REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR 2018

In accordance with Article 38 of the Regulation on the Ministry of Defence Planning (No. 024-34/2011-21 of 13 September 2012) I hereby issue the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR 2018

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The structure of the report reflects the key working areas of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) which follow the programme structure of the budget. In addition to military defence and protection against natural and other disasters, a special chapter in the report summarizes the activities which took place in the administrative field, which carries out steering, managerial, common, supporting and other administrative assignments for the entire Ministry. This section also includes crisis management. Finally, the resource plans, the key implementation plans of the MoD and their progress and completion, and the implementation of the risk register are presented at the end of the report.

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MINISTER'S ADDRESS

Dear Readers,

A very special and successful year is behind us. In assessing our work it is important to bear in mind that this year was a year of early parliamentary elections and the formation of a new government, which made it especially challenging for the defence system. Despite the challenges, the Ministry of Defence performed its tasks efficiently and pursued its set goals; this was the result of the professional and dedicated work of many colleagues at the MoD.

The most positive achievement for the defence system was the reversal of the trend in financial assets, which started to move upward after a financially challenging period for defence. This enabled a new impetus and the continuation of equipping projects. The revision of several strategic documents began this year, which is related to the long-term development of the Slovenian Armed Forces. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Medium-Term Defence Programme for the period 2018-2023, which defines the objectives, resources and key guidelines for the development and operation of the defence system, and the primary areas of the development of defence capabilities between 2018 and 2023. In accordance with the plans, the Slovenian Armed Forces participated in international operations and missions, which remains one of the most important tasks for the future. The system of protection against natural and other disasters operated effectively for the benefit of the citizens of Slovenia. An area that remains an unresolved challenge is the provision of human resources for the Slovenian Armed Forces.

In the future, the situation for the Ministry of Defence is expected to be much more favourable. The crisis is behind us and there are significantly more financial resources available for the defence system. They should be directed towards upgrading our primary capabilities and strengthening the SAF's readiness. The answer to the question of the foundations of the SAF's further development will be given in the White Paper on Defence, which has been in preparation since the end of 2018. It will determine the

long-term scope, structure and other features of the Slovenian Armed Forces. It will also be the basis for investments in equipping, staffing, career development, and organizational changes. We plan to revise other strategic guidance and planning documents related to national security and defence, as it is essential that the cycle of the renewal of the national security system is set up to ensure Slovenia's preparedness for current and future security challenges and threats. The Proposal of the Resolution on National Security Strategy, a basic development guidance document pertaining to national security, specifying, inter alia, a national security strategy, national interests and national security objectives, is already under public consideration.

The White Paper on Defence will be the basis for further development of the Slovenian Armed Forces, since the Republic of Slovenia needs an army which, in cooperation with Allied forces, will be capable of defending the country, participating in the provision of security to the state and citizens, and participating in efforts to provide and establish peace in the world. It is therefore necessary to provide system, status, financial, material, personnel, doctrinal and other conditions for the armed forces' development and the necessary preparedness. The system of protection against natural and other disasters will continue to provide the responsiveness and efficiency of all protection, rescue and relief capabilities in the event of natural and other disasters. One of the main objectives is the reform of the legislation in this field, in particular the revision of the Fire Service Act.

In this mandate the Ministry of Defence is faced with the great challenge of improving the national security system and prioritizing the use of resources on the basis of renewed strategic guidelines, and directing them to the establishment of key capabilities that will enable the necessary level of defence capability of Slovenia, and ensure its individual and common security and protection in different situations. My colleagues and I take this task very seriously and responsibly.

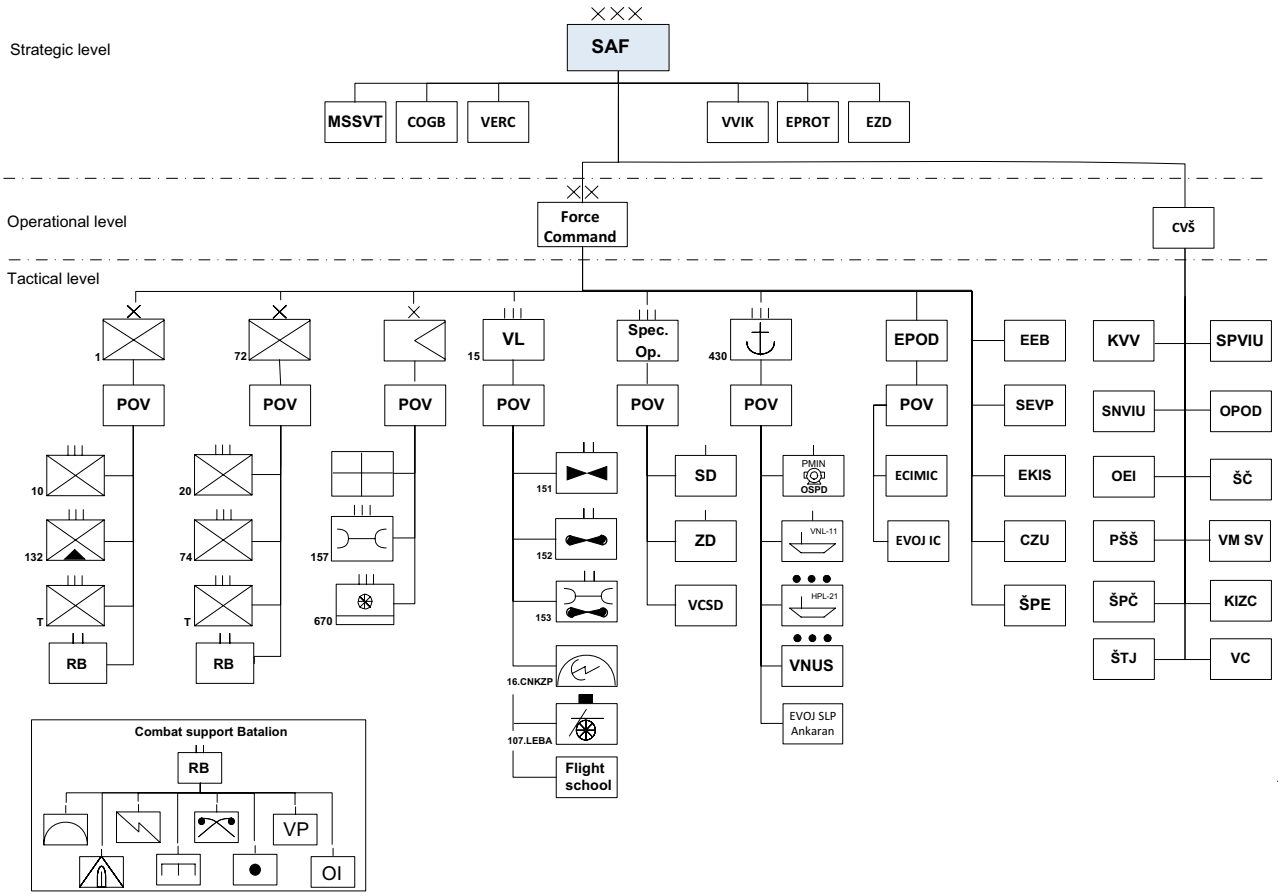
Karl Erjavec,
Minister of Defence

MILITARY DEFENCE

1 STRUCTURE AND SIZE OF THE SAF

In the Medium-Term Defence Programme of the RS for 2018, the size of the Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) is set at 8304 members; specifically, at 7255 members in the active component and 1050 members in the contract reserve component. The actual number of SAF members in 2018 was 7456; that is, 6628 members in the active component and 828 members in the contract reserve component.

Organizational Structure of the Slovenian Armed Forces on the 31 December 2018



2 SAF MILITARY TRAINING AND EXERCISES

The process of military training and exercises in the SAF commands and units ensured the maintenance and further development of each individual's capabilities, military knowledge and skills, the training of units and commands, and the training of command personnel. The training of SAF commands and units, in terms of its organization and content, was carried out as:

- Individual training;
- Group training.

The training of SAF commands and units was conducted according to the Mission Essential Task List (METL) and the adopted standards for the operation and attainment of operational capabilities of SAF commands and units in 2018.

2.1 Overview of Important Training Courses for SAF Members and Units

The process of military training of SAF commands and units is the fundamental process by which they are qualified to perform their duties in accordance with their missions. In 2018, training of SAF commands and units was oriented towards the performance of duties in International Operations and Missions (IOM), and the attainment of the planned operational capabilities of SAF commands and units. Training of individuals was based on training in individual military skills, and training of commanders and individuals in the most important duties. The process of military training of individuals in SAF commands and units is the basis for the implementation of group training. Training of individuals was systematic, which means that it was based on the principle of gradualism, enabling the continuous training of individuals starting with easier and building up to more difficult learning content, specifically: individual training in fundamental skills; individual training in basic skills; individual training in specialist skills or topics; and training of commanders and individuals in the most important duties.

Training of personnel in individual military skills was planned and implemented on the basis of their unit's mission, the Mission Essential Task List, the unit's collective tasks, and the conducted training needs analysis.

The training of SAF commands and units was a planned and controlled graduated training, passing from the training of individuals to the most demanding forms and content of group training and the execution of exercises. It was harmonized with the Mission Essential Task List, a unit's mission, and a unit's operational cycle. Training was conducted in line with the times when SAF commands and units were at various stages of operational readiness.

