

REGULATIONS AND DEFICIENCIES REGARDING THE TRAINING OF THE PROTECTION AND RESCUE UNITS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Review Article

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Abstract: The fact that the population, both in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and across the world, has been growingly affected by natural and other hazards indicates the need to develop a protection and rescue system. Although the existing system is legally defined and regulated, its actual functionality in the field, especially the training process, is questionable. This paper seeks to demonstrate the shortcomings of training within the protection and rescue system in BiH by analyzing legal solutions and other acts which should regulate training in the protection and rescue system at all levels. The analysis demonstrated that training is not implemented to a sufficient extent and a number of problems regarding the implementation of training, especially at the level of local governments which operate as first responders in the event of natural and other hazards.

Keywords: protection, rescue, training, education, field exercise

INTRODUCTION

According to the World Disaster Report, in the period 2000-2019, there were 7.348 recorded disaster events were reported during, of which over 40% were related to floods. According to the report, the number of people killed by disasters amounted to 1.23 million, while over 4 billion people were affected by these disaster events, resulting in approximately US\$3 trillion economic losses (Crunch, 2020). The report shows that natural hazards pose a considerable challenge to all countries throughout the world, and, on average, every other person on the planet was affected by a disaster during the studied twenty years.

These conditions show that the threat posed by natural or other hazards is constant, therefore the process of training and education ought to be constant as well, which ensures complete and accurate performance of tasks. Civil protection, as the bearer of the protection and rescue system and a responder to

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emergency situations, must be enabled to efficiently train the population, as well as respective services, units and staffs in order to function efficiently and perform its functional tasks.

Regarding training, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction proposes that civil servants' knowledge be improved at all levels, be it civil society, community or volunteers, including the private sector, through the exchange of experience, lessons learned, good practice and training and education about disaster risk reduction, by implementing the application of existing training and education mechanisms. It is also necessary to promote the application of knowledge of disaster risk, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels.

An analysis of BiH's capacity to respond to emergency situations (UNDP, 2018), which was conducted by the UNDP Office in BiH, clearly indicates that capacity building and action strategies must include tailor-made technical and tactical training and a simulation exercise program, and called for the establishment of training centers for the protection and rescue forces

This paper aims to highlight that civil protection members in BiH are not properly qualified to respond to emergency situations and emphasize the need for a more serious and systematic approach to this issue.

In order to achieve the aim, an analysis of the literature dealing with the issue of protection and rescue forces training was performed, including an analysis of the training curriculum for protection and rescue forces, both at the level of BiH (Ministry of Security, Protection and Rescue Sector) and the entity level (Federal Administration of Civil Protection – FACP and Republic Administration of Civil Protection – RACP). Other documents related to the analysis of the field training exercises implemented so far at the level of BiH, as well as certain programs for the development of civil protection were also analyzed. The initial basis for these analyzes is a regulation related to protection and rescue at the level of BiH and the entity level.

In accordance with the objective and methods, this paper is divided into four sections: the introduction section, followed by an overview of the basic protection and rescue training and a presentation of previous research on protection and rescue training in the world. The third section describes the analysis of the training system in BiH at the level of BiH and at the entity and local self-government unit levels, followed by the conclusion section.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING WITHIN THE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SYSTEM

Education is a process of planned and organized influence on people, which encompasses the process of adopting scientific knowledge and forming

scientific views of the world, developing interest and desire for self-education, and mental abilities (Teodosić et al, 1965: 16-17). In other words, education is a process of acquiring knowledge, skills and habits, and, based on this, developing understandings, beliefs, attitudes and practical procedures, as well as certain personality traits (Kolar et al, 1967: 18). Additionally, education and training are a key activity in human resource management (Pržulj, 2006: 21). Education enables both an individual and her/his community to change and improvement their lives. Educational needs occupy a significant place in the system of human and social needs, while education and knowledge are key future resources which will determine the nature of human relations – primarily because educational needs cannot be developed through the development process and neither can the development process be developed through the learning process. Since learning activity is undertaken throughout life, education never ends (Simeunović, 2000: 8-15). The learning process is important for emergency response agencies because it leads to individual and team expertise development (Ford & Schmidt, 2000: 195-215). Emergency management training builds the abilities of response units and volunteers in order to improve preparedness and response time at all levels before and after a particular adverse event (Nazli, Sipon, & Radzi, 2014). Information sharing at all levels of society through seminars, workshops, symposia, or training, can enhance community awareness and engagement in prevention programs and emergency response preparedness programs (InterWorks, 1998).

