

## ADVANCED METHODOLOGIES FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Along with its positive impact on economic development and freedom, the continuing globalization has some undesired side effects. It eases the proliferation of extreme ideologies, criminal activities, dangerous materials and contagious diseases. Adding to that the effects of climate change and the abundance of mass communication channels, we get to a rather complex perception—and understanding—of the security challenges today.

The threats to the population and the normal functioning of societies are getting more diverse. There is no threat, e.g. like the military threat during the Cold war, that absorbs the attention of security strategists and planners. Instead, the likely negative consequences of a heavy flood, for example, may exceed the consequences of an act of military assault against a country.

In order to provide for effective and efficient response to such diverse security threats, decision makers need to understand better their nature and likelihood of realization, as well as the potential direct and indirect consequences in terms of human life, cost, and morale. Then, even if planners have a good grasp of each individual threat, the account for a low probability event with potential catastrophic consequences remains a challenge.

This volume of *Information & Security* presents examples of how these challenges are tackled with the use of advanced concepts, modelling, assessment and planning tools and methodologies. In its first part, most senior practitioners provide a national example how emergency management and civil protection are regulated and organized. The second part includes two articles dealing with methodological issues of organising the response to natural disasters and other crisis events, focusing the discussion on security sector capabilities. The third part includes five articles presenting methods and models for assessing and managing risks from earthquakes and floods. The fourth and final part presents current thinking on assessing radiation-related hazards and threats and the organisation of civil protection for the respective scenarios.

Even though all contributions to this volume of *Information & Security* are from Bulgarian authors, and thus reflect primarily the specific context and the thinking in a single country, the I&S Editorial Board believes that readers from around the world would find useful the presented ideas, concepts, methodologies, and examples.

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