

# SECURITY RISK'S ANALYSIS OF THE EMBASSIES OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC ABROAD

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## Abstract

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (MFA SK) regularly monitors and evaluates the security situation abroad (1) in order to provide information about the current situation for employees of MFA SK prior to their travel to foreign countries, as well as during their stay abroad and to deal with any emergency situations. One of the sources of information is the representations of the Slovak Republic (2) that carry out their activity in the real environment with dynamically changing risks. Newly implemented evaluation of the specific risks uses FMEA methodology. Mathematical calculation determines the security situation in the country. In case of risks, value of which is critical or not acceptable, the appropriate measures are determined in order to reduce these risks. By settling the same criteria for the evaluation of risks for all representations, a unified procedure for the assessment and the evaluation of the security situation is provided. The objectivity of the data is obtained from the involvement of a number of departments of MFA SK in the process. The adoption of concrete measures has to enhance the protection of employees of MFA SK abroad.

## Key words

*threat, risk, crisis planning, FMEA method*

## Introduction

The purpose of the project is the electronization of services provided to employees of the MFA SK, as well as improvement of the information quality necessary for the operation of the situation centre (SITCEN) and the operating centre for the purpose of prevention (OPCEN) of the MFA SK with aim to prevent and solve crisis situations in the areas of residence of our citizens abroad. An electronic system supports the collection, evaluation, presentation and risk management.

Regular monitoring of the security situation belongs to everyday activities of the Slovak representations (3). The evaluated system in this process is the environment in which the specific representative office and its staff are located.

## **Current status of evaluation**

MFA SK has developed an electronic system for monitoring of the security situation abroad by Risk management portal. Database disaster include natural threats, technical threats, social threats, asymmetrical threats and armed conflicts.

The Czech Republic methodology uses as main criteria working environment and distance from The Czech Republic. Countries are divided into the following categories - A (stable situation), B, C, D, E, F a F\* (critical situation). Evaluation method is similar to OSN.

The USA evaluates situation based on these criteria - 1) criminality, 2) political risk, 3) internal terrorism risk, 4) international terrorism risk. The check list contains questions and answers are evaluated by points and summary (from 0-100) determines embassy status low risk (less than 25 points), middle risk (25-50 points), high risk (50-75 points) a critical (more than 75 points).

Available documents and information show that within the member countries of the EU there is considerable disparity in the approach to the evaluation of the security situation in various countries, as well as in the formulation and application of preventive measures and solutions to potential crisis situations. This disparity arises from the different methods for the evaluation of the security situation in particular countries with respect to their historically individual experience and political and economic interests in the country.

However, the unifying basis for the joint action by the EU is to promote a common European foreign policy, economic cooperation, collective protection, defense and mutual assistance beyond the geographical borders of the EU. As a result, there is an effort of the EU to unify the register of the main threats, the methodology of risk assessment and the development of preventive measures vis-à-vis so called "the case possible scenario" resulting from the risk analysis. As a very progressive provision of the joint action of the EU is the creation of the common situation center of the EU which shares an exchange of information about the evaluation of the security situation in different regions of the world and the efforts to develop a uniform methodology for the evaluation of risks.

On the basis of a comparison of different methods of risk assessment can be stated that all the criteria for risk assessment are ultimately concentrated into two parameters – possibility of risk and degree of the impact of risk on a particular asset. For example, one methodology of the EU for evaluation of the security situation in the EU has opted for a "human impact", "economic/ environmental impact" and " political/social impact", and in the form of targeted questions, the threats of these assets in the individual country is determined. The scale of values 1-5 is used for evaluation of likelihood of risks, the scale 1-5 for the effects of risks and the scale 1-4 for the assessment of the degree of risk which is a graphic description of four colors (green, light-yellow, yellow, red) (4).

The EM-DAT database breaks disasters down into types in Fig. 1. Natural disasters are generally classified under five headings: geophysical, meteorological, hydrological, climatological and biological. Although it does not specifically label 'man-made disasters' it does outline the types of technological disasters attributed to man: industrial, transport and miscellaneous. Complex disasters are also classified to include famine and refugee movement (5).