The main emphasis in the process of military or group training of SAF commands and units was placed on the implementation of the following activities:

- Training for IOMs (RSM Afghanistan, KFOR, UNIFIL, Bosnia and Herzegovina, NLO Skopje, UNTSO, Mali);
- Training for Readiness tasks within NATO and the EU;
- Training for the Enhanced NATO Response Force (NRF);
- Training in support of the Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP), also identified as IOM;

- Training in support of the Readiness Action Plan (RAP);
- Training to achieve the required operational capabilities;
- Training for the Battalion Battle Group (BBG);
- Training to achieve the required operational capabilities of SAF commands and units in the context of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Allied forces to achieve better interoperability with them (joint training of the SAF and the 173rd IBCT of the United States Armed Forces).

A total of 85.48% of the planned international military training and exercises in the RS, and international military training and exercises abroad were implemented in accordance with the training and exercise plan of the RS Defence System.

The most important military exercises in 2018 were the NATO Trident Juncture 18 and Brilliant Jump exercises, the regional Close Air Support (CAS) exercise Adriatic Strike, and the exercise for the assessment of the Battalion Battle Group (BBG) of the 72nd SAF Brigade.

2.2 Training of Aviation Units

The training objectives of the aviation units were primarily oriented towards the training of members in group tasks and skills which supported the performance of essential tasks for 2018. This was reflected in a larger number of group training courses and exercises, which were organized and carried out or participated in both in the RS and abroad.

Live-fire exercises and personal firing tests were carried out for flight technicians, using the MAG medium machine gun for helicopters. They were supplemented by tactical live-fire exercises for helicopter crews as part of the international military exercise Fire Blade in Portugal. In group training and exercises, the 15th Wing, as the SAF's main unit, organized and carried out the international military exercise Adriatic Strike 2018 as the main military aviation exercise. In terms of the number of participating units, this was the biggest SAF exercise conducted in the territory of the RS in 2018. The SAF was also responsible for the Challenge 18 exercise in the Republic of North Macedonia. Twelve activities were carried out within the Air Ground Operations School (AGOS) at the SAF Central Firing Range and Training Area in Postojna and in other zones within the airspace of the RS. Airspace surveillance and control exercises were also conducted in Slovenian airspace: Tango Scramble and Skunk, Synax and Renegade.

The SAF participated in exercises in Slovenia and abroad, namely in Trident Juncture 2018, Ample Strike 2018, Hot Blade, Triglav Star, CALFEX, and Ramstein Aspect.

It supported the participation of the 72nd Brigade light air defence missile battery with an ELM 2106 HEE short-range radar in the Summer 2018 exercise for the assessment of the BBG.

The 16th Control and Reporting Centre carried out a call-up of 23 members of the contract reserve component, who participated in the Adriatic Strike 2018 exercise, carrying out blue and red forces tasks and security at workstations in Celje, Primoži, and the SAF Central Firing Range and Training Area in Postojna.

The Flight School carried out 830 parachute jumps for candidates and 1281 jumps by members of the Parachute Training Squadron/Flight School.

2.3 Important Training Courses for the Naval Unit

In collaboration with the Research and Simulation Unit of the Joint Training Centre, a computer-assisted staff exercise was prepared and conducted. Its purpose was to train members of the Command Centre to plan, implement and manage naval interception operations, and to train the commanders of the multi-purpose boat Triglav and the high-speed patrol boat to participate in maritime operations. The focus in the first half of 2018 was primarily on the preparation of the crew of the multi-purpose boat Triglav for the IOM EUNAVFOR MED in Sophia under the 5th Slovenian Contingent. Other training was conducted in accordance with the monthly training plans, the emphasis being primarily on fire training and the performance of individual military skills.

Members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Platoon participated in the bilateral exercise Lipizzaner 2018 and the international military exercise Lynx 2018 in the Republic of Slovenia, to establish conditions for the improvement of combat readiness through joint combat operations. The tactical exercise Merjasec (Wild Boar) 2018 was conducted for training members of the EOD Platoon and the Underwater Special Operations Detachment in accepting, analyzing, planning and executing EOD tasks in an environment with improvised explosive ordnance.

Members of the Underwater Special Operations Detachment conducted the tactical training Želva (Turtle) 2018, and participated in the international military exercise Olives noires 2018 in France, with an emphasis on the training of procedures. They also participated in the supplementary training for individuals and the Civil Protection (CP) team for maintaining the capability targets for the operation of the clearance diving team in very shallow waters, the focus being on counter-mine operations in the coastal and port water area.

In February, crews of the multi-purpose boat Triglav and the high-speed patrol boat conducted the basic training Ladja (Ship) 2018 – firing at sea. The crews participated in the international naval exercises Adrion CAX 2018 and Livex 2018, organized within the framework of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (Adrion) by the Albanian Navy in Tirana and Durrës. The purpose of these exercises was to train members in obtaining data and information in Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIO) and Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) operations, and in establishing a Recognized Maritime Picture. The crews also participated in the exercise Sandy Coast 2018 in Zeebrugge, Belgium.

The multi-purpose boat Triglav and members of the 430th Naval Division Command and the Military Medical Unit participated in the naval exercise Adrian Pool 2018, organized by the Montenegrin Navy in Bar. Its purpose was to carry out a joint exercise focusing on naval operations currently underway in the

Mediterranean area and on joint firing with naval weapons at sea. The event was also used to put the AK-306 gun into operation, to maintain the Civil Protection, and to strengthen interoperability between the participants.

2.4 Training of the Contract Reserve Component

In 2018, members of the contract reserve component were called up to maintain their achieved and declared capabilities (ROLE 2LM) and to support the training and exercises abroad. They were also called up for mobilization training which took place between the 12th and 20th of April, 2018. The call-up was attended by 563 of the 700 called-up members of the contract reserve component.

In 2018, a total of 449 members of the contract reserve component participated in the professional performance of military service in peacetime.

2.5 Student Camp

The military camp was attended by 68 adult university and secondary school students. The MoD and Youth military camp in Vipava was attended by 102 secondary school students. In 2018, the MoD and Youth camp was also organized in Murska Sobota for the first time, attended by 41 secondary school students.

Between the 2nd and 14th of July, the Military Schools Centre organized Military Camp 2018 (hereinafter referred to as Camp). The purpose of the Camp is to promote the military profession and to motivate the participants towards the performance of military service. The Camp was planned, organized and implemented for SAF scholarship recipients, students of defence and security studies, students of the Faculty of Logistics, interested students of other study programmes, and adult secondary school students.

It was designed to train university and secondary school students in basic military skills. It was an opportunity to promote the SAF and recruit personnel, and the possibility for citizens who no longer receive military training to learn about the profession of a soldier, develop patriotic values, and learn about the organization and operation of the SAF.

It was implemented as a multi-day activity in two phases. The first phase consisted of introductory activities and general familiarization with the SAF at the training-unit level in the context of skill acquisition at the Boštjan Kekec Military Post in Bohinjska Bela. The second phase consisted of organizing and conducting camps at the Mačkovec firing range and training area, with an emphasis on the training of tactical procedures and preparing for the final exercise, which was attended by invited guests and the media.

3 DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING OF SAF CAPABILITIES

The Medium-Term Defence Programme of the Republic of Slovenia for 2018-2023 (SOPR 2018-2023) defines the objectives and key guidelines for the operation and development of the RS defence system in the medium term. It defines the target organizational structure of the SAF (2020), the development of priority capabilities, and equipping the SAF with new weapons and military equipment. Projected defence spending was prepared, including a planned reduction in expenditure on staff and a gradual increase in the proportion of operational (operational functioning and maintenance) and investment costs (acquisition and construction), which gradually increased in 2018.

The Doctrine of the Military Strategic Reserve of the Republic of Slovenia (2012) allows for the supplementation and increase in the SAF's capabilities for the purposes of providing military defence in the event of a substantial deterioration in the international security situation. The Medium-Term Defence Programme (SOPR) for 2018-2023 was adopted in 2018, based on the package of NATO capability targets for 2017 for the Republic of Slovenia (adopted in June 2017). Currently, the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces up to 2030 (ReSDPRO SV 2030) is being updated and a White Paper is being prepared.

In the period up to 2023, the development of military capabilities will be primarily oriented towards an improvement in the combat and combat support capabilities of the SAF. The SAF will also develop command and control, data fusion and processing, and military education and training capabilities. The operation of SAF units in national territory and abroad will be supported by combat service support capabilities (logistic support, air transport, military medical support). The focus will be on maintaining the already developed capabilities and forming the first Medium Battalion Battle Group which will be capable of operating in all potential Alliance operations, including high-intensity ones.

The completion of the capability targets in 2018 was in line with the mandatory guidelines for the implementation of the SOPR 2018-2023. There were, however, some resource-related discrepancies. At the end of 2018, the number of SAF members did not reach the planned number of the Personnel Plan for 2018. Most of the planned main equipment was provided. However, the procurement of 35 4x4 light wheeled armoured vehicles and 56 engineer cratering systems was not fulfilled. In addition to the main equipment, the SAF purchased ammunition and explosive ordnance, equipment for soldiers (uniforms, protective vests), and optoelectronic means for the operation of SAF units in Latvia (eFP). The greatest achievement in the establishment of capabilities was reached in June 2018, when the Battalion Battle Group of the 72nd Brigade received a final grade of “combat ready” by the CREVAL methodology.

The lack of financial resources has had a negative impact on the modernization of equipment, weapons and real estate for the development and operation of defence capabilities. The gradual increase in the SAF's financial budget planned in the five-year medium-term development programme will not enable the Republic of Slovenia to develop its planned capabilities in time. Implementation of the capability targets requires significantly more financial resources than is provided for by the Medium-Term Defence Programme for 2018-2023. In the Programme, the planned financial resources for the development of military capabilities by 2023 are primarily oriented towards equipping the first Medium Battalion Battle Group. Due to limited financial resources, the development of other capabilities has been postponed until the next medium term.