In accordance with the above, educational needs may be an individual's needs and the needs of social institutions and other organizations (Samolovčev & Muradbegović, 1979: 251). In this context, the education of civil protection members and other entities of the protection and rescue system should be implemented. Knowledge is a key factor that distinguishes between successful and unsuccessful, for example, companies (Bogićević, 2004: 154) or emergency response services. It is considered that education in the area of protection and rescue “should fully become part of general education and part of the protective culture of citizens” (Jakovljević, 2006: 109). Training and education within the protection and rescue system is primarily aimed at enabling the population, units and emergency response offices to optimally implement protection and rescue measures, and handle technical means, including training and preparation, in the psychological sense, for the elimination of the consequences under difficult conditions. Ford and Schmidt point out three challenges posed by emergency response training of the protection and rescue units that should be borne in mind when implementing it. The first challenge is a need to remember the provisions of emergency plans and procedures over long periods of time until an emergency situation occurs. The second challenge lies in generalization from the specific conditions under which training occurs to the potentially different conditions of an actual emergency situation. Finally, the third challenge is a need to develop effective training mechanisms for teamwork under conditions that limit retention and generalization (Ford & Schmidt, 2000: 195-215).

All this poses a major challenge to the training of protection and rescue units in BiH.

Generally, education and training in the protection and rescue system can be divided into several ways. For example, in terms of training, we can discuss training courses at the level of local self-government units, training provided in civil-protection training centers and education in educational institutions. In terms of trainees (citizens, general-purpose or specialized units of civil protection), we can discuss individual, team, collective, specialist or institutional training. Given that citizens aged 18-60 are obligated to participate in the protection and rescue system, we can also discuss education and training of young people (under 25) and education and training of adults. For example, Jakovljević emphasizes basic education acquired (through educational institutions) and improvement (seminars, courses, exercises, etc.) (Jakovljević, 2011: 263). This way of training is especially pronounced among managers in the area of protection and rescue.

Regarding BiH and the training of managers, the Center for Security Studies in Sarajevo conducted a study entitled *Analysis of the representation of security content knowledge in the study field of security in BiH* in 2013 (Kržalić, 2013). Study programs in five higher education institutions (two public and three private) in BiH, which offer a study program “Security”² were analyzed. By analyzing the content knowledge, relying on the data in the mentioned research, it can be seen that a very small number of courses in the area of security are oriented toward protection and rescue. Considering the total number of courses in security, in the five institutions studied, only five (or about 6%) out of 97 courses, at four institutions, are dedicated to protection and rescue, that is, crisis management, which is not enough, given that BiH is threatened by various natural and man-made disasters, including the damage suffered by the two entities and the Brčko District of BiH as a result of these disasters. This problem was recognized in Republika Srpska, and the College of Internal Affairs, which operated within the Republika Srpska Ministry of the Interior, was transformed into the Faculty of Security Studies as an organizational unit of the University of Banja Luka. As of the 2018/19 academic year, master’s study program “Natural Disaster Security Risk Management” is offered by the Faculty, which represents a significant shift toward creating managers in the protection and rescue system of Republika Srpska.

Additionally, the entity civil protection administrations and the BiH Ministry of Security should prepare and organize seminars, courses, field exercises and other forms of training in the area of protection and rescue and participate in international conferences for the purpose of a more efficient protection and

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rescue system. In addition to education at higher education institutions and the mentioned forms of training, field exercise is of great importance for the protection and rescue units training. Field exercise is a form of training during which individuals, units and teams for carrying out practical activities are empowered and their skills tested. In this context, previous research shows that emergency response teams with specific training, showed better results for these specific scenarios (Pinheiro, Gouveia, Jesus, Santos, & Baptista, 2019). Through exercises, participants in the protection and rescue system have an opportunity to interact, communicate and exchange ideas, experience or knowledge with other colleagues. This also raises their level of self-confidence and motivation to work (Nazli, Sipon, & Radzi, 2014). Cooperation with other institutions and organizations enables protection and rescue agencies to make training effective during emergency preparations. These training programs should be designed to prepare people to help not only themselves, but also their families and neighbors (Bailey, 2009). Both government and other agencies need to work together to encourage the general public to participate in the disaster management programs through series of various training program promotions (Roosli & O'Brien, 2011).

