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LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

ABSTRACT: Emergency situations are a reality in every state and society, including the Republic of Serbia and its Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Whether triggered by natural disasters or human actions, such crises result in significant loss of life, severe environmental damage, and substantial material losses. Defining an adequate legal framework for emergency situations is a key element in managing crises and protecting the population from various threats, including natural disasters, technological failures, epidemics, and various social conflicts. The focus of this paper is on emergency situations, more precisely, the analysis of legal regulations related to crisis management in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, with an emphasis on the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management. The study employs the positive legal method and the logical methods of induction and deduction for analysis.

Key words: emergency situation, security, law, Autonomous of Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia

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INTRODUCTION

As humanity entered the 21st century, its population grew rapidly alongside remarkable technical and technological advancements. However, this progress has introduced numerous security challenges and risks. Paradoxically, despite advancements, people increasingly feel insecure. Technological development accelerates the consumption of natural resources and significantly affects ecological systems, contributing to the rising frequency of natural disasters. These disasters are often interconnected, with one triggering another. While natural disasters have always been a part of human history, their occurrence and severity are escalating. The destructive impact of natural disasters, along with technological accidents and various social conflicts, is increasingly resulting in emergency situations.

An emergency situation can be defined as a state in which the normal conditions of life and societal functioning are disrupted due to natural disasters, technological accidents, epidemics, terrorist attacks, or other events. In addition, effective response to emergency situations requires additional forces and resources, special measures, and coordinated actions to protect life, health, property, and the environment. Accordingly, it is necessary for the state to have adequate legal frameworks so that all elements of the system can react successfully.

In the Republic of Serbia, there is a defined legal framework that directly and indirectly regulates the issue of emergency situations, its stakeholders, and response forces. The paper will focus on a specific part of the territory of the Republic of Serbia, more precisely, the geographical area of Vojvodina. Vojvodina is a province within the Republic of Serbia, with a special status of autonomy. The legal status of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Establishing the Jurisdiction of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

The main subject of research in this paper is emergency situations, more precisely, the analysis of legal regulations related to emergency situations in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The paper will analyze the current legal framework of the Republic of Serbia, which directly affects the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The study will employ the positive legal method and the logical methods of induction and deduction for analysis.

The paper is divided into four logically connected parts, and together with the introduction and conclusion, it forms a whole. In the first part of the paper, the legal status of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina will be analyzed. In the second part of the paper, the concept of an emergency situation will be defined, and the basic characteristics of emergency situations

will be specified, along with a classification. The last two parts will be dedicated to the review of legislation related to emergency situations, with the last part focusing on the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

Vojvodina is one of the two autonomous provinces within the Republic of Serbia. Throughout history, various peoples have inhabited and conquered its territory. It officially became part of Serbia after World War I. Vojvodina was granted the status of an autonomous province within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a status it retains today as part of the Republic of Serbia.

Based on Article 185, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia (Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, 115/2021) and the Decision on granting prior consent by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (Decision on granting prior consent of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, 54/2014), the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in the session held on May 22, 2014, adopted the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. According to Article 1 of the Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (hereinafter: AP Vojvodina) is an autonomous territorial unit of the Republic of Serbia in which citizens exercise the right to provincial autonomy in accordance with the Constitution and the law. AP Vojvodina is an inseparable part of the Republic of Serbia, where European principles and values are nurtured.

The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina holds the status of a legal entity. Its authority is defined by a decision of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, which represents the province as a legal entity. Through this role, it exercises all the rights and obligations that come with being the founder of public enterprises and institutions, in accordance with the law (Article 2). Novi Sad is the administrative center of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, serving as the location of the provincial authorities' headquarters (Article 10).

The highest legal document of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is its Statute. In addition to the Statute, the bodies of AP Vojvodina adopt legal and other acts, including Provincial Assembly decisions on matters that fall directly within the province's jurisdiction under the Constitution or are designated by law as issues of provincial significance. Other acts include provincial regulations, decisions, declarations, resolutions, recommendations, rules of procedure, instructions, rulings, conclusions, and various other legal

instruments. All legal acts of AP Vojvodina must comply with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Serbia.