4 MAINTAINING A LEVEL OF READINESS

The operation and readiness of the SAF in 2018 was affected by the dynamics of the widest international security environment, including the European, Allied and wider regional and national environments. The widest international security environment was marked by increased instability and unpredictability of political and security processes and events. In addition to the traditional (conventional) military threats and unconventional forms of military operations (including hybrid operations), the changing international security environment was affected by climate change, the scarcity of natural and other strategic resources, the unfavourable global demographic, financial, economic and social movements, the uncontrolled trade in sensitive materials and services, the broadening gap between rich and poor, and the effects of globalization. All this requires an enhanced deterrent role, and greater preparedness and responsiveness of the entire defence system of the RS.

In 2018, the SAF ensured its readiness in a situation which, for several years, has been reflected in reduced personnel for the SAF.

The downward trend of aging and wear of weapons and equipment, the aging of the armed forces, and the inadequate ratio of the personnel structure between officers, non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and soldiers continued. The economic measures from previous years had a negative impact on the planned provision and maintenance of capabilities, and on training in accordance with current professional military standards. The failure to update the SAF has led to a technological lag in comparison to modern armed forces, and has hindered the SAF's interoperability within the Alliance.

Nevertheless, in 2018 the SAF still maintained the required level of readiness and was able to fulfil its international operational obligations, participate in protection and rescue activities, carry out its functions in the wider protection of the state border, and provide the readiness and responsiveness in accordance with the plans, although with an increased risk in relation to previous years (modernization standstill, aging and reduced availability of weapons and equipment). The reasons for this were insufficient manpower in commands and units, lack of weapons and military equipment and their wear and obsolescence, and the inadequate provision of their relevant operational availability.

The knowledge, skills and processes of the SAF are complementary to the Alliance, and allow the SAF to operate successfully in international operations and missions. The SAF ensures the readiness of forces to intervene under the EU and NATO, and the planned level of preparedness to respond to natural and other disasters, participate in protection and rescue activities, and support other state bodies and organizations in ensuring the safety and welfare of the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia. In 2018, the SAF provided the necessary forces and resources for migrant care, supported the Police in carrying out the tasks of state border protection, and supported the system of protection against natural and other disasters in its requirements.

The SAF has a limited ability to achieve its mission and the tasks assigned to it both within and outside the national territory to the extent required across the full spectrum of combat operations. The current human and material resources and the level of sustainability hinder its operation in the most demanding combat situations, so its performance is linked to a higher risk with regard to the effective implementation of the assigned tasks.

5 KEY PROJECTS OF THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SAF

In 2018, the following important projects were carried out: the purchase of two sets of Belin unmanned aircraft systems; the purchase of engineering equipment (cargo vehicles – dumper with trailers, crane truck, grader, road roller, bulldozer, excavator); the purchase of equipment for Cerklje ob Krki Airfield (tractor with a trailer, snow cutter, mulcher, forklift); the purchase of multi-purpose and passenger vehicles (45); the purchase of anti-armour weapons for multiple use; the purchase of optoelectronic equipment for observation and aiming (laser target designators, binoculars, binocular night vision goggles); the purchase of an explosives detector; the purchase of simulators for the training of anti-armour weapons crews and JTACs; the acquisition of the planned quantities of ammunition and training resources for the preservation of stocks and for training purposes; the purchase of radio devices and vehicle interfaces (162); and the purchase of a CIS node for the ROLE 2 MTBF.

In 2018, the SAF completed and issued orders on the introduction into operational use of the following products and systems: a command and control communication and information system 2 (C2 CIS 2); an unmanned aerial system with a digital modem UAS BELIN (C-ASTRAL, BRAMOR); an off-road passenger vehicle – MMV SURVIVOR TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 2.8D; an airport weather information system (AWIS) (CoK); a biometric scanner SEEK AVENGER; infrastructure and equipment for Cerklje ob Krki Airfield; a NATO Hangar; an engine testing platform; an S-1 road for the transportation of explosive ordnance; the information system TOPOBASE; UXO and IED detection, disposal and destruction equipment (EOD equipment); the semi-automatic pistol H&K SFP 9, 9 x 19 mm; the protective suit CBRN DRAGER CPS 7900; and equipment for the provision of engineering support to SAF units: the IVECO TRAKKER AD 410+PK 78002 crane truck, the IVECO AD380T25W dumper, a trailer, a low platform, BERTOJA SC420.

6 SAF OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

6.1 Helicopter Rescue and Relief

Every day the SAF provides two duty helicopter crews on 15-minute standby for mountain rescue and emergency medical helicopter assistance in the military area of Jože Pučnik Airport in Brnik and Edvard Rusjan Airport in Maribor, and a helicopter on 120-minute standby at Cerklje ob Krki Airfield.

The duty crews of the 151st Rotary Wing Squadron carried out a total of 654 rescue operations, which involved 387 operations for the provision of emergency medical helicopter assistance, 55 transportations of incubators, 203 mountain rescue operations, and participation in the extinguishing of 9 fires. The crews transported 674 sick or injured people and dumped 198,000 litres of water on the fire sites, in a total of 758 flying hours.

Based on the agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Defence and the Institute of the RS for the Transplantation of Organs and Tissues, Slovenija Transplant (SLOTRANSPLANT), the duty crew of the 152nd Fixed Wing Squadron carried out 12 transportations of vital organs and medicines with the Falcon aircraft.

Since the signing in March 2015 of the agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Defence and the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for the Transplantation of Organs and Tissues, Slovenija Transplant, the duty crews of the Falcon aircraft have carried out 41 transportations.

6.2 Forms of Assistance and Operation of the SAF in the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters

In June 2018, the SAF participated in the mitigation of the consequences of a natural disaster that affected the area of Črnomelj. The SAF engaged 50 members to provide physical assistance on the ground, 10 cargo vehicles for the transport of material, and a construction machine (trencher) for the rehabilitation of the land.

In October 2018, the SAF deployed its helicopter assistance to help the PRR forces after a natural disaster in the area of Jelendol. Duty helicopter crews of the 15th Wing (15 members) completed five

flights in three days to transport cargo (equipment, food, fuel and essential supplies) to Jelendol, and to inspect and record the Belca landslide.

With an average of 70 members, the SAF supported the Police in the wider protection of the state border and participated in Operation State Border. The majority of tasks were mixed patrols and observations, and supporting the SAF with the unmanned aerial system (UAS) to protect the state border. SAF members participated in 15,336 patrols and observations. Since October 2018, following an official request by the Uniformed Police Directorate of the General Police Directorate, SAF members have been using the UAS to support the Police in protecting the state border. In addition to these tasks, the SAF supported the Police in maintaining, marking and reinforcing protective technical barriers. The SAF loads, transfers and transports containers of material resources for rapid installment of protective technical barriers to specific locations near the border crossings of Murska Sobota, Zavrč, Metlika, Kočevska Reka, Imeno, Dobova railway station, and Obrežje. In 2018, SAF members participated in the capture of 2,278 migrants.

7 SAF CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY

In 2018, the SAF continued its participation in International Operations and Missions (IOM), taking into account the national interests, objectives, ambitions, available resources and capabilities, adopted international commitments, and the increasingly unpredictable and challenging dynamics of IOMs. By actively participating in IOMs, the RS is responsibly, in solidarity, and in a credible manner responding to the contemporary security risks, challenges and threats in the immediate and wider European neighbourhood, thus enhancing its own security.

In terms of the SAF's participation in IOMs, the priority area of operations was the Western Balkans (KFOR, EUFOR Althea, NATO integration and counselling structures), and participation in the NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) mission in Latvia and the allied counselling Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan, the EU naval operation in the southern part of the Mediterranean Sea (EUNAVFOR MED Sophia), the EU mission in Sahel in Africa (EUTM MALI), and the UN peacekeeping missions in the Middle East (UNIFIL, UNTSO). The SAF continued its engagement in the military section of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coalition against Daesh in the context of the Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), and provided capabilities for the enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF).

In 2018, the SAF participated in 12 IOMs and the eNRF; a civilian observer of the Ministry of Defence also participated in the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. A total number of SAF members deployed to IOMs was 712, an average of about 350 members per rotation, which is more than 5% of the total active component of the SAF. Given the proportion of forces in IOMs, the Republic of Slovenia is comparatively well ranked among the Allies which are above average in assuming the Allied operational burden.

Average Number of SAF Members in International Operations and Missions in 2018

Operation	International Force	Area of Operations	Operation Leadership	Rotation	Number of members in 2018
UNTSO	UN	Middle East	UN	12 months	3
UNIFIL	UN	Lebanon	UN	6 months	15
Joint Enterprise	KFOR	Kosovo	NATO	6 months	242
	NHQ Sarajevo, NLO Skopje, MLO Belgrade	BiH, North Macedonia, Serbia	NATO	6 months/12 months	7
RSM	RSM	Afghanistan	NATO	6 months	8
ALTHEA	EUFOR	BiH	EU	6 months	9
EUTM	EUTM	Mali	EU	6 months	8
EUNAVFOR MED/ SOPHIA	6 months/12 months	Southern part of the Mediterranean Sea	EU	6 months	4 (permanent) and 45 for 4 months on the multi-purpose boat Triglav
OIR	Counter-Terrorism Coalition against Daesh	Iraqi Kurdistan, USA	Coalition	4 months/ 12 months	7
eFP	NATO	Latvia	NATO	6 months	46
TOTAL					**349**

7.1 NATO Operations and Missions

In the context of NATO, the SAF participated in KFOR in Kosovo, the eFP in Latvia, the RSM in Afghanistan, and the Allied Offices and Command in the Western Balkans. The SAF capability in the eNRF was at its highest level of readiness. For the purpose of protecting Slovenian airspace, NATO conducted its peacetime operation Air Policing.