## COUNTRIES

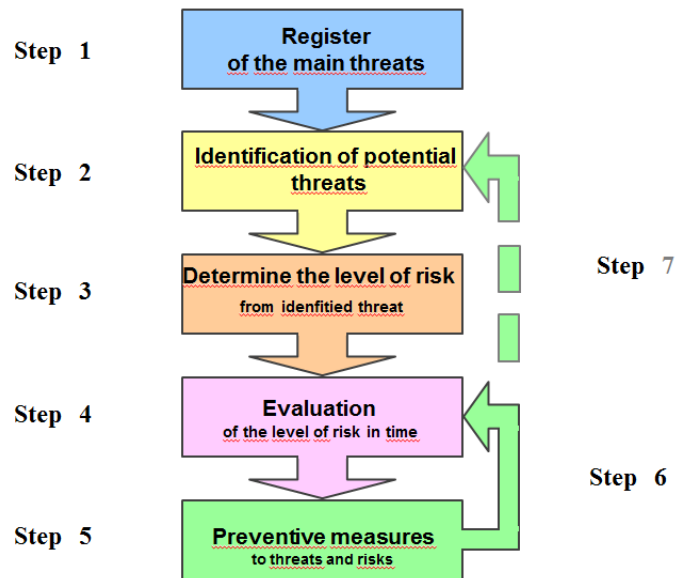
|          |                                              |           |           |            |             |           |       |       |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Sources  | Use geospatial information (GIS)             | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          |             | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Systematic social media analysis             | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          |             |           | ✓     |       |
|          | Open sources                                 | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          | ✓           | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
| Analysis | Provides recommendations for decision-makers | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          |             |           | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Regular products                             | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          | ✓           | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Qualitative analysis                         | ✓         | ✓         |            | ✓           | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Quantitative analysis                        | ✓         | ✓         |            |             |           | ✓     |       |
|          | Indicator-based analysis                     | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          |             | ✓         | ✓     |       |
|          | Field-based monitoring                       |           |           |            |             |           |       |       |
| Mandate  | Coordination of crisis response              | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          |             | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Communications centre                        |           | ✓         | ✓          |             | ✓         |       | ✓     |
|          | Integrated response mechanism                | ✓         | ✓         |            |             |           | ✓     |       |
|          | Early warning and/or scenario building       | ✓         | ✓         |            |             | ✓         | ✓     |       |
|          | Evidence base for decision-makers            | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          | ✓           | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | Event monitoring                             | ✓         | ✓         | ✓          | ✓           | ✓         | ✓     | ✓     |
|          | MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS                  | 1. CANADA | 2. FRANCE | 3. GERMANY | 4. SLOVAKIA | 5. SWEDEN | 6. UK | 7. US |

*Fig. 1 Overview of crisis rooms (5)*

### Methods of analysis of risks

The headquarters of MFA SK collects and evaluates information from individual representations, as well as from other sources. The collected information is processed for the needs of the situation centre and the operational center of the MFA SK, as well as for the needs of other institutions of the State, the situation centre of the European Union (EU) and other European institutions.

The method for identification of potential threats can be extended to the analysis of the causes, consequences and disorders of the FMEA (7). Each identified threat is evaluated by combined impact of probability of occurrence and the severity of consequences. The advantage is that the values are provided numerically. The sequence of steps with the FMEA method is shown in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 2** Sequence of steps in the risk assessment

The FMEA method has been selected because of its relatively simple application to the conditions of MFA SK. Severity, occurrence and distance have been selected to calculate risk priorities numbers.

### Identification of threats at the Slovak representations

Threat in terms of Slovak representations is the exposure to great danger that threatens the representations and their staff immediately.

For the evaluation of risks that may affect the operation and work of Slovak representations, the following groups have been defined: natural threats, technical threats, social threats, asymmetric threats and armed conflicts. Each group is further broken down into specific types of threats. Slovak representations, by choosing from the offered options, identify threats, which concern them and, according to predefined criteria, they determine their impact on the action and work of the representation and its staff in the country. Sufficient local knowledge ensures data reliability and objectivity of assessment.

The possibility of a crisis situation can be assumed from the geographical location of the country, geo-political relations in the region, on the basis of historical documents from the cultural and religious heritage of the country. The consequences of the application of a real threat may be determined from the past, on the basis of statistical data, as well as from the frequency of threat occurrence. An important and decisive criterion on the basis of FMEA method is the severity as a result of the threat impact. The aim of permanent assessment and monitoring of risks is the improvement of the functioning of the crisis management.