CIVIL PROTECTION TRAINING PROGRAM IN BiH

Civil protection training program at the level of BiH

Protection and rescue in BiH carried out by the two entities, while the state level, BiH plays a coordinating role – activities in the domain of protection and rescue training have certain specifics. In order to manage this coordination at the level of BiH, the Sector for Protection and Rescue was formed within the BiH Ministry of Security.

In accordance with the Framework Law on Protection and Rescue (Official Gazette of BiH, 50/08), the training of protection and rescue units falls within the competence of the two entities. Under Article 14 of the same Law, the Ministry of Security “in cooperation with the entity civil protection administrations”, and not independently, organizes, among other things, field exercises of international importance, in other words, the entities and the Brcko District of BiH are independent regarding exercises for and the training of their own protection and rescue units.

Based on Article 14 (duties of the BiH Ministry of Security), paragraph (g), of the Framework Law on Protection and Rescue, in July 2014 the BiH Ministry of Security developed the Framework education plan and program in the field of protection and rescue in BiH and, based on that, the Program and the plan of education and training of civil servants and employees of the institutions and bodies at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of protection and rescue was developed in August of the same year. The Framework education

plan and program in the field of protection and rescue in BiH is not in line with the positions coming from RS and as such is not applicable to the two entities which are independent of the BiH Ministry of Security in terms of protection and rescue.

In 2019 and 2020, “Manual on Civil Exercise” was developed at the level of BiH with the help of the US Embassy in BiH. The purpose of this manual is to define a unique methodology for planning and implementing exercises, starting the level of the local community to the level of government institutions, including exercises with a different number of participants. It is based on the American Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (Homeland Security, 2013), which is the basis for planning protection and rescue exercises in the United States, and on the act of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) “Guidelines for Planning, Conduct and Assessment of International EAPC Exercises” (EAPC, 2009). The document has not been ratified by the entity civil protection administrations, representatives of the entity civil protection administrations, the BiH Ministry of Defense, or the BiH Ministry of Security. The organizations that have participated in the drafting of this document should reach a consensus and ratify it, without prejudging the transfer of competencies, which can be included in the document itself. The main reason for this is the possibility of easier preparation, organization, implementation and assessment of exercises both at the entity level and at the level of BiH during international exercises, but in accordance with the standards applied in Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and the EU.

Following the 2014 floods, the analysis showed the need to further develop the protection and rescue systems in BiH while ensuring the continuity of training and certification of individuals and organizations for planned and coordinated action during natural disasters (Suljić, et al, 2015: 122). In other words, to “consider the possibility of normatively regulating the “emergency response training courses for individuals and teams” to ensure high enrolment in training courses” (Suljić, et al, 2015: 123). In accordance with this analysis, these activities must be included in governments’ priorities at all levels in the upcoming period.

Also, the conclusions and recommendations of the regional conference Floods in Southeast Europe – Lessons Learned and Next Steps (BiH Ministry of Security, OSCE, RACVIAC, UNDP, 2015), pertaining to the 2014 floods, indicate that “training facilities under the highest standards do not exist in BiH, and the existing capacities do not meet the required criteria.” The entity civil protection administrations were suggested to provide additional support in equipping and training protection and rescue structures of local communities at risk of floods.

The report on the NATO EADRCC field exercise “Bosnia and Herzegovina 2017” (Ministry of Security of BiH, 2018) clearly shows the shortcomings in the training of protection and rescue units. The internal evaluation demonstrated that “the management and management structures at all levels are not suffi-

ciently familiar with the mechanism of receiving international assistance and that training of this type is necessary at all levels. The external evaluation of the exercise indicated that theoretical training is overwhelming, and therefore more practical exercise is needed, special attention should be paid to the training of rescue managers, security officers, local emergency headquarters and media. The Report concluded that such complex exercises, at all lower levels, should be implemented every two years (at the level of municipalities once in two years, regions/cantons once in four years, and at the state level once in six years).

Regardless of all analyzes and conclusions, training in the protection and rescue system is still very limited and reduced to individual specialists through individual and team training, while the issue of certification and continuous training of the protection and rescue system holders at the local government level is neglected, which is the key to organizing the training of citizens and the implementation of exercises at the local community level. Only after the protection and rescue units have been trained and empowered at the local level may a systematic approach to training of the protection and rescue system be discussed, and the local self-government units, in addition to the entity civil protection administrations as professional bodies, bear the responsibility for this.