KFOR

The operational activities of the SAF abroad focused on the Western Balkans, thus indirectly maintaining and strengthening the security position of the Republic of Slovenia. The operation of the Allied KFOR Forces in Kosovo included an average of 241 SAF members and four civilian experts. In line with KFOR's mandate, the Slovenian contingent supported joint security and stabilization efforts, and the development of Kosovo's security institutions. At the international level, the RS emphasized KFOR's indispensable contribution to maintaining security and stability in Kosovo, and the fact that the situation in the country and its neighbourhood does not yet allow for a major transformation which must be based on the fulfilment of all key conditions and criteria.

NATO Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP)

The SAF continued to cooperate with up to 50 members (the CBRN Defence multi-purpose platoon and infantry reconnaissance platoon with additional elements) in the eFP Canadian-led multinational Battalion Battle Group, based in Latvia. At the end of the year, a Montenegrin reconnaissance squad was added to the Slovenian contingent. Slovenian members participated in the peacekeeping activities of eFP forces in support of a comprehensive and enhanced deterrence and defence posture of NATO, which encompasses exercises, training and other peacetime activities in the area of operation. In addition to training and exercises, Slovenian members also carried out civil-military cooperation activities.

Resolute Support Mission (RSM)

The SAF increased its contribution to the RSM in Afghanistan to a total of eight members engaged in activities to support the capacity building of the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF). In addition, the Republic of Slovenia contributed USD 750,000 to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund (ANA TF) in 2018, and supported the continuation of financial support to the ANDSF until 2024.

NATO HQ in Sarajevo and NATO Liaison Offices in Belgrade and Skopje

The presence of four SAF members was maintained in the NATO HQ in Sarajevo, one member in the NATO Liaison Office in Belgrade, and two members in the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje. Slovenian members carried out tasks that are important for the implementation of defence and military reforms

and partnership programmes in host countries, and their approximation to Euro-Atlantic structures. A SAF officer continued to successfully manage the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, with the professional support of a Slovenian civilian expert.

Enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF)
Participation in the eNRF represents the most effective framework for the development of the SAF in the direction of greater efficiency, capability and interoperability, which enables the training of forces which are planned to participate in IOMs. In 2018, the SAF participated in the eNRF with a total of 79 members. SAF members involved in the eNRF participated in various international exercises, the most important being the Trident Juncture 2018 exercise series, composed of high visibility exercises, combat readiness exercises and readiness for collective defence exercises. These exercises are part of the Alliance's security assurance measures.

7.2. EU Operations and Missions

EUFOR Althea Nine members of a regular SAF contingent participated in the EUFOR Althea Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; their tasks included the completion of staff tasks and the gathering of information about the situation on the ground. SAF mobile teams continued to train members of the BiH Armed Forces Engineer Battalion. By participating in this operation, the SAF contributes to the consolidation of security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the efforts to establish powerful, internationally integrated and modern BiH Armed Forces. Thus, the Republic of Slovenia is also indirectly improving its own security position.

EUNAVFOR MED/Sophia
The SAF participated in the naval operation EUNAVFOR MED Sophia, which is an important part of the EU's comprehensive approach to dealing with the refugee and migrant situation in the Mediterranean. Four SAF members operated in the command structures of the operation, and between April and August 2018, the multi-purpose boat Triglav 11 and its crew rejoined the operation.

EUTM Mali
The SAF contributes to building security capabilities in Mali through the EUTM mission and thus to the stabilization of the security situation in the country and the wider Sahel region, thereby addressing the root causes of instability in a region that is a potential security challenge for Europe and, indirectly, for the RS. The Slovenian contribution to the EUTM Mali mission was increased to eight SAF members in November 2018. The Republic of Slovenia also joined the broader efforts

for regional stabilization by supporting the G5 Sahel Joint Force. In cooperation with France, it has equipped the Malian Armed Forces with protective equipment in the value of EUR 50,000.

7.3 UN Missions

Due to the complexity, intertwining and long-term nature of security and other challenges in the Middle East, the SAF continued to cooperate in the UN missions UNIFIL and UNTSO in southern Lebanon, Israel and Syria, with a total of 18 members. The surveillance and monitoring activities of these missions contribute to maintaining peace and security and to preventing the spread of the Syrian conflict to neighbouring countries.

7.4 Global Counter-Terrorism Coalition (D- ISIL)

The SAF has been participating in the military section of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coalition against Daesh in the context of the Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), with seven members performing non-combat tasks. An SAF officer operates at the headquarters of the Coalition Forces in the US, and six SAF members, together with members of other participating countries, train Kurdish members of the Armed Forces of Iraqi Kurdistan (Peshmerga) in basic military knowledge and skills.

PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

Protection against natural and other disasters is a unified subsystem of the national security system, orchestrated with and linked to other national security subsystems at the level of local communities, regions and the state. It is designed for hazard protection, disaster preparedness and prevention, rescue and relief, and disaster recovery.

The system of protection against natural and other disasters includes the protection of people, animals, property, cultural heritage and the environment against natural and other disasters, with a view to reducing the number of disasters and preventing or reducing the number of casualties and other consequences of such disasters. This comprehensive system is organized by the state, municipalities and other local communities. It comprises programming, planning, organization, implementation, supervision, financing of measures, and activities for protection against natural and other disasters.

Protection against natural and other disasters is provided by the:

- Inhabitants of the Republic of Slovenia as individuals;
- Inhabitants organized voluntarily in societies, professional associations and other non-governmental organizations involved in activities relevant to protection against natural and other disasters;
- Public rescue services;
- Commercial companies, institutes and other organizations;
- Local communities;
- State.

1 PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES

The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) implements preventive activities within its powers in order to prevent disasters or minimize their consequences, and to improve preparedness for and response to natural and other disasters. The emphasis is on monitoring and on the regulatory and systematic development of protection against natural and other disasters, including fire protection and protection against drowning, and protection and rescue area management.

1.1 Raising Public Awareness and Promoting the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters

For the purposes of regular notification of the public and the media on protection, rescue and relief (PRR) activities, 148 posts on the ACPDR website were prepared, which, together with the available applications, reached 618,492 views. In addition, posts were published on social networks: 592 posts on the ACPDR Facebook profile (10,000 followers, a maximum reach of 58,853 people per post) and 513 posts on the ACPDR Twitter profile (1225 followers). The ACPDR coordinated and prepared responses to

press questions, and cooperated with the media in 137 cases (press questions, statements, recordings, etc.). It helped organize five press conferences and reached a total number of 7751 media mentions (web, print, Twitter, Facebook, etc.) – Source: Mediatoolkit. In mid-March, the ACPDR started communicating on a new social network, Instagram, to reach a younger audience. During this period it published 34 posts and gained 536 followers. On average, the ACPDR's posts are viewed 1337 times a week on approximately 360 different profiles. In April, the ACPDR launched awareness campaigns on several radio stations across Slovenia.

Particular attention was devoted to various forms of awareness raising in the population and different target groups to inform them of the risks posed by natural and other disasters, instructions for disaster management before, during and after the disaster, and the implementation of personal and mutual protection tasks. Optional forms of training for the general population, young people and children were carried out by providing current warnings and instructions to the media in cases of increased risk of disaster, and by preparing various activities and materials for the population.

Puppet shows were held in the areas of ACPDR regional offices, and activities related to the promotion of the 112 emergency number were carried out. The ACPDR participated in the Children's Bazaar in Ljubljana, at the Magic Day event in Volčji Potok, at the SOBRA Fair (an international fair of defence, security, protection and rescue), and the Third Age Festival in Ljubljana. The booklet Let's Act Preventively was translated into English and printed, articles were published in the Ciciban and Zmajček magazines, and publications for 6th grade primary school students and secondary school students were written and distributed. On national television, 112 promotion spots – Summer, Fire Safety Month, Chimney Fires, Carbon Monoxide, and December Festivities – were broadcast. Clippings and articles were regularly updated in the Recommendations section. Particular emphasis was placed on the selection, procurement and distribution of promotional material for individual target groups.

Promotion of the 20th anniversary of the 112 number in Slovenia comprised a number of activities which took place by the end of 2018. In February, advertising space was rented on LPP city and suburban buses, in March a contract was signed with Infonet media, d.d., for a year-long awareness campaign, including knowledge of the 112 number, and awards were given to deserving individuals at Ljubljana Castle in May for their contribution to the establishment and development of the 112 emergency number in Slovenia. The awards were presented at a conference organized in Ljubljana by the European Emergency Number Association (EENA). In July, European Commissioner Violeta Bulc was acquainted with the work of the Notification Centre of the Republic of Slovenia.

On the European 112 Day, on the 12th of February, a press conference was organized at the ACPDR Regional Office in Postojna, where the media were acquainted with the course of the 112 emergency call, told when not to call the 112 number, and presented with statistics of calls in 2017 and further efforts in the area of emergency calls, which will allow for faster response of rescue services and greater safety against natural and other disasters.

