areas is to ensure the safety and protection of the population.

2. Area security and main contemporary threats

Area security management is an important and integral part of strategic management and strategic planning of all territorial units (in particular at regional level).

Area security management can be defined as [6] a set of activities carried out especially by territorial units in order to prevent the security threats or minimize their consequences if the threat is filled.

Area security issues and different approaches to the choice of a correct conception and its solution by businesses and public administration organizations have become more numerous. However, the society has amended its longstanding traditional behavior patterns only slowly. Termination of the bipolar world has opened the door for globalization. Today's world is ever closer communication, transportation, economically and culturally linked.

2.1   What are the main contemporary threats?

If the term "threat" [2] indicates speeches, gestures, actions or actions, which express the will to cause someone smaller, larger or even irreparable damage, and any threat causes larger, or smaller concern or fear of person who is exposed to it, threats operates independently from the interests of the threatened person and therefore they are a phenomenon with an objective nature.

The threat is a social reality, whose mastery requires considerable effort and costs.

To the most important contemporary threats of the 21st century belong according to the European Security Strategy (2003) [9]:

- new forms of terrorism;

- uncontrolled proliferation of mass destruction weapons and missile technologies;

- weakening state organization and social structures in some part of the world.

3. Extremism and terrorism

Extremism and terrorism are closely related phenomena. There are number of initiatives that produce extreme action of groups and individuals. One of them is connection to the dynamics of changes in society. Rapid development and massive using of information and communications technologies reflects this dynamics. Exception to this formula are not methods of extremists who use new technologies more often then ever. Public administration should take into account extremism threats and it should be able to react.

Extremism has become security issue of today's Europe, including the Czech Republic. It can be categorized as socio-social threat. Extremist groups use terrorist methods to create atmosphere of tension, fear, or to warn of its existence. Main forms of extremism use traditional and modern activities.

Traditional activities include:

- fires;
- use of firearms and explosives;
- captured hostages.

Modern activities include:

- use of chemical and biological agens;
- use of nuclear technology;
- area of information technology.

Another traditional classification aspect of extremism is to identify the reasons (motivations), which lead to extremist activities:

Extremism motivation can be:

- economics - social;
- race;
- ethnic and nationality;
- political;
- religious;
- ecological.

State entrusted the responsibility for the fight against extremism to the specific organizations of public administration:

- Government of the Czech Republic;
- National Security Council;
- Central Crisis Force;
- Interior Ministry.

The Czech Republic may potentially be prepared for all the above referenced terrorist activities. However, the main current threats are in particular racial, ethnic and national. Extremism in the Czech Republic is mainly connected with right-wing part of skinhead movement. Reality is that extremist ideas are used in political programs by parties that are profiled as a "serious" political one and seek a legitimate position on the Czech political scene. This is extreme nationalist National Party and the Workers' Party. Increase in preference of both parties demonstrate election results. „*Overall, the Workers Party won 28 865 votes, in percentage terms 1.02%, which is almost 25 000 votes more than in previous elections. It has become the tenth most successful party to the elections.* [8] On the other side of political spectrum operate extreme left-wing parties represented by anarchist movements and Marxist-Leninist-oriented parties.

Regarding modern information technologies and extent of their use by extremists, there is no definite answer. Aspect that could help define the extent and quality of use of modern technologies by extremists is demographic structure of members and supporters of these parties, which is largely dependent on their historical development.

3.1 Development of extremism in the Czech Republic

After 1989 saw extremism rapid development in the Czech Republic. Parties and individuals draw from the attitudes and ideas of extremists from abroad, mainly from Western Europe. There has been dividing in openly racist groups and "serious" extreme right – wing parties in early nineties. Openly racist groups spread views and use violence for its purpose. "Serious" extreme right – wing parties try establish itself on official Czech political scene and address public. For these purposes it is often misused conscious simplification of complicated social problems.

Most "visible" extremist group are skinheads. Although this group is perceived by the public as homogenous group, it is not so. This is a highly differentiated society. Skinheads in its early days were non-political movement which was divided into a number of more or less politically profiled groups over time. We can identify range of groups from across the neo-Nazi skinheads and apolitical patriotic societies to left-oriented parties on the present.

Current forms of extremism in the Czech Republic structure:

Right-wing extremism is based on racism and xenophobia, it is expressed as fascism, neo – fascism, Nazism.

Left-wing extremism rejects current political system and it is often associated with anti – fascism, anarchism and communism.