Civil protection training in Republika Srpska

Pursuant to the Law on Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 121/12) in Republika Srpska (RS), it is envisaged that the training of citizens in the field of protection and rescue at the RS level is implemented, partly in primary and secondary education, and partly through the protection and rescue system, that is, civil protection as an institution and a responder to natural and other disasters. According to that Law, the regulation on protection and rescue training through the system of primary and secondary education is issued by the Minister in charge of education and culture in cooperation with the Republican Civil Protection Administration (RCPA). The Protection and Rescue Training Program in Republika Srpska, a basic document based on which the training of the protection and rescue units would be planned, which is adopted by the RS Government, provides guidelines for the development of education and training programs for a period of five years. Unfortunately, these documents have not yet been adopted by the competent institutions. Additionally, the basis for the adoption of the RS Curriculum for Civil Protection Structures is contained in the Law on Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations, which is enacted for a two-year period but that is often not the case. "Curriculum-based protection and rescue education program from impact of natural disasters and other accidents" developed by the RCPA, and based on Article 20, item (1) of the Law on Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations, is developed for a two-year period. Over the

last few years, the curricula for the periods 2009-2010 (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 15/09), 2011-2012 (Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, No. 37/11), 2014-2015 and 2016-2019 have been developed. The curriculum for 2013 has not been designed yet, while the curriculum for 2014 and 2015 has not been published in the Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, unlike the previous curricula. As it may be seen, these curricula were developed and published after a calendar year had already started, except for the period 2016-2019, while for the period 2014-2015 the curriculum was developed in the seventh month of 2014. This shows that the curriculum for protection and rescue training and education has been significantly delayed in Republika Srpska, and therefore its implementation cannot be complete, timely and of high quality. Additionally, the curriculum for protection and rescue training and education against natural disasters and other accidents for the period 2016-2019 was not definite and was implemented when possible. The curriculum for the next three years (2020-2023) was not adopted by the RCPA competent authorities in 2019.

RCPA, city/municipality civil protection services, companies and other legal entities bear the responsibility for the implementation of professional and operational tasks in the preparation and conduct of training. Under Article 22 of the Law on Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations, local governments play a significant role in training the protection and rescue units in RS. The organizers of training courses bear the expense of training the protection and rescue/civil protection units, which is a key issue in the implementation of training at this level. Local self-government units do not allocate these funds for civil protection envisaged by the law. In accordance with the Law on Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations, "The municipality, ie the city in the budget plans and allocates 2% of special funds, of which 50% is used for undertaking preventive activities, and 50% for equipping and training protection and rescue structures...." The mayor adopts an annual training and exercise plan to prepare the emergency headquarters, units and teams of civil protection, and the commissioner for protection and rescue for their role in an emergency. In its Medium-Term Work Plan for the period 2020-2022 (RUCZ, 2020), RCPA clearly pointed out several major problems related to local self-government units; for example, they do not recognizing the importance of protection and rescue education courses in education institutions and local self-government units and other entities insufficiently educate citizens on the subjects important for protection and rescue.

Additionally, under the Law on Emergency Situations, RCPA should prepare and organize seminars, courses or exercises on protection and rescue and participate in international conferences so that the protection and rescue system may function more efficiently. In addition to the duties under the said Law to prepare, organize and train civil protection services within the protection and rescue system in RS, RCPA is obligated to select and participate in scientific research projects pertaining to protection and rescue. According to the mentioned Annual Report on the Work of the RCPA for 2019, "the development

of the protection and rescue system in 2019 was insignificant due to the limited budget funds.” According to the RCPA’s website, training and exercises related to specialized civil protection units are mainly organized, but after 2014 the focus has been on water and underwater rescue units.

Under Article 28 of the same Law, citizens have the right and the obligation to be trained for personal, mutual and collective protection, including members of emergency headquarters, units, civil protection teams, and protection and rescue commissioners who also have a duty to be trained and equipped for protection and rescue operations. Commanders, chiefs and members of emergency headquarters, unit commanders, heads of services, and special material resources managers have the same obligation.

Training on protection and rescue must be introduced in primary and secondary education, as envisaged by the Law, while at the levels of protection and rescue structures, it must be approached more seriously. Regarding Emergency Headquarters, their training with each change of government, after the local democratic elections, must be implemented, because the mayors change, who are the commanders of the headquarters, including most of the emergency response headquarters employees. A good example is the training of newly elected mayors and municipal presidents, which was carried out by the RCPA in early 2021. In this case, the issues remain in line with the analyzes conducted by Ford and Schmidt, which had been previously mentioned, related to remembering the provisions of emergency plans and procedures over long periods of time without regular conditioning and the issue of generalization.