The 112 emergency call number was also the topic in October, which is Fire Safety Month. For greater public recognition of the 112 number, a flyer, a poster, a telop, and a radio advertisement on Radio-Television Slovenia (RTV) and Radio Slovenija were prepared. The 112 emergency call number was promoted throughout most of 2018 on city buses in Ljubljana, and articles for various target groups were prepared and published in assorted thematic magazines.

To raise the public awareness of the dangers of UXO and of the correct procedures in the event of UXO finds, and to implement UXO protection measures for the prevention and training of CP members, 44 presentations of the area of work of the National Unit for Protection against UXO were carried out. There were 24 publications on the work of the National Unit for Protection against UXO in the newspaper and on social networks.

1.2 Preparation, Direction and Coordination of Measures for the Prevention and Mitigation of Consequences of Natural and Other Disasters

In order to implement the Council Directive 2013/59/EURATOM of 5th December 2013, laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation, the ACPDR prepared a proposal for a Decree amending the Decree on the Content and Elaboration of Protection and Rescue Plans, and submitted it to the Government of the RS for adoption.

To implement the Decision on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the ACPDR performed the tasks of the National Coordination Body in the field of risk assessment. The Government of the RS adopted the National Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment and the National Disaster Risk Assessment, and the report was submitted to the European Commission.

Protection and rescue plans provide for an organized and coordinated operation to prevent disasters and minimize their consequences. In 2018, risk assessments of the Republic of Slovenia for aircraft accidents, earthquakes, railway accidents and ice storms were adopted. The Risk Assessment of the Republic of Slovenia for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies was supplemented, and starting points were determined for the preparation of the Risk Assessment of the Republic of Slovenia for Accidents Involving Dangerous Substances. The Concept of Response to the Occurrence of an Ice Storm was prepared, the revision of the National Emergency Response Plan for Nuclear and Radiological Accidents began, the proposal of the National Emergency Response Plan for Floods was submitted for inter-ministerial coordination, and the National Emergency Response Plan for Large Wildfires was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

1.3 Implementation of Spatial Planning, Fire Protection and Protection Against Drowning Tasks

In the area of fire protection, activities were focused on the preparation of draft regulations on the built-in systems of active fire protection and on the preparation of a fire risk assessment for buildings. The ACPDR carried out activities in the areas of inspection and testing of the hydrant network, inspection and testing of fire extinguishers, and fire protection measures in the natural environment. In the phase of inter-ministerial cooperation, the ACPDR participated by offering proposals and initiatives about fire protection in the preparation of new legislation in the areas of spatial planning, construction and provision of engineering services, hazardous waste management, and so on.

In the area of spatial planning, 557 applications were received, and 222 guidelines and 342 opinions were issued. In the area of fire protection, 114 authorizations were considered in the administrative procedure, and 4 authorizations for the training of lifeguards were considered as general tasks of protection against drowning.

1.4 Planning, Developing and Managing International Cooperation in the Field of Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters

In 2018, international activities in the field of protection against natural and other disasters focused on further strengthening bilateral cooperation, ensuring Slovenia's active role in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, facilitating development assistance to the Western Balkan countries, and strengthening regional integration and cooperation in international organizations.

1.4.1 Bilateral Cooperation

At the bilateral level, Slovenia actively cooperated with all its neighbouring countries. With Austria, cooperation within the Joint Committees in the Carinthia and Styria border regions has been strengthened, and preparations for the exercise Karavanke: Aircraft Accident 2019 have begun. Mixed commissions meetings and cross-border cooperation activities were conducted with Croatia and Hungary. Cooperation with Italy was mainly focused on the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. As part of the development assistance to the Western Balkan countries, Slovenia conducted training for professional firefighters from the Skopje Fire Brigade. Slovenia delivered lectures to Bosnia and Herzegovina in psychological support for members of the Civil Protection, Mountain Rescue Service and firefighters, and participated in a roundtable discussion on fire protection, transferring knowledge and experience. Through the annual cooperation programme, Slovenian experts visited Montenegro to exchange experience and best practice in training and fire protection, and to professionally assist the country in the preparation of legislation.

An expert from France participated in a consultation in Slovenia on the topic of a management system, and a professional meeting was held with representatives from Bavaria. Slovenian representatives attended the protection and rescue fair in Russia. Representatives from the Embassy of Ukraine attended the exercise Earthquake 2018 in Velenje. A Cooperation Programme with the US-Colorado National Guard in the area of protection against disasters for 2018-2020 was approved. A Slovenian delegation visited the USA and hosted a return visit of a US delegation to Slovenia, several professional events were conducted, experience was exchanged within the Falco VIII exercise, and a case study was conducted on the subject of forest fires in Colorado.

1.4.2 Regional Cooperation

In the framework of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI SEE), the ACPDR continued to play an active role, signing a Host Agreement (HCA) and participating in the election of new Secretariat staff. ACPDR representatives attended two regional meetings and several other expert consultations. As part of the Disaster Training Programme, the ACPDR's experts exchanged best practice and experience at nine different events. In Slovenia, a practical rope technique training course for high altitude rescue in urban areas was conducted for participants from South-Eastern Europe, which was very well received.

1.4.3 European Union

Within the EU, the ACPDR participated in the legislative process of adopting amendments to the decision on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The proposal entails a greater commitment of Member

States in the area of prevention, and the creation of additional civil protection reserve capacities at the European level – rescEU. ACPDR representatives participated in the Civil Protection Committee and subordinate working groups: for disaster prevention, preparation for the fire season, EU CP capabilities, training policy, and damage assessment among others. A National Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment was sent to the European Commission, and the certification process for the inclusion of the Slovenian Cave Rescue Unit in the European Voluntary Capacity Set has been completed.

1.4.4 The United Nations Organization

In the context of the UN, the ACPDR participated in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and attended the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and other professional events in this field. It also participated in the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, the Convention on the Prohibition or Restriction of the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Hague Convention. It monitored developments in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and attended a regular annual meeting. In 2018, Slovenia became a member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) expert group, which enables the deployment of Slovenian experts to international emergency response operations worldwide.

1.4.5 NATO

In the context of NATO, the ACPDR participated in the fields of civil emergency planning and civil preparedness within the framework of the Defence Planning Capability Survey. ACPDR representatives attended meetings of the Civil Protection Group and participated as observers in the EADRCC exercise in Serbia. An ACPDR representative attended an event marking the 20th anniversary of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).

1.5 Giving and Receiving Assistance in an International Environment

In 2018, the ACPDR actively participated in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism as the main instrument for coordinating international emergency response operations and assisting EU Member States in major natural and other disasters within and outside the EU. The Notification Centre of the Republic of Slovenia within the ACPDR is part of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS), and monitors all the major natural and other disasters worldwide through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre of the European Commission in Brussels. In 2018, Slovenia became a full member of the UNDAC expert group. The national point of contact is the ACPDR. During the November 2018 floods in Nigeria, a Slovenian expert on the disaster protection system participated in a three-week mission as a member of UNDAC. In 2018, a procedure was prepared as an annex to the National Emergency Response Plans, entitled Host Nation Support for the Acceptance of International Assistance in the Event of a Natural or Other Disaster in the Republic of Slovenia.

1.6 Development and Management of Education and Training for the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters

Training of members of protection, rescue and relief forces and public employees in protection against natural and other disasters was carried out in line with the annual plan of education and training at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief. All training courses with a sufficient number of enrolled candidates were conducted. In line with its capabilities and available resources, the ACPDR provided the implementation of specific programmes and other activities for other entities of the system of protection against natural and other disasters and for external users, and, at the same time, presented the activities of the ACPDR and the Training Centre to Slovenian and foreign delegations and visitors. By conducting training courses for first responders and members of PRR forces, based on the training and EU programmes, the ACPDR contributed to better operational capability and preparedness for emergency response in the event of natural and other disasters.

Attention was devoted to the preparation and updating of education and training programmes in the field of protection against natural and other disasters, in order to increase the level of knowledge and skills. The Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief actively participated in various working, professional and project teams.

A new application which enables a unified and central application to and management of education with guaranteed information support was introduced for better management of the main phases of the training processes within the system of protection against natural and other disasters.

A new server was purchased which will enable the introduction of modern e-learning forms after the installation of new software.

A project was prepared to develop capabilities for natural disaster analysis by scanning areas at risk and to integrate the metadata system, and geolocated 2D and 3D data for display in the Geographic Information System, which also provides upgrading of the learning infrastructure and training at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

The ACPDR continued to establish a comprehensive and responsive support and logistics system for investment maintenance, the adaptation of infrastructure capabilities for the education and training of PRR forces, and the functional operation of the Training Centre and its units.

1.6.1 Development of Education and Training Programmes

Two programmes were approved and signed by the Minister: a new supplementary training programme for firefighters to carry out the tasks of the chairman of the evaluation committee, and a revised supplementary training programme for firefighters for the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus. The supplementary training programme for firefighters for carrying out emergency response after disasters involving dangerous substances was supplemented. Four new programmes are being prepared: a supplementary training programme for members of units and services performing protection and rescue tasks during floods and other water disasters (Programme E); a supplementary training programme for professional firefighters managing operational duties in a professional firefighting unit; a training programme for the decontamination of people injured in accidents involving dangerous

substances, industrial and other accidents; a supplementary training programme for members of first aid units for first aid nurses.

Seven programmes are being reformed: a supplementary training programme for members of the unexploded ordnance protection unit – storage of ammunition, explosive ordnance and unexploded ordnance, and warehouse operations; a basic training programme for members of first aid units for first aid nurses; an introductory and basic training programme – management of logistics centres; a basic training programme for international rescue operations in Slovenia and abroad; a supplementary training programme – case studies; a supplementary training programme for firefighters for operational use of firefighting vehicles for the extinguishing of fires and high altitude rescue; a basic training programme for members of the service for the maintenance and use of shelters.