Right wing extremist parties have common features:

It is **Roma issue**, unemployment and homosexuality. Roma are the least tolerated ethnicity in the Czech Republic. Surveys show that there is approximately 60% of intolerance. It can be assumed that the number is higher in reality. Level of racism against Roma is alarming and the

population with higher education is not exception. "Roma" racism can be identified across social status in whole Czech society. Increase of crime with anti-Semitic undertones has also been seen in last two years, which was not typical for the extreme right - wing. *Compared to 2007 there was registered an 50% increase of this type of crime (27 crime. acts in 2008, 18 crime acts in 2007).* [8]

Family and family values are another same issue. It is creating a climate of fear of traditional values breaking up. These parties offer to public programs with unrealistic ideas about housing policy, tax benefits for Czech families with more children and reducing bad influences, such as pornography, inappropriate television programs, or violence on television.

Education is criticized for poor technical equipment at schools, purpose - built programs and influenced teachers. The state, according to right-wing extremist parties should form elite, which will contribute to the development of the nation.

Drug issue is assessed superficially in conjunction with fast and mostly misguided solutions.

Multicultural society and the fear of opening border to the other cultures is complicated and easily exploitable issue. Foreign immigrants often become important item on the political programs of extreme right – wing parties. Simplifying the whole situation can get extremists support of specific groups of citizens and latent support for a large part of public.

Common feature of the extreme right - wing is increase in radicalization of its supporters. Competent public authorities address this phenomenon more and more attention. *In 2008 representatives of the Czech Republic participated in expert meetings, seminars and other activities focused on fight against terrorism and issue of radicalization. Findings of these workshops were shared with relevant stakeholders. The issue of radicalization is increasingly seen as crucial element of the fight against terrorism and extremism.* [8]

4. Modern communication and technology and their impact on extremism

4.1 E-government

The "e-government" term defines modern way of internal and external communication with public institutions with the help of information technology.

Main objectives are to facilitate contacts with the public authorities, to make authority work more effectively, reduce costs and improve data protection.

E-government is closely related to the concept of "e-governance", which is the use of modern technologies in management. E-governance can be applied to private and public sectors.

In public sector, it is mainly about using information and communication technologies, supporting the participation of citizens in decision - making, direct accountability of government and greater transparency and efficiency of processes.

4.2 Information technology, crime and extremism

Information technology has become a turning point in many areas. Personal computers and computer networks has created a virtual space, which is characterized as follows:

 - data volume increasing;
- increasing dependence on computer systems;
- internet became a part of everyday life;

- growing demand for workers in the field of computer knowledge;
- creation of modern public administration (e-government).

Because modern information technology equipment of extreme groups increases, it is necessary that public sector respond to this phenomenon. In this context, there can be defined basic characteristics of the dangers associated with cyberspace:

- seriousness of crime is rising;
- abilities of offenders grow;
- new technologies allow easy communication and better management of offenders;
- new group of offenders operates in Cyberspace.

Virtual space is attractive for extremists, because it guarantees high level of anonymity and often low efficiency of the work of specialized teams which detect cyber crime. It is largely determined by the legislative environment. *The problem which is connected with the Internet is inability to remove web pages. Specific person was convicted for its making, but pages are not provided by the Czech providers, and are located abroad, in countries with different legal environments. It is paradoxical situation. Person is convicted of a crime for the creation of these sites but there is no tool to legally block the site, or completely delete it.* [8]

Other reasons why virtual space becomes the favourite for perpetrators of crime are:

- global availability;
- speed;
- high level of anonymity;
- difficult to detect damage;
- bad legislation.

A lot of systems are controlled by computers. Their collapse would have fatal consequences. Extremist groups are often equipped with modern technologies. If ignored easy and difficult to monitor communication and promotional activities, it is necessary to focus attention on the possibility of a general threat to the virtual space. Attack, which would be carried out by professionals could cause taking control of local or global control systems. This enables you to blackmail or causing loss of lives and property. Cyber attack could, for example to restrict the use of telephone network. National security strategy should be designed with a high level of attention to protection of cyberspace. The attack carried out by using modern technology can hit targets at various locations in the world at one time, while the costs connected with personnel and equipment are low and attack through information networks can have significant consequences. This makes this crime method attractive.

The Internet provides unique opportunities for extremist and terrorist groups and individuals, particularly for areas:

- communication;
- propaganda;
- acquisition and mobilization of new supporters;
- obtaining information.

Modern information and communication technologies allow extremists creating new organizational and communication networks. Individual extremist groups can operate autonomously with high level of interaction. Most of extremist groups provide its websites. In this way, local extremists can not only inform about their activities and promote their views,

but new trend are individual militants who use web to advice how to prepare and make terrorist acts.

In some cases, it does not have to be web pages, which are mostly attended extremist-minded people. Using e-mail can be kind of mass-distribute propaganda for people who did not request this kind of correspondent. Mailing of unsolicited email information becomes a tool for the dissemination of extremist ideas on a mass scale.