As it may be seen, the Legal Framework exists in Republika Srpska, which has not been fully implemented for nine years and the training the protection and rescue units is aimed at specialized units at the RCPA level through various projects funded foreign sources, while local self-government units are responsible training courses, without a quality analysis or financial support.

A significant shortcoming is the analytical approach to the analysis of training carried out in Republika Srpska each year, especially regarding exercises, whether they are organized by the RCPA or its members only participate in them. The only online RCPA’s report for 2019 mentions only the activities of the RCPA and training of its specialized units. There is no analysis of the situation by municipalities or training trends in individual municipalities or regions covered by the RCPA regional departments. Without such indicators, it is difficult to perform a good analysis and control of the obligations of local self-government units regarding protection and rescue exercises or to assess the preparedness and real needs of the protection and rescue system in Republika Srpska.

Civil protection training in FBiH

Pursuant to the Law on Protection and Rescue of People and Property in the Event of Natural and Other Disasters (Official Gazette of FBiH, Nos. 39/03, 22/06 and 43/10), topics dealing with natural and man-made hazards and protection against them should be compulsory in primary education in the Federation of BiH (FBiH). Regarding high schools and higher education, the topics of protection and rescue should definitely be addressed. Under Article 167 of this Law, program contents and the number of teaching hours are determined by the FCPA in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and the relevant cantonal administration bodies responsible for education. This activity has not been implemented yet, but in accordance with the Program of the Development of Protection and Rescue System in FBiH for the period 2018-2025, the Federal Civil Protection Administration and the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, based on the opinion of the cantonal authorities responsible for education, will determine program contents and the number of teaching hours required for protection and rescue training in primary and secondary schools and universities in the upcoming period. The same plan envisages a long-term cooperation with universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding theoretical and practical education and training of civil protection personnel, including research in other specific areas of protection and rescue through related subjects at colleges. Unfortunately, these are ideas were not put into practice in the previous period, which means their implementation is prolonged and can be carried out in the next planning period.

Federal ministries and other FBiH bodies participate in the preparation of an elaborate plan for conducting joint and independent protection and rescue exercises. In accordance with the Law on Protection and Rescue of People and Property from Natural and Other Disasters, FUCZ organizes, prepares and trains staffs, units and commissioners of civil protection, and protection and rescue services. At the level of FBiH cantons, under Article 28 of the same Law, the Cantonal Civil Protection Administration (CCPA) is responsible for training. They organize and monitor the implementation of training of the civil protection units, propose programs of joint and independent exercises and prepare an elaborate plan for exercises carried out by civil protection personnel, administrative bodies, companies, and other protection and rescue organisations. Additionally, the CCPA has an obligation to organize and implement the training of citizens for the needs of the protection and rescue system. In the FBiH, the protection and rescue units training program places a strong focus on local communities. Under Article 31 of the Law on Protection and Rescue in FBiH, municipality/city civil protection services in FBiH should organize, perform and monitor the implementation of the training of citizens regarding the implementation of personal and mutual protection measures. In accordance with the Law, companies also have an obligation to train their protection and rescue units, while colleges and other higher education institutions, and the legal entities engaged in scientific research are obligated to inform the FCPA

and CCPA on scientific findings and provide them with data and information on their research, which is important for protection and rescue. The FCPA also trains the officials of federal ministries and other federal administration bodies within their scope of work.

In the FBiH, there is a Federal Protection and Rescue Training Center, which is part of the FUCZ. The FBiH Law on Protection and Rescue provides that cantons can establish their own training centers. In addition to specialist training courses, the Federal Training Center are responsible for the following tasks:

- preparing and publishing professional literature,
- conducting training for the needs of legal entities, non-governmental organizations and other organizations of importance for protection and rescue,
- printing regulations and publications pertaining to training,
- implementing the Mine Awareness Program and performs other training-related tasks,
- inspecting protective and rescue equipment (Official Gazette of FBiH, No. 39/03, 22/06 and 43/10).