1.6.2 Implementation of Education and Training Courses

The ACPDR conducted training courses in accordance with the plan, needs and applications. In 2018, 26,354 participants attended 654 training courses and other activities at the Ig Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief and the Centre's training units in Sežana, Pekre and Logatec.

Training was conducted for the 25th generation of candidates for the profession of firefighter. It was successfully completed by all 41 candidates. In addition, 47 planned functional training courses for professional firefighters were carried out, which provided training for 1117 participants. The ACPDR provided equipment, means and logistic support, and participated in the implementation of 195 training courses which were organized by the Firefighting Association of Slovenia and held at the Ig Training Centre and the training units in Sežana and Pekre. These training courses were attended by 4357 participants.

The Modules Basic Courses (MBC) and Technical Expert Courses (TEC) were planned and implemented. This project is divided into four cycles taking place from 2016 to 2020. Each cycle includes up to 11 courses – 5 MBC courses, 5 TEC courses, and 1 TEC course for maritime incidents (TEC MI). A total of 44 courses will be completed by 2020.

The project partners are the ACPDR (lead partner), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), the Austrian Ministry of the Interior (BM.I), the Austrian Red Cross (ARC), and the UK Fire Service College (FSC) (as subcontractor).

As the lead partner, the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief plays a leading role in the coordination, administrative tasks, project financial management, coordination, and contact with the European Commission and other partners. The ACPDR thus organizes MBC courses and ensures the implementation of courses, lecturers and coaches, and the course codirector. The most important activities in 2018 were the organization of 11 courses, 3 of which were held at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

1.6.3 Assessment of Training Level and Exercises

Slovenia and the ACPDR participate in a project for the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of staff exercises for civil protection modules, Technical Assistance Support Teams (TAST), and the European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) for the assessment of the situation

and coordination (hereinafter referred to as staff exercises) in the context of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The lead partner in this project is the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), with the participation of the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate (DUZS), the Belgian Ministry of the Interior - Civil Protection Directorate (IBZ), the Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), and the French National Fire Officers Academy. The project is funded by the European Commission.

The staff exercises involved different scenarios (floods, earthquakes, fires in the natural environment, accidents involving dangerous substances) which cover all types of modules and include all task units. These are organized by type of natural and other disasters and activities in the event of disasters: water pumping modules; water treatment; flood management; water rescue by boats; extinguishing of forest fires; extinguishing of forest fires with vehicles; extinguishing of forest fires with aircraft; extinguishing of forest fires with helicopters; advanced medical station; advanced surgical medical station; evacuation of casualties by air; urban search and rescue; radiological, chemical and biological reconnaissance and sampling; search and rescue in a contaminated area; field hospital; temporary accommodation; and technical assistance and support teams. Staff exercises are an important step in the training of the Union CP modules and the management staff of these units. The primary objectives of staff exercises are the upgrading of knowledge gained by the module staff (managers, their deputies and liaison staff), experts intending to work in the EU CP Mechanism missions, and members of the Technical Assistance Support Teams (TAST) in courses of the EU CP Mechanism, and preparation for mission work from the activation of the Mechanism in the event of a disaster and the deployment of modules and experts, to their operation and the end of the mission.

Five staff exercises were held in 2018:

- In Slovenia (Brdo), 17th-21st February 2018;
- In Germany (Mainz), 5th-9th May 2018;
- In Belgium (La Roche-en-Ardenne), 4th-8th June 2018;
- In Croatia (Split), 22nd-26th October 2018; and
- In Denmark (Copenhagen), 3rd-7th November 2018.

Participation in the implementation of the staff exercise project for the EU CP modules offers ACPDR workers (planners, contractors, assessors, technical support) and other members of the PRR forces (preparation and execution of various events at the operational level) the opportunity to become more familiar with the preparation and implementation criteria, and with the evaluation of such exercises in the field of civil protection, to work with foreign experts, gain new experience, and enhance their

expertise. In this way, Slovenia is indirectly improving its own system of protection against natural and other disasters, especially from the point of view of the Procedural Plan for the Acceptance of International Assistance (HNS) in the event of major disasters in Slovenia.

1.6.4 Providing Conditions for the Operation of the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

The public procurement procedures have not been fully implemented and are underway in the Logistics Directorate (joint public procurement). The public procurement procedures that the ACPDR implemented by itself have been fully realized. Renovation of the exercise pool has been postponed until March 2019 due to low temperatures.

2 PREPAREDNESS OF THE SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS AND THE PROTECTION, RESCUE AND RELIEF FORCES

The preparedness and response of the system of protection against natural and other disasters were provided through the continuous operation of the notification centres and public rescue services, and through the preparedness of other Civil Protection (CP) rescue services, commissions, units and headquarters. Trained, equipped and prepared members of CP commissions, units and headquarters, and other PRR forces continued to ensure an appropriate and coordinated response to natural and other disasters in 2018.

2.1 High Availability and Operational Functioning of the Monitoring, Notification and Warning System and its Development

The notification centres, which in the event of disasters are directly contacted by the population via the 112 emergency number, are the core of the high availability and operational functioning of the monitoring, notification and warning system. Based on the nature of the emergency call, the notification centres activate the protection, rescue and relief forces in accordance with standard operating procedures.

2.1.1 Monitoring, Notification and Warning

In 2018, the response time of 90% of all calls extended to 6.22s, compared to 5.97s in 2017 and 5.66s in 2016.

The National Notification Centre (NNC) and the 13 Regional Notification Centres (RNC), which respond to the emergency call number 112, carry out operational and communications functions of monitoring, notification and warning 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The operation of the RNCs ensures the availability of emergency medical assistance, rapid activation of rescue workers, mostly firefighters, and the appropriate response of various rescue services during natural and other disasters for all citizens.

In 2018, the 13 RNCs received 499,592 emergency calls, according to the latest unaudited figures, which is more than 1380 calls per day. At the same time, the operators conducted 237,046 return calls. The 8th of June was the day with the highest number of calls, with 2937. The highest number of calls in one hour was 556 on the 3rd of December, between 10am and 11am. Firefighters were the most often activated with 21,831 callouts, followed by mountain rescuers with 729, and rescue dog units with 130. There were 22,726 activations altogether, including other units.

People usually called during the day, between 8am and 8pm. The largest Regional Notification Centre, both in terms of territory and the number of inhabitants, is the Ljubljana RNC, and it received the majority of calls, 120,072, followed by the Maribor RNC with 62,994 calls, the Celje RNC with 50,476 calls, and the Kranj RNC with 47,893 calls.

The operators answered 90% of the calls within 5.78 seconds. In 90% of all cases, the calls lasted less than 77.19 seconds. The longest conversation, however, lasted around 128 seconds.

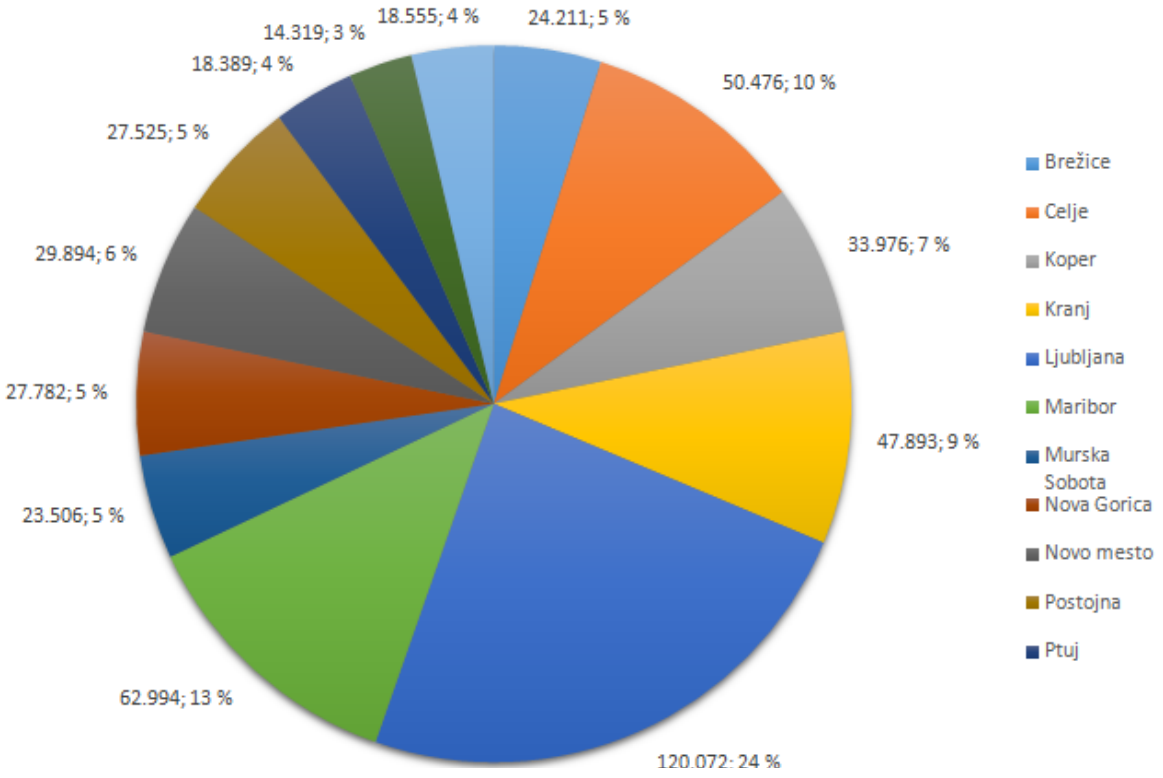
The majority of calls to the 112 emergency call number resulted in the activation of rescue units and emergency response operations. The main reason for the calls remained the same in 2018; people called

the number over 118,441 times because they needed emergency medical assistance. In such events, the operator in the RNC transferred the call to the nearest medical assistance centre. Information on the number of emergency medical assistance calls followed by an emergency response operation is kept at the emergency medical assistance centres, which also decide on the level of the emergency and the type of the emergency response operation required.