### Risk Management Portal MFA SK

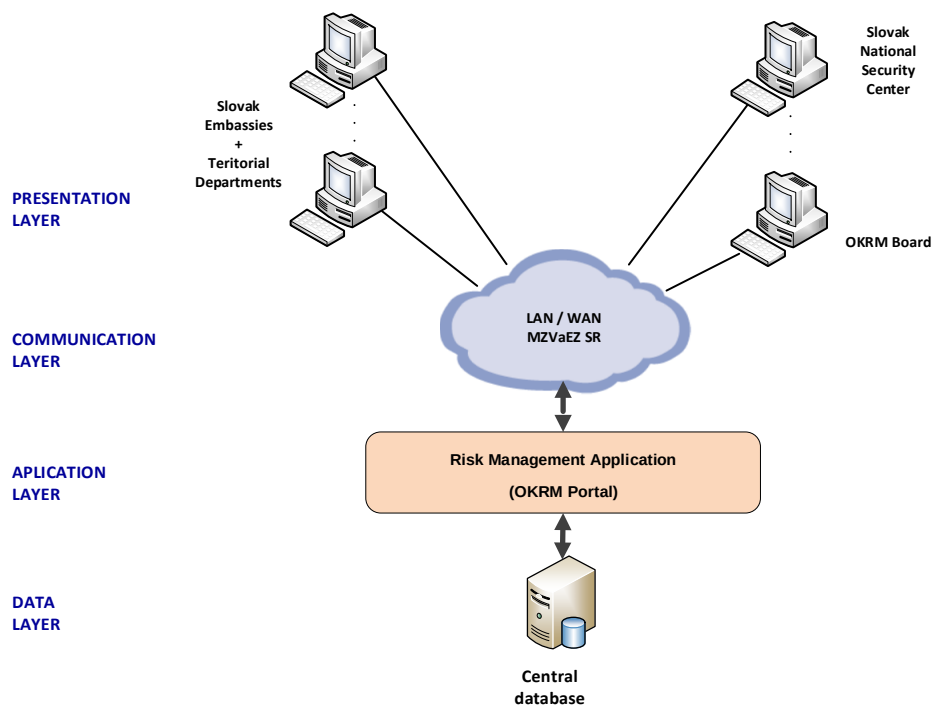
Higher quality of services provided to the Situation & Operational Centers of MFA and relevant institutions of the Slovak Republic. Harmonization of risk management services of the Slovak Republic with EU and NATO standards. Improvement of information services for

the Slovak Embassies, citizens and businessmen with aim to minimize number of possible crisis situations during their stay abroad.

Creation of electronic support system for risk management, higher quality and more flexible communication, and higher quality crisis situation management. Creation of knowledge database and security guidance. Improvement of processes within and between groups responsible for risk management and crisis situation control and management.

Crisis management department monitoring of potential threats and risk evaluation, preventive measures elaboration, planning of reaction to specific events. During emergency or crisis situation activation of response sections, information sharing, coordination of communication and operation of different response sections, support during agreed response deployment, help to afflicted. After emergency or crisis situation – analysis and evaluation of response sections activities, lessons learnt database, updating of plans, preventive measures and procedures

Basic components of the system:



**Fig. 3** System Risk Management Portal

Data layer included (Fig. 4) Situation Data Inputs, Actual Risk Evaluation Data, Risk History & Risk Trend Data, Knowledge Database, Expert System & Best Practices Database, Security Guidance.

