



Comprehensive (Total) National Defence: Latvian Case

Brussels, 19 April, 2023

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What is total/comprehensive defence?

- Originated from the Cold War-era **“total defence”**, which was based on the idea that to deter or resist an aggressor that has a greater military power, national defence should include as large part of society as possible because it increases the cost of an attack and thus the likelihood to preserve state sovereignty.
- The concept originated in the military context, but today it serves as an overarching idea for dealing with any type of disasters by **integrating the activities of all responsible institutions and services in a unified response.**



The concept of total/comprehensive national defence

Military

- Conscription
- Conventional & unconventional
- Technological advancement etc.

Civilian

- Civil protection
- Critical infrastructure
- Strong economy
- NGO & business etc.

Informational

- Media environment
- Cybersecurity
- Strategic communication etc.

Psychological

- State and society relations
- Social cohesion etc.



The basic principles of total/comprehensive defence

Whole-of-government approach –

all governing and emergency institutions acting in a coordinated manner

Whole-of-society approach –

individuals, public administration institutions, business and NGO, contribute to the national defence (OECD, 2014)



Latvia's CND model I

CND area	Responsible institutions	Main tasks
1. Development of military capabilities and defence strategies	Ministry of Defence, National Armed Forces	Military capability development Defence strategy development Individual willingness to engage in national defence and resist occupation
2. Closer defence cooperation between private and public sectors	All government bodies	Cross-governmental threat identification and reduction measures Cooperation with NGO's and their involvement in national defence Development of national and local volunteer networks Annual defence training for professionals and experts from various fields Development of the Latvian defence industry and the increase of its role in national defence
3. Introduction into statehood course for Latvian schools and public awareness-raising	Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Defence, other government bodies	National defence curriculum in schools National defence subjects in higher education and science Closer state and society relations