The ACPDR keeps data on the emergency response operations of all other rescue services. A closer look at the events reveals that 21,102 emergency response operations were due to accidents. The most emergency response operations took place in August (2413), followed by June (2041) and July (1948). The majority of emergency response operations were carried out by voluntary territorial fire brigades (11,878), professional firefighting units (7854), the Mountain Rescue Association of Slovenia (556), and the National Unit for Protection from UXO (477).

Information on the 112 emergency calls received by Regional Notification Centres in 2018

Regional Centre	Received Calls
Brežice	24,211
Celje	50,476
Koper	33,976
Kranj	47,893
Ljubljana	120,072
Maribor	62,994
Murska Sobota	23,506
Nova Gorica	27,782
Novo mesto	29,894
Postojna	27,525
Ptuj	18,389
Slovenj Gradec	14,319
Trbovlje	18,555
TOTAL	**499,592**



In 2018, 16,660 different incidents occurred in Slovenia (natural and other disasters, road traffic accidents, fires and explosions, pollution, accidents involving dangerous substances, radiological and other incidents, discovery of unexploded ordnance, supply disruptions, damage to buildings, and technical and other assistance). The PRR forces and other services responded to these incidents.

Incidents in 2018 (1st January 2018-31st December 2018)

Incident	Number of incidents
Natural disasters	1187
Other disasters	2669
Road traffic accidents	2594
Fires and explosions	3861
Pollution, accidents involving dangerous substances	739
Radiological and other incidents	25
Discovery of UXO, supply disruptions and damage to facilities	677
Technical and other assistance	4908
Total	**16,660**

Note: Data on emergency response operations in 2018 are based on the final reports of the National Notification Centre completed in the system for reporting on emergency response operations and disasters (SPIN) by 24th January 2019.

Through their timely and effective action and help to those affected, the PRR forces contributed to the mitigation of damage and other consequences caused by disasters and accidents.

Natural Disasters and Emergency Response Operations in 2018 (1st January 2018-31st December 2018)

Incidents	Number of emergency response operations	Number of participants	Number of injured people
Floods	1104	8710	2
Avalanches	59	380	0
Deep snow	147	919	0
Hail	16	131	0
Strong winds	519	3077	1
Lightning strikes	69	422	0
Disruptions of traffic due to natural phenomena	26	128	0
Total	**1940**	**13,767**	**3**

Note: Data on emergency response operations after natural disasters in 2018 are based on the final reports of the National Notification Centre completed in the system for reporting on emergency response operations and disasters (SPIN) by 24th January 2019.

2.2 Disaster Preparedness and Response

The preparedness and response of the system of protection against natural and other disasters are provided through the provision of conditions for the operation of the notification centres and public rescue services, other rescue services, organizations, commissions, CP units and headquarters, and other PRR forces.

2.2.1 Providing Conditions for the Operation of Protection, Rescue and Relief Forces

The ACPDR provides conditions for the operation of PRR forces on the basis of harmonized criteria for their organization, equipping and training, by financing various programmes, by conducting training courses, and by maintaining and purchasing assets and equipment.

All programmes for the co-funding of rescue services, associations and other organizations were implemented by concluding contracts and annexes to contracts for the co-funding of activities in the field of protection, rescue and relief. The funds ensured the operational preparedness of firefighting units of general importance, associations and other organizations, and rescue services and structures which operate on a voluntary basis. Funds were also provided for the modernization of protective and rescue equipment to ensure the coordinated development of firefighting units of voluntary fire brigades. A new concept for the detection of radiological, chemical and biological risk was developed, comprising eight regional CBRN reconnaissance units and one national CBRN decontamination unit with the support of contracted specialist units.

Purchases of materiel, equipment, and protective and rescue equipment for national units responding to natural and other disasters were carried out in accordance with the plan and the opportunities provided by the budget closure in September. The equipment and manning of protection, rescue and relief forces were provided for. The MoD continued to resupply the material resources and to maintain and supplement the national material reserves (NMRs).

2.2.2 Co-funding

The programmes for the co-funding of rescue services, associations and other organizations were implemented by concluding contracts and annexes to contracts for the co-funding of activities in the field of protection, rescue and relief in the amount of EUR 7,805,414. These funds ensured the operational preparedness of public rescue services (with the exception of operational firefighting units), firefighting units of general importance, associations and other organizations, and rescue services and structures which operate on a voluntary basis.

2.2.2.1 Co-Funding of Rescue Services, Associations and Other Organizations

The co-funding of PRR forces and other contractors in 2018 was provided through regular and additional programmes on the basis of the established criteria and the financial resources provided. The regular programme was implemented 100% and the additional programme 99.48%, which left unrealized funds in the amount of EUR 2840 for the co-funding of first aid teams of the Slovenian Red Cross.

The co-funding of services, associations, units and other organizations in the field of PRR provided for the availability, appropriate training level and equipment of PRR forces, and thus for the preparedness of the emergency response in the event of natural and other disasters. Co-funding provides for the modernization of protection and rescue equipment for the operation of units, their coordinated and harmonized development, and the operation and development of the system of protection against natural and other disasters – one of the three national security subsystems.

The annual plans for 2019 were harmonized, and current and investment transfers were reconciled. Annexes to the co-funding contracts for 2019 were signed with all the contracting entities, and advance

payment orders for 30% and 70% of funds were executed. Administrators participated in an internal audit of the regularity and risk management of the co-funding payments.

2.2.2.2 Programme for Co-Funding Firefighting Units of General Importance

The tasks of protection, rescue and relief of general importance, which include rescue after traffic, industrial and other accidents involving dangerous substances, rescue after accidents in long motorway and other road and railway tunnels, technical rescue tasks carried out after traffic accidents and accidents in still and moving water, and other protection, rescue and relief tasks of general importance, are carried out by 45 firefighting units of general importance (FUGI) and, since 2016 and 2017, seven additional firefighting units, FUGI 0, with which a contract was concluded for a period of two years for the performance of technical rescue tasks after traffic accidents. For the smooth conduct of activities of general importance, data on influence factors in operational areas (new tunnels) and dual activation areas of FUGI were updated and complemented, taking into account double-overlap areas. The plans for 2018 and reports on the utilization of funds for 2017 were evaluated. In addition, 54 annexes to contracts were prepared.

On the basis of contracts for the performance of operational tasks in the event of road tunnel accidents, concluded between the Motorway Company of the Republic of Slovenia (MCRS), the MoD, and individual professional firefighting units (Jesenice Fire and Rescue Service (GARS Jesenice), Domžale Protection, Rescue and Relief Centre (CZR Domžale), and Celje Professional FireFighting Unit (PGE Celje),

a total of EUR 65,500 was paid to co-finance the maintenance and restoration of personal protective equipment, insurance and transport costs for tunnel firefighters.

The programme for the co-funding of FUGI was fully implemented and amounted to EUR 2,953,421. Of that amount, EUR 152,044 was allocated to the amortization of eight special firefighting vehicles for tunnel rescue. The remainder of the funds was divided between units, in line with the criteria for the allocation of funds (ACPDR document, No. 8451-6/2018-1-DGZR of 24th January 2018).

2.2.2.3 Co-Funding of Firefighting Protection and Rescue Equipment

In 2018 the ACPDR continued with the modernization of protection and rescue equipment of firefighting units in voluntary fire brigades, and thus with the provision of the harmonious development of these units. A total of 699 applicants responded to the tender notice, published in the Official Gazette of the RS No. 17/18. A total of 673 co-funding contracts in the amount of EUR 1,700,000 were concluded.

Type of equipment	Requested	Approved	Rejected	Non-developed	Amount of Funds
Protective fire suit	1547	1521	4	346	202,552
Suit/two-part uniform type A	193	193	0	85	12,540
Suit B	183	158	0	40	4563
Fire safety helmet	1672	1664	0	369	54,153
Firefighter boots	1599	1570	0	351	35,806
Firefighter gloves	1787	1774	9	385	20,158
Self-contained breathing apparatus	109	91	0	22	23,226

Blower	20	13	0	1	1439
Collapsible backpack firefighting pump	110	110	0	21	3796
Fire safety belt	345	345	0	114	3415
Firefighter fatigue uniform type A	43	43	0	15	1720
Firefighter fatigue uniform type B	5070	4957	12	1485	137,070
Thermal camera	32	18	0	2	9563
Complete vehicle	52	50	0	11	528,150
Chassis	51	48	0	17	296,140
Upgrade	60	56	0	22	310,677
Motor fire pump	22	22	0	7	31,194
Submersible pump	51	29	2	2	5696
Generator	28	25	0	8	18,132

2.2.2.4 Co-funding of Important Anniversaries of Voluntary Fire Brigades

Based on the Criteria for the co-funding of important anniversaries of Voluntary Fire Brigades (ACPDR document, No. 8451-1/2015-1-DGZR of 26th March 2015), the ACPDR allocated dedicated funding in the amount of EUR 120,500 for significant anniversaries (110, 120, 130 and 140 years) to 31 voluntary fire brigades.