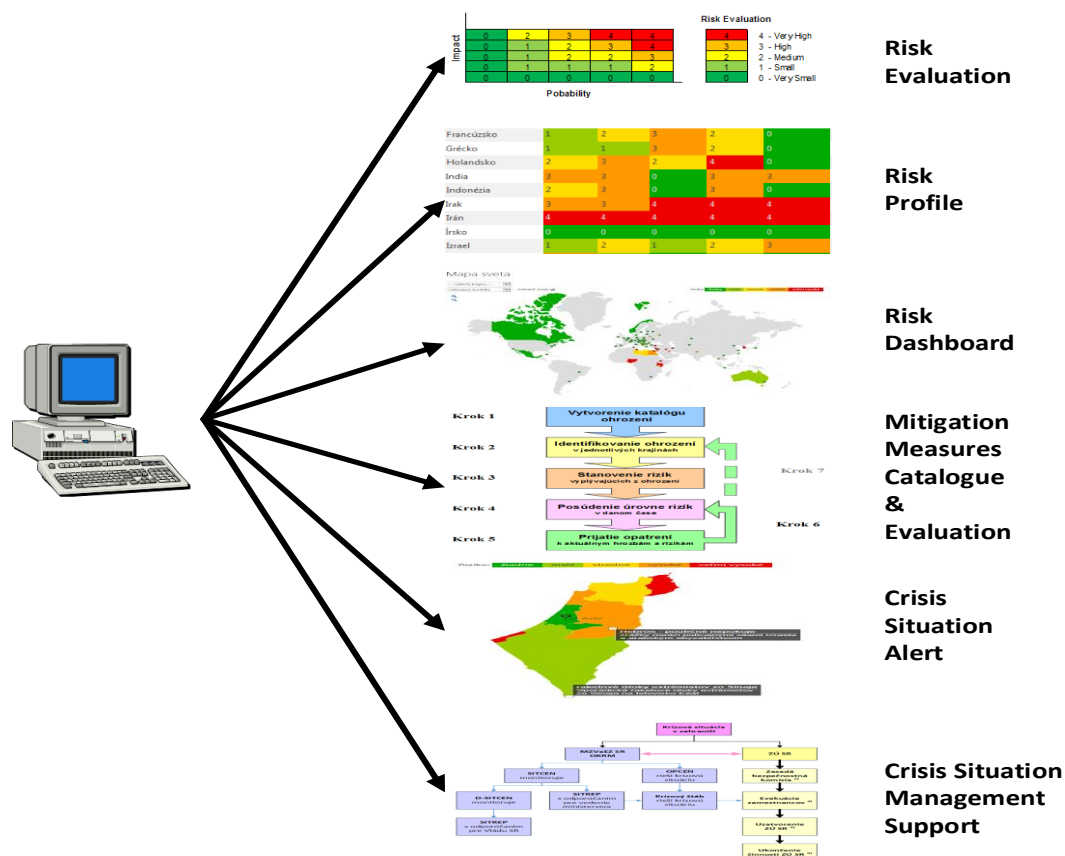


Fig. 4 Risk management application deliverables (8)

Example of Data Input and risk evaluation is on Fig. 5.

**MINISTERSTVO ZAHRAŇIČNÝCH VECÍ  
A EURÓPSKÝCH ZÁLEŽITOSTÍ  
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY**

## Catalogue of Threats with Impacts on Embassy

ZÚ Káhira

**Natural threats in Embassy place**

**Technical threats against Embassy or in Embassy area**

**Social threats at Embassy place**

**Asymetrical threats, targeted violence against Embassy**

**Armed conflicts at Embassy place**

| Threat                                                          | Threat Probability  |                     |                        |                    | Level of Possible Impacts on Embassy |                      |                   |                 |             | Risk Value |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
|                                                                 | Existence of source | Existence of motive | Occurrence in the past | Actual probability | Employees / people                   | Building & territory | Financial sources | Technical means | Information |            |
| 5.1 Armed conflict - internal (civil war)                       | existu              | 3 - áni             | 1 - áni                | 51-75              | 3 - smrt                             | 1 - ma               | 1 - ěia           | 1 - ma          | 1 - obr     | 4          |
| 5.2 Armed conflict - external (defensive/offensive)             |                     |                     |                        |                    |                                      |                      |                   |                 |             | 3          |
| Escalation of political tensions between neighbouring countries | existu              | 0 - nie             | 1 - áni                | 26-50              | 1 - ľahki                            | 3 - zni              | 3 - ůpl           | 3 - nec         | 3 - infc    | 2          |
| Escalation of military activities                               | existu              | 3 - áni             | 1 - áni                | 1-25%              | 1 - ľahki                            | 3 - zni              | 3 - ůpl           | 3 - nec         | 3 - infc    | 3          |

**Send to OKRM & Exit** **Close**

Fig. 5 Data input (8)

### **Irreplaceable Role of Slovak embassies**

- Identify threats at embassies location, which can lead to lost, damage or destruction of MFA SK assets at the embassy.
- Calculate probability for identified threats at certain time by auxiliary questions answering.
- Determine for identified threats, based on individual evaluation, possible impact on assets of the embassy.
- Accordingly identify threats, calculate probability of their demonstration at certain time and determine possible real impact on lives, health and property of people in a certain country, region in the embassy's country.
- Update information in Risk management portal database with the defined frequency or based on crisis management department appeal.
- Elaborate preventive measures for different threats.

### **Conclusion**

The advantage of such a system for the evaluation of the security situation is the unification of work and information output from Slovak representations, the creation of conditions for more objective assessment of the security situation and the creation of the relevant background for the development of a specific crisis and contingency plan of the Slovak representations for individual threats. Graphic and color resolution of the security situation guarantees a quick and clear orientation. In this way, the functioning of crisis management will improve, the awareness of citizens, entrepreneurs and other Slovak institutions, which require such information, will increase together with the safety and security of Slovak employees. The proposed system can be used in a long term independent from organizational or other changes. Such an electronic system of MFA SK creates room for cooperation with other countries of the EU, it makes possible mutual comparison of experience gained, and the monitoring of the development of the security situation on a broader scale. It will enhance the exchange of experience among the Slovak representations, for example, in drawing up preventive measures and emergency plans as well as in the wider awareness of the methods for resolving similar incidents through the experience (Lessons Learnt).

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