The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, through its governing bodies, carries out various functions, including adopting and amending the Statute. It enacts Provincial Assembly decisions and other acts on matters of provincial significance, in accordance with the law. Additionally, it implements assembly decisions by adopting regulations for their enforcement, as well as executing laws and related regulations when authorized by law. The province oversees the selection, organization, and functioning of bodies, agencies, public enterprises, and institutions it establishes. It determines which languages of national minorities (national communities) will be in official use within provincial authorities, in line with legal provisions. Furthermore, it regulates the rights, obligations, and status of elected, appointed, and employed individuals within provincial institutions. AP Vojvodina is also responsible for collecting and processing statistical data of provincial interest, prescribing misdemeanors for violations of provincial regulations, and calling provincial referendums. It adopts plans and programs for balanced economic development in alignment with national laws and Serbia's development plan. Additionally, it makes decisions regarding the use of its own revenue, borrows in accordance with the law, and approves the budget and final accounts. The province establishes and supervises organizations, agencies, public enterprises, institutions, funds, and business companies. It also introduces provincial recognitions and awards for individuals and legal entities and regulates other matters of provincial significance in accordance with the law and its Statute (Article 25). In carrying out their responsibilities, the authorities of AP Vojvodina collaborate with the Republican Government and local self-government units.

The territory of AP Vojvodina is composed of local self-government units, and the right to provincial autonomy is vested in its citizens. They exercise this right directly through popular initiatives and referendums, as well as through their freely elected representatives (Article 5).

The Assembly of AP Vojvodina is the highest governing body of the province, responsible for legislative and other functions in accordance with the Constitution, the law, and the Statute. It adopts and amends the Statute, passes various legal acts, and oversees the work of the Provincial Government, including electing, dismissing, and supervising its members. The Assembly reviews regular and extraordinary reports on government activities and adopts development programs, strategic plans, and financial documents such as the budget and final accounts. It has the authority to decide on provincial borrowing, call referendums, and establish agreements with corresponding territorial communities in other states, in accordance with the law. Additionally, it regulates the election, mandate, and status of deputies and

electoral units and defines the rights, duties, and positions of elected, appointed, and employed individuals within provincial institutions when not regulated by law. The Assembly prescribes penalties for violations of provincial regulations and appoints key officials, including the president and vice president of the Assembly, the Provincial Government leadership, and other provincial representatives. It also appoints the provincial ombudsman and may establish development funds or a bank to support economic growth. Furthermore, it determines the structure and functions of provincial agencies, public enterprises, and institutions, regulating employment matters not covered by law. The Assembly has the authority to propose laws and regulations to the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, adopt its own rules of procedure, and carry out other duties prescribed by law and the Statute (Article 31).

The Provincial Government serves as the executive body of AP Vojvodina. Its work is overseen by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, to which it is accountable (Article 44). The Provincial Government consists of the President, one or more Vice Presidents, and members of the Provincial Government (Article 46). Within its jurisdiction, the Provincial Government carries out various responsibilities to ensure the effective governance of AP Vojvodina. It implements decisions and other general acts adopted by the Provincial Assembly and enforces laws when authorized to do so. Additionally, it adopts provincial ordinances and other general acts necessary for executing laws and assembly decisions, as permitted by law or assembly resolutions. The Provincial Government organizes and oversees professional and other services required for tasks within its scope, in accordance with the law, the Statute, and assembly decisions. It submits budget proposals and final accounts to the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, as well as programmatic, developmental, and planning documents, taking necessary measures for their implementation. The government also proposes assembly decisions and other general acts for consideration, appoints and dismisses provincial officials who are not elected or removed by the Assembly, and directs, coordinates, and supervises the work of provincial administrative bodies. Moreover, it oversees companies and institutions that perform public functions or other tasks of provincial significance, provided they are founded by AP Vojvodina. The management and administration of public property fall under its responsibilities, ensuring compliance with the law and regularly reporting to the Assembly. At the request of the Assembly, its working bodies, or its President, the Provincial Government provides opinions on proposed assembly decisions or general acts submitted by other entities. In situations where the Assembly is unable to convene, it adopts general acts and takes necessary measures in response to natural disasters or other emergencies, acting in accordance with legal provisions. Furthermore, the Provincial

Government proposes agreements with corresponding territorial communities of other states for Assembly approval. It submits an annual report on its activities and provides extraordinary reports upon request. Lastly, it establishes its own rules of procedure and carries out other duties as determined by law, the Statute of AP Vojvodina, and assembly decisions (Article 45).