Under Article 183 of the Law on Protection and Rescue, the canton uses its own funds to finance training and empowerment and exercises of the protection and rescue structures important for the canton, including lecturers to conduct training for local self-government protection and rescue units. Municipalities, that is, cities use their own funds to finance the training and exercises of their protection and rescue structures. Associations and other non-governmental organizations, which are organized as protection and rescue services, at all levels of government, plan expenditures pertaining to the basic training of their units and services, while funds to finance introductory and additional training are provided by the Federal and cantonal administrations and civil protection services according to relevant protection and rescue services, based on special agreements on the participation of these structures in protection against natural and other disasters. As it can be seen, the issue of financing training is regulated by the law, but the issue of practical application is much more complex.

The program for the development of protection and rescue of people and property in the event of natural and other disasters in FBiH 2018-2025 (FUCZ, 2018) provides three strategic goals, one of which is the “Development of disaster risk management capacity”, which leads to improved training and, among other things, it is planned that the Federal Administration of Civil Protection prescribes introductory, basic and additional training programs for all members in the protection and rescue, according to specialties. It is planned to prescribe introductory and additional training program for services and other operational formations, non-governmental organizations, companies, associations and oth-

er organizations, which, by agreement with the competent authorities, establish organizations important for the protection and rescue.

In accordance with the Law on Protection and Rescue of the FBiH, the curriculum for the training of the personnel in the protection and rescue system is being developed. Training and rescue programs and plans for protection and rescue are prepared in accordance with the appropriate Methodology for the development of educational programs of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, while taking into account the latest trends in adult education. The current practice, which should be planned in the Federation of BiH in the coming period, has taken into account the current assessments and based on them the following trainings were organized:

- training intended for protection and rescue instructors, fire protection and firefighting instructors, with the aim of strengthening the personnel who train cantons and local self-government units;
- training intended for the Federal and cantonal civil protection personnel in headquarters for the quality assessment of the situation and management of protection and rescue actions and fire extinguishing actions;
- training intended for individuals who hold most responsible positions in cantons and local self-government units for a fuller understanding and implementation of the law;
- individual or joint participation of representatives of the Federal and cantonal civil protection administrations in courses and seminars organized by domestic and international governmental and non-governmental organizations (UNDP, UNDP, DPPI, CMEP SEE, NATO and so on) (FUCZ, 2018).

In accordance with the mentioned Program, the “current situation in the area of planning and conducting most forms of training is according to the ad hoc system, that is, according to current assessments and needs for training and qualification of only some of the civil protection structures organized by the Federal Civil Protection Administration, the Ministry of Security of BiH or sending certain representatives to training and professional development, which is organized by domestic or foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations on certain issues.” This shows that legal provisions are clearly regulated; however, the implementation of training is far from a systemic approach, especially regarding the training of protection and rescue forces at the level of local self-government units.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above issues, it can be concluded that despite the existing legal solutions and obligations, the training of protection and rescue forces in

BiH is not implemented in a planned and systematic manner. Based on this brief analysis, several very extensive but significant conclusions can be drawn, which will confirm the thesis at the beginning of this discussion, which clearly points out that the protection and rescue forces in BiH are insufficiently trained and a serious and systematic approach to this problem is needed.

First, the education and training of key personnel must become mandatory and the certification of people working in civil protection in local self-government units must begin, if the quality of civil protection is to rise to the required level, because local self-government units and their forces and means are the key to the system.

The introduction of the subject “Protection and rescue in emergency situations” in the system of elementary and secondary education or certain topics in this area in the contents of the existing subjects, would enable the creation of a good base of young generations who would be ready and able, with further education after elementary and high schools, quickly become members of the protection and rescue units in the communities in which they live.

One significant shortcoming of the complete training system within the protection and rescue forces is the lack of quality analysis of plans, programs, and field exercises. Field exercises organized and conducted by the Entity Civil Protection and the Brčko District of BiH are not analyzed in a quality manner, and only the analysis of the response to the floods in 2014, as well as the analysis of the international exercise in Tuzla in 2017 gave a clear picture and right recommendations regarding the protection and rescue system in BiH. The analysis must become an integral part of all plans and exercises and the approach to that analysis must be impartial and professional.

The programming and planning of training at all levels in BiH must be approached professionally and systematically. This is a system that has yet to be built in accordance with modern world standards. It is a huge job for all of us who deal with this area, in an effort to improve the protection and rescue forces in BiH, especially at the level of local self-governments, in a such a way that they can provide will a quality, timely and complete response to natural and other dangers which pose a daily threat.

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