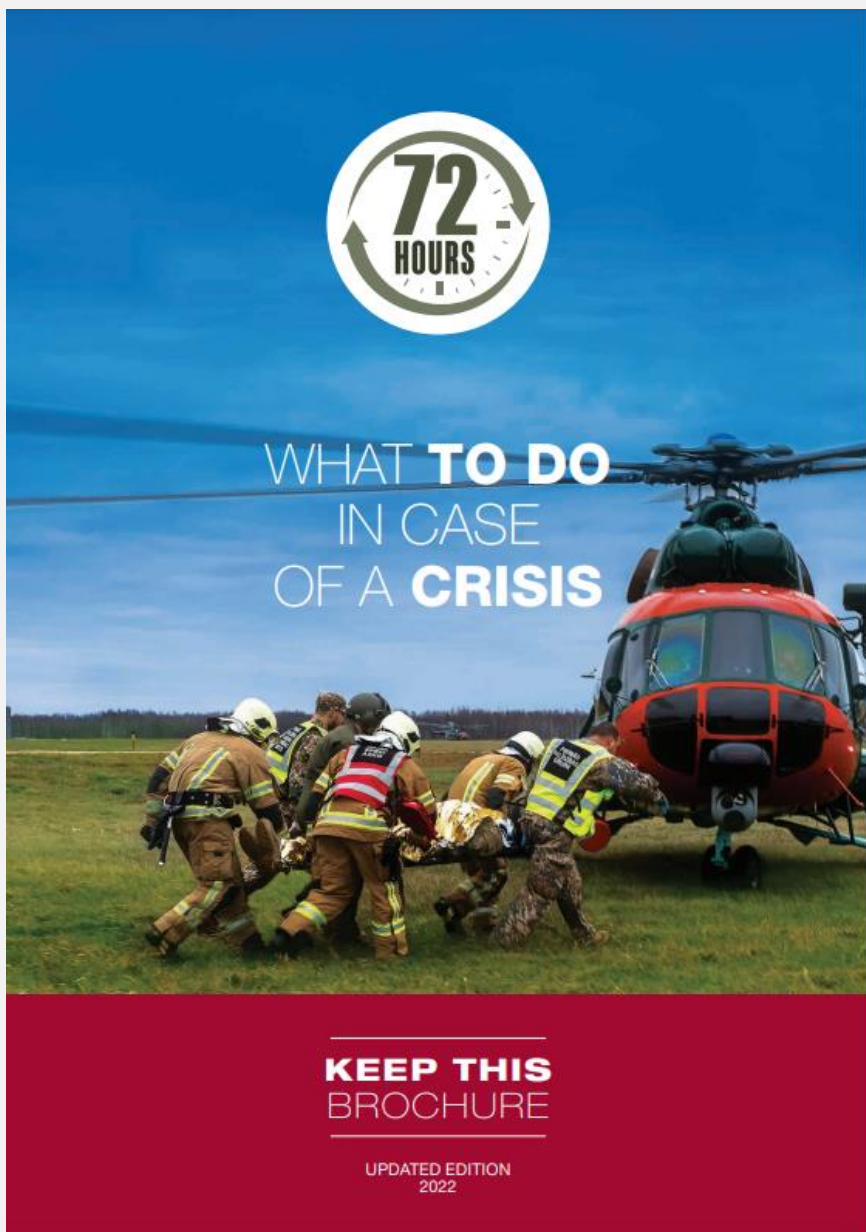
Latvia's CND model II

CND area	Responsible institutions	Main tasks
4. Civil protection	Ministry of Interior, local and central government bodies, legal and private entities	Implementation of the seven NATO civil resilience baseline requirements* Closer civil-military relations Population readiness to withstand initial stages of disaster or war
5. Psychological defence	State Chancellery, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture and other responsible authorities	Public resilience to negative campaigns and psychological operations Greater social cohesion Civic engagement in domestic political and social processes Dialogue with religious organizations
6. Strategic communication	State Chancellery, and all government bodies	To encourage the population to respond and act in a certain way Government crisis communication Information resilience against the negative portrayal of Latvia
7. Economic resilience	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economics	Provision of essential government services in times of crisis and war Creation of essential commodities reserves at the national level To sustain businesses in times of crisis and war Personal financial security