The legal status of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is regulated by the Law on Establishing the Jurisdiction of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. This law defines the competences of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and addresses other issues of importance for the position of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

According to the same law, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina can cooperate with corresponding territorial communities of other states, within the framework of the foreign policy of the Republic of Serbia, while respecting the territorial unity and legal order of the Republic of Serbia. In addition, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina can conclude interregional agreements within its jurisdiction and can be a member of European and international regional associations (Article 3). In exercising their competences, the bodies of AP Vojvodina cooperate with the Republican authorities and the bodies of the local self-government units (Article 5).

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGAL REGULATIONS OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA REGARDING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Disruptions to living and working conditions can arise from natural disasters or unforeseen events, leading to unrest within communities and among individuals. An emergency situation is marked by its unpredictability, interference with daily life and work, financial and material losses, and the need to mobilize additional resources from a broader national scope to alleviate and address the consequences. While emergencies are frequently linked to natural and man-made disasters, they encompass any scenario that necessitates the coordinated involvement of multiple entities to respond to events beyond the usual course of affairs.

The area of emergency situations in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is regulated by a series of laws and by-laws, which were adopted at the level of the Republic of Serbia, but also by certain regulations adopted by the competent authorities of the Autonomous Province. Some of the most important laws are: the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, 87/2018), the Law on Fire Protection (Law on Fire Protection, 20/2015), the

Law on Reconstruction after Natural and Other Disasters (Law on Reconstruction from Natural and Other Disasters, 112/2015), and the Law on Civil Defense (Law on Civil Defense, 54/2015).

In addition to the legal regulation of the area of emergency situations, various decisions, instructions, rules, and regulations are also important for the legal regulation of this area. Among other things, the following are of importance:

Instructions on the methodology for the preparation of risk assessments from natural and other disasters and protection and rescue plans in emergency situations (Instructions on the methodology for the preparation of the assessment of vulnerability to natural and other disasters and protection and rescue plans in emergency situations, 18/2017), Regulation on the implementation of evacuation (Regulation on the implementation of evacuation, 22/2011), Regulation on the content and method of preparation of protection and rescue plans in emergency situations (Regulation on the content and method of preparing protection and rescue plans in emergency situations, 8/2011), Regulation on mandatory means and equipment for personal, mutual, and collective protection against natural disasters and other accidents (Regulation on mandatory means and equipment for personal, mutual, and collective protection against natural disasters and other accidents, 3/2011), Regulation on the composition and method of operation of the headquarters for emergency situations (Regulation on the composition and manner of operation of the headquarters for emergency situations, 98/2010), Regulation on the amount and method of exercising the right to one-time financial assistance (Regulation on the amount and method of exercising the right to one-time financial assistance, 98/2010), Regulation on the method of engaging resources for the purposes of protection and rescue and the method of exercising the right to compensation for the use of the same (Regulation on the method of engaging resources for the purposes of protection and rescue and the method of exercising the right to compensation for the use of the same, 10/2013), Regulation on the classification of buildings, activities, and land into fire hazard categories (Regulation on the classification of buildings, activities, and land into fire hazard categories, 76/2010), Rulebook on the organization and method of use of specialized civil protection units (Rulebook on the organization and method of use of specialized civil protection units, 26/2011), Rulebook on the method of collection and payment terms of funds that are directed as designated income of the Budget Fund for emergency situations (Rulebook on the method of collection and payment terms of funds that are directed as designated income of the Budget Fund for emergency situations, 28/2011), Rulebook on information on danger, measures, and procedures in the event of an accident (Rulebook on information on danger, measures, and procedures in the event of an accident, 18/2012), Rulebook on

