

## **SLOVAK REPUBLIC SECURITY RISKS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

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**Abstract:** The main responsibility of Slovak Republic Security System is to secure crucial tasks in this field in compliance with the Security Strategy. These tasks are also fulfilled by the system of crisis management, measures and activities for reaching required level of the state security in the peace time and also during crisis situations. In Slovakia the link between theory and practice is being strengthened and practice the scientific knowledge, gained by analyzing the security environment is being connected with the current challenges and demands of our strategic partners. This article focuses on security risks in Slovak Republic deriving from the changing conditions in the 21st century.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The state security should be threatened by internal and external treats deriving from different sources. In many countries these treats overlap together sometimes and there also exist some specific marks coming from the state character and position. One of the main decisive determinants of security risks is external security area – on regional and global level. Regional security environment is determined by regional frontiers on geopolitical map which limit territories of neighbor state or the other states around. Global security environment is influenced by balance of political, economic, diplomatic, security, social, cultural, ecological and other effects. Slovakia exists in this environment and its security as a small country is an affair of society stability and development.

The security of the Slovak Republic and its citizens is enshrined in the Constitution of the Slovak Republic No. 460/1992 Coll. as amended by later regulations, which guarantees sanctity a sovereignty of the Slovak Republic, basic human rights and freedoms, it protects life as a basic value, secures material values and guarantees right to an acceptable environment. Also in the Slovak republic we are successful in connecting the theory with practice, to applying the knowledge from the analysis of security environment with the requirements of the present time as well as of the strategic partners on the other hand in the process of transformation of the security system of the Slovak Republic.

The causes of principal changes can be summarised in these items what create new risk phenomena (Simak and Ristvej, 2009):

- change of political system and gradual transformation of institution of public administration, their competencies and tasks,
- transition from the directive controlled economy to market economy,
- endeavour to be included to NATO,
- creation of fully professional armed forces and their gradual transformation,
- fulfilling of tasks connected with the process of entering the EU,

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- changes in the security environment of the Central Europe, but also in the global security environment (international terrorism and political changes),
- priority changes, laying emphasis on the protection against the effects of non-military crisis phenomena (natural and industrial disasters),
- creating of conditions for effective protection of critical infrastructure,
- technical and technological progress with emphasis on information and communication technologies and a number of other issues.

## 2. SECURITY SYSTEM OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Building of Security System plays an important role in the process of dealing with new risk phenomena in 21st Century. Challenges for security system of the Slovak Republic were done in 2009 by team of professor Simak at the Department of Crisis Management, Faculty of Special Engineering, University of Žilina in Žilina, Slovakia. SWOT analysis of security system of the Slovak Republic has been shown in table No.: 1.

Table No.: 1 SWOT Analysis of the security system of the Slovak Republic  
(Simak and Ristvej, 2009)

<p><b>Strengths:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- own positive historical experiences from building of security system,</li> <li>- declared interest of high ranking political officials of the coalition as well as opposition to improve complexly efficiency and quality of the security system,</li> <li>- good economic results of the Slovak Republic inclusive transition to Euro currency,</li> <li>- professional armed forces and their good results in foreign missions,</li> <li>- well elaborated and good functioning integrated rescue system,</li> <li>- high quality personnel provision of crisis management system.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- changes in security environment, which create international pressure on increasing quality of security systems of the states,</li> <li>- using of experiences of democratic states of the EU in building the security systems,</li> <li>- endeavour of international community to minimise risks of appearance of global crisis phenomena,</li> <li>- influence of NATO on the position and acting of the Slovak Republic in European as well as in global environment,</li> <li>- application of new technologies on the section of management of security systems with emphasis on information and communication technologies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weaknesses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- shortcomings in the legal environment – in the section of crisis management,</li> <li>- absence of central body of state administration in the section of crisis management,</li> <li>- absence of permanent situation centre for monitoring and analysis of crisis phenomena,</li> <li>- position and credit of the police corps of the Slovak Republic with the company,</li> <li>- unsolved transformation of local state administration,</li> <li>- unsolved competencies between the local state administration and self-administration on the section of crisis management,</li> <li>- unsolved complex protection of critical infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- political instability in relations of the EU towards the Russian federation,</li> <li>- threats by global terrorism,</li> <li>- economic crisis in the world and its impact on the decrease of the volume GDP of the Slovak Republic,</li> <li>- differences in approach to addressing the environmental problems of the present society,</li> <li>- energy and raw materials problems in the Central Europe</li> </ul>

We would like to mention some other fact according to position of Slovak republic between the states of V4 in today's world. For example Slovak republic does not have any embassies in Moldavia, Montenegro, Albania and the other. And other interesting fact is that from the campaigning point of view we have a few EU operations and less NATO operations than Czech Republic and Hungary. In spite of this Slovak Republic has many United Nations operations but in areas which Slovak Republic has not any geographic priorities. In the future there will be increased NATO amount of operations and maybe also in Balkan area, especially in Serbia - Kosovo.

Security systems are very important to study (Loveček, 2008). The process of Slovak Republic security level increasing has its positive moments and also some mistakes which has been made before. In spite of this state was very close to qualitative changes but will – power of competent authorities was insufficient in this case and changes has not been realized yet. The emphasis need to be given on real solutions regarding security level improvement in Slovak republic. There has been new security system of Slovak republic developed by competent forces and it requires some terms and continual changes to be incorporated.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The Slovak Republic is not standing aside of globalized problems, it is trying to take its own position on these issues. The world economic and financial crisis started to concern concretely also the European Union and it would be naive to assume that it will avoid Slovak Republic, the exports of which are based on the automobile industry. The unemployment degree is clearly starting to grow up. The main focus of all processes is based on achieve higher level of security and decreasing the level of risks. Kampová suggests to model risks (Kampová, 2009). So these aims can be done and after modeling also simulate through simulations. As wrote (Kubasakova and Šulgan, 2007) these simulations are done to improve these systems.

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