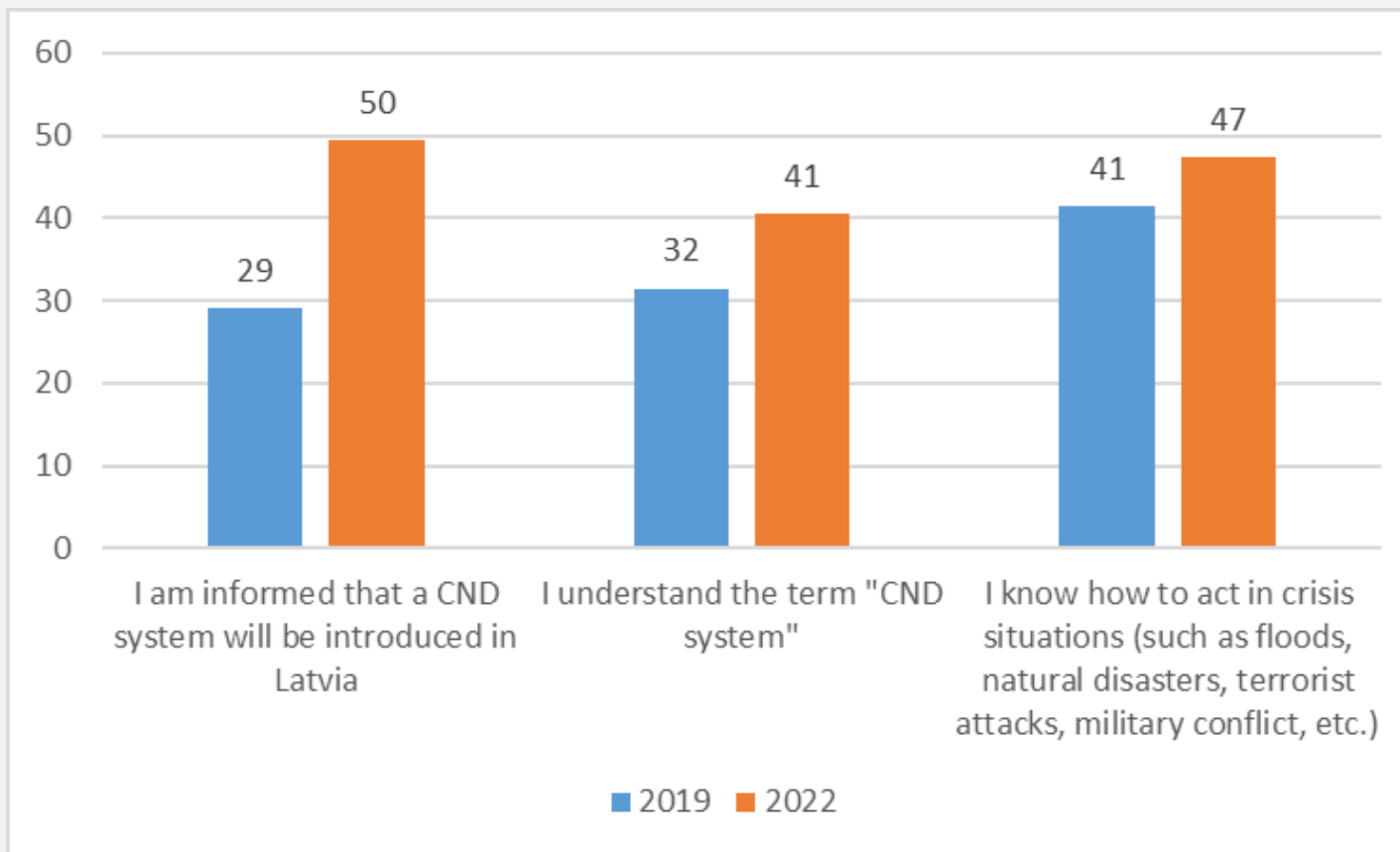
The steps taken towards CND: 2019 - 2023

- Creation of the regulatory framework and changes in legislation
- Creation of coordination mechanisms for the cross-institutional development of CND
- Training and crisis simulations for officials, entrepreneurs, representatives of municipalities, schools, NGOs, and other institutions
- Expanding the classification of critical infrastructure
- Development of the military industry
- Population emergency alert tests
- Improvement of civil protection plans
- Public education and information about CND etc.





Societal perception of CND



The percentage of respondents who completely and somewhat agree



The cognitive elements of CND

Competencies

What knowledge and skills does one has?

- Basic military skills
- Emergency skills
- Civic skills
- Cyber security skills
- Media, information, digital literacy

Views

What does one think?

- Trust in the armed forces
- Political trust
- Threat perception
- Social cohesion

Attitude

What does one feel?

- National identity
- Patriotism
- National pride



Recommendations for the development of cognitive dimension of CND I

- To ensure the **mass acquisition of basic military skills** in a way that is best suited to the historical, social, political, and economic specificities of a given society.
- To ensure the **mass acquisition of emergency preparedness skills** at individual, organizational, self-government, and national levels.
- To develop **civic education programs** in schools, higher education establishments, and lifelong learning programs, as it develops civic skills necessary for the sustainability of democracy and the capabilities to involve in national defense by the whole of society.
- To develop education programs for young people and adults to develop **information environment-related literacies and cyber security skills**.



Recommendations II

- To monitor and sustain trust in the armed forces through **effective civil-military relations**.
- To enhance political trust by increasing **government responsiveness to societal needs**, the efficiency of the public administration apparatus, economic welfare, and the improvement of other macro-level political, social, and economic factors.
- To develop targeted **strategic communication programs to explain security policies** and their broader context for various groups of society, considering their established views, media consumption, and other specifics.
- To develop strategies and policies of **social cohesion** at local, regional, and national levels.
- To develop strategic communication programs for **strengthening national identity** and enhancing civic patriotism among young people and adults etc.



Thank You!