the method of determining the value of the construction part of buildings and the method of calculating compensation for shelters (Rulebook on the method of determining the value of the construction part of buildings and the method of calculating compensation for shelters, 78/2012), Rulebook on the method of preparation and content of the accident protection plan (Rulebook on the method of preparation and content of the accident protection plan, 82/2012), Rulebook on the types and quantities of hazardous materials, objects, and other criteria based on which the Accident Protection Plan is drawn up and measures are taken to prevent accidents and limit the impact of accidents on people's lives and health, material goods, and the environment (Rulebook on the types and quantities of hazardous materials, objects, and other criteria based on which the Accident Protection Plan is drawn up and measures are taken to prevent accidents and limit the impact of accidents on people's lives and health, material goods, and the environment, 48/2016), Rulebook on the program, method, and costs of taking a professional exam, the procedure for issuing and the appearance of a license for risk assessment (Rulebook on the program, method, and costs of taking a professional exam, the procedure for issuing and the appearance of the license for risk assessment, 8/2013), Rulebook on training, curricula, programs, and norms of teaching aids and equipment for training members of civil protection (Rulebook on training, curricula, programs, and norms of teaching aids and equipment for training members of civil protection, 8/2013), Rulebook on the uniform and insignia of civil protection, insignia of functions, specialties, and identity card of members of civil protection (Rulebook on the uniform and insignia of civil protection, insignia of functions, specialties, and identity card of members of civil protection, 84/2014), Rulebook on the method and content of the fire protection plan of the autonomous province, local self-government units, and subjects classified into the first and second categories (Rulebook on the method and content of the fire protection plan of the autonomous province, local self-government units, and subjects classified into the first and second categories, 73/2010), Rulebook on the conditions that must be met by legal persons registered to carry out special training for persons working in fire protection (Rulebook on the conditions that must be met by legal persons registered to carry out special training for persons working in fire protection, 86/2011), Rulebook on taking a professional exam and conditions for obtaining a license and authorization for the preparation of the Main Fire Protection Project and special fire protection systems and measures (Rulebook on taking a professional exam and conditions for obtaining a license and authorization for the preparation of the Main Fire Protection Project and special fire protection systems and measures, 87/2013), Rulebook on the content and manner of managing records on members of authorities, units, services, and other participants and on means and equipment in civil protection

(Rulebook on the content and manner of managing records on members of authorities, units, services, and other participants and on means and equipment in civil protection, 91/2013), Decision on the determination of authorized and qualified legal entities of importance for protection and rescue in the Republic of Serbia (Decision on the determination of authorized and qualified legal entities of importance for protection and rescue in the Republic of Serbia, 31/2018), Decision on the establishment of the Budget Fund for emergency situations (Decision on the establishment of the Budget Fund for emergency situations, 92/2010), Instructions on the unified methodology for assessing damages from natural disasters (Instructions on the unified methodology for assessing damages from natural disasters, 92/2010), Decision on the formation of the provincial headquarters for emergency situations (Decision on the formation of the provincial headquarters for emergency situations, 71/2016), Decision on the organization and functioning of civil protection on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Decision on the organization and functioning of civil protection on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, 13/2013).

In addition to the above-mentioned regulations, several laws indirectly regulate emergency situations. Among the most important are: the Law on Health Care (Law on Health Care, 105/2017), the Law on Public Health (Law on Public Health, 15/2016), the Law on Transport of Dangerous Goods (Law on Transport of Dangerous Goods, 83/2018), the Law on Waters (Law on Waters, 101/2016), and the Law on Meteorological and Hydrological Activity (Law on Meteorological and Hydrological Activity, 88/2010).

As can be concluded, the field of emergency situations is not codified, but is regulated by a large number of different laws, by-laws and regulations.

THE LAW ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The main goal and reason for the adoption of the Law on Risk Reduction and Emergency Management was the need to legally regulate the system of disaster risk reduction and emergency management as part of the unified national security system, in a consistent manner, by creating legal conditions for the establishment of a unified and integrated system, while at the same time aligning the system of organization and functioning with the actual needs of protecting and saving the population and material assets from natural and other disasters.