Another significant and difficult problem is modern telecommunication technology and the possibility of improper using of extremists. Examples could be mobile phones with prepaid cards. In last few years has led to pervasive. Mobile phones which use prepaid cards, guarantee anonymous and difficult to monitor communication.

5. Cooperation in ensuring area security

All subjects on the territory must today ensure the security against threats themselves or thanks to effective coordination (e.g. professional support from the external experts). Efforts to ensure the area security must respect the three basic elements:

- there is a direct causal link between the security and threats from the outsider;
- ensuring the area security is usually expensive, even though it often may not be immediately visible;
- risk resources - a dangerous entities of world chaos - are poorly visible and interventions against them are difficult.

5.1 Role of micro-region in ensuring area security

The role of the region, respectively micro-region, lies in [5] policy and executive activities of self-governing municipal bodies in the area of local development, their initiation activities in dealing with micro-issues and defining micro-programs and activities and their participation in the implementation of regional programs. Regions and micro-regions process development strategies to identify needs, determine the direction of development, development activities and strategic decision-making.

It should be noted that area security is one of the basic daily tasks of local government and it plays a vital role in strategic (micro)regional development plans. Indeed, it is one of the key areas for each territory development.

5.2 The CR Police in ensuring area security

Despite significant shortcomings, mainly resulting from lower level of used technology, the CR Police achieved some accomplishments, e. g. better search, detection and classification of extremist crimes and an increase in the intensity of interventions.

6. Ensuring area security at the level of (micro)regions and cities

Management from the perspective of state administration at the lowest level, also the village degree, is marked by the complexity of addressing the likely threats, since all the statutory laws, decrees, regulations, guidelines and instructions are mixed here.

The task of city management can be formulated in this field as follows [3]:

- to protect the lives and health of citizens and not to allow degradation of their life;
- to protect property, environmental and cultural values in the existence of an emergency;

- to participate in creating a safe space and to ensure sustainable development by eliminating the risks, effective and efficient solution of possible emergency situations.

To ensure this set of tasks, it is necessary to process, prepare and implement a series of tasks and measures, to create the rescue system and the system of crisis management authorities, to equip and train emergency foyer, to find enough financial, material and human resources to ensure the functionality of the system within the available resources. This task is indeed primarily in the responsibility of the government (government and central government), but its implementation must be clearly shared by the local government within the delegated powers.

The city play a key role in the fulfillment of the specified tasks and measures in the field of defense, security and protection, as a part of crisis management ensures their implementation and performs the tasks of state administration within the delegated powers in their locality.

For city management is crucial to ensure the cooperation:

- all components of the integrated rescue system (fire brigade, emergency medical services, the Police, ...);
- emergency services (telecommunications companies, water and sewer systems, power and gas companies, district heating companies, ...);
- selected local government bodies (school office, office work, management of road maintenance, district social security, tax office, ...);
- self-government bodies (municipal authorities);
- selected legal persons (businesses, social organizations);
- selected individuals (engineers, statics, pilots, mountaineers, speleologists, …).

In order to quality ensure the area security (municipality, micro-region, region), it is important to ensure effective cooperation between all elements involved in the exercise of services (concentration of certain services to certain places, increasing quality, good directing funds to training, etc.).

The cooperation should include:

- implementation of preventive measures and targets to eliminate and to mitigate the emergency situation;
- implementation of measures and tasks performed by the state administration and self-government bodies with other organizations in emergency situations;
- defense and civil emergency planning;
- preparation of civil sector for the implementation of economic measures within crisis conditions;
- liquidation of emergency situations consequences;
- security the functional capacity of the Integrated Rescue System;
- exchange of experiences and measures available for dealing with emergencies.

7. Conclusion

Area security management issue is still missing in the most strategic development documents.

However, experience shows that the importance of the area security management in our country and in the world is constantly growing and will continue to grow. The basis for possible implementation is the exact definition of the safety management focus, like e.g. quality management.

The main threats in the world today can be considered extremist and terrorist activities and facts related to natural phenomena (floods, torrential rain, storm, tornado). Activities of extremist guilds has recorded the increase during recent years. The characteristic features include closer global interconnections, agility and higher rate communication. These points are linked with a rapid development of modern technologies and their exploitation by extremists.

In all the examples above depends, provided an adequate legislative and financial support of course, the abilities and skills of the institutions and relevant workers of cities, (micro-)regions and countries, who by the events facing. Their readiness is an important factor that helps eliminate the incurred risks and generated damages, and also speeds up the recovery process.

The task of the area security management in this area is to be ready to deal with such events through all concerned institutions and workers as much as possible, what is closely related to the successful application of public administration modernization.

The function of public administration seems to be more difficult during the economic crisis, due to the rising of extremist behavior. Public administration must respond to these phenomena.

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