In 2018, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management. (Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, 87/2018.)

The Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management (hereinafter: the Law) regulates: disaster risk reduction, prevention, and strengthening of individual and community resilience and readiness to respond to the consequences of disasters; protection and rescue of people, material and cultural assets; rights and obligations of citizens, associations, legal entities, and bodies of local self-government units and autonomous provinces of the Republic of Serbia; management of emergency situations; functioning of civil protection; early warning, notification, and warning; international cooperation; inspection supervision; and other issues of importance for the organization and functioning of the disaster risk reduction and emergency management system. (Article 1.)

Disaster risk reduction is defined by the Law as a policy that is established and conducted with the aim of preventing new and reducing existing risks through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, social, educational, normative, health, cultural, technological, political, and institutional measures that strengthen resilience and community preparedness for responding to and mitigating the consequences of disasters, thereby strengthening community resilience.

An emergency situation, as defined by the same article of the Law, is a situation that arises upon declaration by the competent authority when the risks and threats, or the resulting consequences for the population, the environment, and material and cultural assets, are of such magnitude and intensity that their occurrence or consequences cannot be prevented or eliminated through the regular actions of the competent authorities and services. In such cases, it is necessary to use special measures, forces, and means with an enhanced work regime for their mitigation and elimination.

The law also defines appropriate principles related to disaster risk reduction and emergency management, namely: (Article 4)

1. Principle of priority;
2. The principle of integrated action and intersectoral cooperation;
3. The principle of the primary role of local communities;
4. The principle of gradualness in the use of forces and resources;
5. The principle of equality and protection of human rights;
6. The principle of participation and solidarity i
7. The principle of informing the public.

The law specifically regulates the disaster risk reduction system and the management of emergency situations. This system is an integral part of the national security system; it is an integrated form of management and organization of the subjects of this system for the implementation of preventive and operational measures and the execution of the tasks of protecting and rescuing people from the consequences of disasters, including

recovery measures from those consequences. Disaster risk reduction, according to Article 11 of the Law, includes the system of measures and activities determined by the National Strategy in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency management, the National Disaster Risk Management Program, the law prescribing reconstruction after natural and other disasters, the law, and other acts, with the aim of preventing new risks and reducing the consequences of existing ones through the implementation of economic, social, educational, normative, health, cultural, technological, political, and institutional measures that strengthen the resilience and preparedness of the community to respond to and mitigate the consequences of resulting disasters, thereby achieving strengthened community resilience.

Subjects of the system of disaster risk reduction and emergency management are state administration bodies, bodies of autonomous provinces, local self-government units, public services, business companies, and other legal entities and entrepreneurs, civil society organizations, educational institutions, scientific research organizations, public agencies, and others, which, in accordance with the law, other general acts, plans, programs, and other documents, participate in the determination of measures and activities important for risk reduction and the management of emergency situations. The unity of action of the subjects of the system of disaster risk reduction and emergency management at the level of the Republic of Serbia is ensured through the National Platform for Risk Reduction (Article 13).

The National Platform for Risk Reduction is a platform for considering and defining issues of the greatest importance for the system of disaster risk reduction and emergency management, which ensures the exchange of opinions, knowledge, innovations, and experience in the field of risk reduction, proposes disaster risk reduction policy measures and activities, and the management of emergency situations, and strengthens cooperation and coordination mechanisms at the national and international levels. The Republic Headquarters for Emergency Situations has the role of the National Platform. In addition to the Republic Headquarters for Emergency Situations, representatives of the academic community, local self-government, and civil society organizations, as well as other subjects of the disaster risk reduction system, also participate (Article 14).

The law provides for the obligation to prepare a risk assessment study. A disaster risk assessment identifies the type, character, and origin of certain risks from the occurrence of disasters, the degree of vulnerability, the factors that cause them or increase the degree of possible danger, the consequences that can occur for the life and health of people, the environment, material and cultural assets, the performance of public services and economic activities, as well as other factors of importance for the development of usual life, economic, and social activities (Article 15).

In the continuation of the article of the Law, it is stated that the assessment of the risk of disasters is made and adopted by the Republic of Serbia, autonomous provinces, local self-government units, and subjects of special importance for protection and rescue, with the exception of federations, clubs, and associations; economic companies; health institutions, except pharmacies; preschool and school institutions and faculties for all facilities where children stay, i.e., facilities where teaching takes place; and social protection institutions for facilities where users reside. Companies and other legal entities that have organizational units in their composition whose capacities, scope, and importance of activities are of particular importance for the economy of the Republic of Serbia in the fields of energy, telecommunications, mining, and transport, prepare a risk assessment for those organizational units as well. The risk assessment is made and adopted by legal entities that manage business, trade, sports, catering, accommodation, and leisure facilities with a capacity of more than 100 people, and if the facilities are intended for the stay of children up to 14 years of age, regardless of the capacity. Other legal entities prepare their disaster risk assessment based on the recommendation of the headquarters for emergency situations of the local self-government unit. The disaster risk assessment is periodically updated according to needs and new circumstances.

The law, in Article 16, foresees the obligation to develop and adopt a disaster risk reduction plan, and in Article 17, the obligation to develop a protection and rescue plan. These two plans determine concrete preventive, organizational, technical, financial, normative, supervisory, educational, and other measures and activities, which the competent state authorities and other subjects are obliged to undertake in order to reduce the risk of disasters and mitigate their consequences.

The disaster risk register is defined, in Article 22 of the Law, as an interactive, electronic, geographic information database for the territory of the Republic of Serbia, managed by the Ministry in cooperation with competent state administration bodies, other state bodies, and holders of public authority. The risk register contains data important for risk management, namely: (Article 22)

- physical-geographic data on the area affected by the risk;
- data on the number and structure, as well as the exposure and vulnerability of the population, which may be affected by the occurrence of a disaster;
- data on residential buildings and buildings of other uses, infrastructure and other objects, their exposure and vulnerability;
- data on previous disasters and their consequences;
- description and characteristics of the hazard i

- other data of importance for risk reduction.

An important part of the Law is also the provisions related to Autonomous Provinces, local self-governments, economic and legal entities, and their scope in the area of disaster risk reduction and emergency management. The law lists the rights and obligations of citizens.

According to the Law, a state of emergency is declared when the risks and threats, or the resulting consequences of a disaster for the population, material and cultural goods, or the environment, are of such scope and intensity that their occurrence or consequences cannot be prevented or eliminated by the regular action of the competent authorities and services. For their mitigation and elimination, it is necessary to use special measures, additional forces, and means with an enhanced work regime. (Article 38) A state of emergency is declared immediately upon knowledge, but it can also be declared after its occurrence if the immediate danger of the occurrence of an emergency situation could not be foreseen or if, due to other circumstances, it could not be declared immediately after the knowledge of the immediate danger of its occurrence. A state of emergency can be declared: for the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the territory of the autonomous province, for the territory of the city municipality, or for the territory of part of the municipality. When the need to implement measures of protection and rescue from disasters ceases, the state of emergency is abolished.

In order to monitor disaster risk reduction activities and coordination and management in emergency situations, emergency staffs are formed. The headquarters for emergency situations can be formed: for the territory of the Republic of Serbia, for the territory of the autonomous province, for the territory of the administrative district, for the territory of the city, and for the territory of the municipality. The law regulates the composition and responsibilities of the headquarters for emergency situations. According to Article 43 of the Law, the Headquarters for Emergency Situations performs the following tasks:

- managing and coordinating the work of the subjects of the system of disaster risk reduction and emergency management on the implementation of established tasks;
- managing and coordinating the implementation of civil protection measures and tasks;
- reviews risk assessments, protection and rescue plans and other planning documents and makes recommendations for their improvement;
- monitors the state and organization of disaster risk reduction and emergency management systems and proposes measures for their improvement;

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- orders the use of disaster risk reduction and emergency management system forces, aid assets and other assets used in emergency situations;
 - takes care of regular information and notifying the population about risks and dangers and the measures taken;
 - assesses the danger from the emergence of an emergency situation and submits a proposal for the declaration and cancellation of an emergency situation;
 - orders the readiness of entities and the strength of disaster risk reduction and emergency management systems;
 - cooperates with other headquarters for emergency situations;
 - engages subjects of special importance;
 - participates in the organization and implementation of measures and tasks of restoration, reconstruction and rehabilitation, taking into account the reduction of the risk of future emergency situations;
 - prepares a proposal for an annual work plan and a proposal for an annual work report and submits it to the competent authority for approval;
 - trains professional-operational teams to perform specific tasks in the field of protection and rescue.

The law on disaster risk reduction and emergency management puts prevention first. In addition, the law emphasizes international cooperation in the event of natural and other disasters. A special form of international cooperation is the sending of international aid in the form of international teams for protection and rescue, equipment and resources necessary for operations to protect and rescue citizens in emergency situations. This means: (Article 102)

- direct communication with competent authorities of other countries and international organizations in connection with the request, receipt and transit of international aid;
- coordination of crossing national borders during the reception, provision and transit of international aid;
- coordination of acceptance and distribution of international aid on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- coordination of activities of international forces for protection and rescue on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- coordination of the deployment of protection and rescue forces in the form of international protection and rescue teams and humanitarian aid in the form of equipment and funds for

operations to protect and rescue citizens in emergency situations in other countries and international organizations.

The law prescribes fines for misdemeanors by natural persons, as well as fines for misdemeanors by legal entities and entrepreneurs, trustees and deputies of civil protection, responsible persons in state bodies, bodies of autonomous provinces and bodies of local self-government units.

CONCLUSION

The legal framework of emergency situations on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, i.e., the territory of the Republic of Serbia, represents a key aspect of managing emergency situations and protecting the population from various types of threats, including natural disasters, technological breakdowns, epidemics, and other threatening phenomena. By analyzing the legal regulations, it can be concluded that the Republic of Serbia, that is, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, has established a comprehensive system of legal acts and procedures that enable effective action in emergency situations.

Basic legal acts, such as the Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management, as well as a number of by-laws, lay the foundations for the organization and coordination of all relevant entities. These laws define the roles and responsibilities of state bodies, local governments, public companies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens. Also, measures for risk reduction, prevention, and remediation of the consequences of emergency situations are foreseen, thereby strengthening society's resilience to crises. As can be concluded, the field of emergency situations is not codified, but is regulated by a large number of different laws, by-laws, and regulations.

However, the need for continuous improvement of the legal framework is evident. First of all, it refers to the adoption of the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations. Continuous adaptation and improvement of the legal framework is necessary so that the system can adequately respond to the increasingly complex challenges of the modern world. Only through the synergy of legislative measures, institutional cooperation, and active participation of all social segments is it possible to build a more resilient and safer society.

REZIME
PRAVNI OKVIR VANREDNIH SITUACIJA U AUTONOMNOJ
POKRAJINI VOJVODINI

Vanredne situacije predstavljaju element svake države i društva, pa tako i Republike Srbije i njene Autonomne pokrajine Vojvodine. Bilo da su izazvane prirodnim katastrofama ili ljudskim delovanjima, ovakve krize dovode do značajnog gubitka ljudskih života, ozbiljne štete na životnoj sredini i velikih materijalnih gubitaka. Definisavanje adekvatnog pravnog okvira vanrednih situacija predstavlja ključni element upravljanja vanrednim situacijama i zaštiti stanovništva od različitih pretnji, uključujući prirodne katastrofe, tehnološke havarije, epidemije i različite društvene sukobe. Predmet istraživanja u ovom radu jesu vanredne situacije, preciznije, analiza pravnih propisa koji se odnose na vanredne situacije na teritoriji Autonomne pokrajine Vojvodine, sa akcentom na Zakon o smanjenju rizika od katastrofa i upravljanju vanrednim situacijama. U analizi su korišćene pozitivno-pravne metode i logički metodi indukcije i dedukcije.

Ključne reči: vanredna situacija, bezbednost, pravo, Autonomna pokrajina Vojvodina, Republika Srbija

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