2.2.2.5 Co-funding the Harmonized Development of Territorial Firefighting Units

Based on the Criteria for Co-Funding the Harmonized Development of Territorial Firefighting Units (ACPDR document, No. 8451-1/2017-3-DGZR of 16th May 2017), the ACPDR allocated dedicated funding in the amount of EUR 72,700 to assist 37 eligible firefighting units.

2.2.3 Manning, Organization and Equipment of CP Units and Other PRR Forces

The programme of manning, organization and equipment of CP units and other PRR forces was carried out in accordance with the plan and opportunities (budget closure in September).

In 2018, CP members continued to be equipped with new CP work uniforms (additional 175 contract members, and members of CP regional units and headquarters). A usability survey was conducted in order to prepare a new tender for the purchase of CP work uniforms for the period 2019-2021.

The ACPDR completely renovated the personal equipment of members of the National Unit for Protection from UXO, and supplemented the equipment of members of other national CP units. The following investment documents were prepared: a pre-investment assessment for CP vehicles; an investment project identification document for CBRN Reconnaissance; and an investment project identification document for vehicles of the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief.

2.2.4 Contract on Service in Civil Protection

The ACPDR, as the founder, organizes CP units, services and bodies to carry out protection, rescue and relief tasks at the national and regional levels, and plans for the conclusion of contracts of service in Civil Protection with CP members and candidates.

Pursuant to Decision No. 833-16/2011-16-DGZR of 4th October 2016 on the designation of units, services and bodies at the national and regional levels, which are primarily manned by CP contract members, contracts on service in Civil Protection were primarily concluded for the manning of the unit for search and rescue in urban environments, the notification centres, logistics, and the psychological assistance unit.

In 2018, 34 new contracts and 10 annexes to contracts were concluded, 1 contract was terminated, and 2 contracts expired and were not renewed. There are 174 contract CP members in the Civil Protection of the Republic of Slovenia.

2.2.5 Protection, Rescue and Relief Forces

In 2018, as many as 22,726 structures of the protection, rescue and relief forces were activated in the RS, which is a total of 141,163 members of different units, services and structures.

Overview of the Number of Emergency Response Operations of PRR Forces in 2018 (1st January 2018-31st December 2018)

Type of unit	Number of activations	Number of participants
Rescue dog units	130	573
Mountain rescue service	729	4540
Cave rescue service	19	76
Voluntary territorial fire brigades	13,748	98,559
Professional firefighting units	8007	37,047
Voluntary industrial fire brigades	76	300
Underwater rescue service	17	68
Total	**22,726**	**141,163**

Note: Data on the participation of PRR forces in emergency response operations in 2018 are based on the first reports of regional notification centres completed in the system for reporting on emergency response operations and disasters (SPIN) by 24th January 2019.

2.2.6 Protection from Unexploded Ordnance

Protection from UXO is organized as a single measure throughout Slovenia, and comprises the detection, identification, disposal, transportation, storage, and destruction of UXO, and the training of members of the National Unit for Protection from UXO.

In 2018, the National Unit for Protection from UXO carried out 477 emergency responses (1.31 a day), in which members and volunteers of Civil Protection disposed of 3777 pieces of various UXO (10.35 pieces a day) with a total weight of 8146.64 kg (22.32 kg a day). Due to the poor condition of the UXO, destruction was carried out at the site of the find in 74 cases; there were 74 emergency transports of explosives and initial assets, 2 scheduled transports – periodic destruction, 10 transports of explosive ordnance from the Mačkovec warehouse to the ACPDR emergency warehouse in Sostro, and 8 inspections of terrain for the purpose of construction work. Two inspections of terrain were carried out at the prior request of the owner or investor because of suspected UXO in the area, in addition to emergency response operations, periodic and emergency destruction of UXO, transports and inspections of terrain. The value of the services was EUR 26,802.

A new procedural plan for work in the field of protection from unexploded ordnance was prepared and implemented for daily use. Three supplementary training courses for members of the National Unit for Protection from UXO and training for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) were carried out. The following equipment was purchased and introduced: 10 UXO vehicles, 1 CEIA GPS detector, personal protective equipment of members – protective clothing and footwear (31 sets), personal protection means, and other supplies for the operation of the National Unit for Protection from UXO. An inspection of site 208 was carried out together with construction service providers in the event of the destruction of UXO, and a contractor for 2019-2021 was selected. Documentation for the publication of the tender for the purchase of explosive ordnance for 2019-2021 was prepared. Members of the National Unit for Protection from UXO attended the annual conferences of Protocols II, IV and V in Geneva and the Symposium for Bomb Technicians and Investigators in Magdeburg, where the action in the Slovenian town of Vurberk was presented.

In 2018, EUR 536,338 was spent on the implementation of operational measures in protection from UXO. Thirty-one members of the National Unit for Protection from UXO carried out measures for the protection from UXO.

2.2.7 National Material Reserves for the Event of Natural and Other Disasters

The Programme for the Formation of National Material Reserves (NMRs) for Protection, Rescue and Relief for 2018-2022 was prepared, identifying sources of threat and mitigation resources. In addition, a financial plan was prepared for financing the establishment of the NMRs, and the manner in which the NMRs are stored, maintained and used. The annex to the Programme is a medium-term plan for the formation of national reserves, which was the basis for the implementation of public procurement procedures and purchases.

The NMRs Investment Programme was prepared based on the Programme for the Formation of National Material Reserves for Protection, Rescue and Relief for 2018-2022, which provides for materiel and equipment from the state reserves to help affected people and the population at risk after natural and other disasters, as well as personal and collective equipment for the operation of the protection, rescue and relief forces.

The Investment Programme includes a set of different options for the provision of material resources. The annex to the document includes technical specifications that define the guidelines. When preparing the document, different options were considered based on the needs, trends in natural and other disasters, end-user opinions, experience and expertise.

The planned maintenance and purchase of the national material reserves and equipment of the protection, rescue and relief units were realized at 70%, based on the available financial resources. A total of 69 procurement proposals were prepared for the maintenance, repair and purchase of national material reserves and equipment of national units. Forty-one proposals were implemented, 20 proposals were reversed because public procurement procedures were not carried out, and 8 procurement proposals were not implemented, either because the public procurement procedure was not carried out or because a bidder was not selected. The public procurement contract for the purchase of field beds was not carried out due to inadequate tenders, and will be repeated in 2019.

Public procurements were carried out for maintenance (of working vehicles, generators, chemical and biological detectors, chainsaws, pumps, remote triggers, diving equipment, a decontamination station, and a boat) and purchases (of first aid backpacks, spare first aid kits, laptops and tablets, gloves, protective suits, the MACSIM Simulation System, field rations, protective headphones, the intake system for cleaning the coast, shoes, boots, protective work clothing and footwear, firefighting sets, Civil Protection work uniforms, protective sprays, medicines, the BX-24, explosives, cloth rank insignia, diving equipment, medical oxygen, an aluminum rescue boat, a working vehicle, a camera, a Medium Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) container, an outboard motor, all-terrain vehicles, topographic maps, chemical detectors with biological readers, aluminium warning signs, light MUSAR clothing, a GPS interface, and Tactical Recovery Equipment (TRE)).

2.3 Harmonized Development and Equipping of Firefighting Units

The level of preparedness and equipment of firefighting units in local communities improved in line with expectations in relation to 2017, through the co-financing of firefighting rescue and protection equipment, anniversaries, and the coordinated development of territorial firefighting units. In addition to programmes financed from the budget of the ACPDR which were fully implemented, Slovenia allocated funds from the fire tax for the harmonized development and equipping of firefighting units.

2.3.1 Fire Tax

The Fire Protection Fund assets ensure better fire safety. In 2018, the fire tax inflow, together with the carryover from the previous year, was EUR 9,712,281. The share of the fire tax funds for local communities, in the amount of 70%, was determined by the decision of the Government of the RS. It was implemented 100% and amounted to EUR 5,948,116. In accordance with the plan for spending the fire tax funds inflow, adopted by the Committee for the Management of the Fire Protection Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Committee), and based on the decision of the Government of the RS, 30% of the fire tax revenue, EUR 2,503,228, was allocated to tasks of general importance: co-financing of equipment; training and operation of the operational firefighting units of general importance; co-financing of the operation and equipment of firefighting units; co-financing of research into fire protection; and education and training for fire protection. The equipping of firefighting units was upgraded and improved through the purchase and distribution of resources and equipment. Part of the assets were also dedicated to protection, rescue and relief in fire protection, which is carried out by the Firefighting Association of Slovenia, to provide and care for further development, education and training of the voluntary firefighting units in Slovenia.

In 2018, 88% of the Fire Protection Fund Annual Plan was completed, to the amount of EUR 8,510,717. As an administrative support to the Committee, the ACPDR paid particular attention to the preparation and implementation of the technical specifications of the necessary equipment intended for purchases through the public procurement system, and carried out a public call for co-financing the purchase of firefighting vehicles and for co-financing the training and education of operational firefighters. The tasks that were not carried out included the purchase of a firefighting vehicle for dangerous substances, a simulator for rescue from heights and depths, a shipping container, and the continuation of procedures for the construction of Fire House 3.

The means of communication for 2018 were paid in 2017 and taken over at the beginning of 2018, and a new contract for the next three years was signed for pagers and radios, after a successful revision. The tender for firefighting vehicle ladders was completed and the local communities of Maribor and Slovenj Gradec were selected as recipients. The payment of contractual amounts was postponed to 2019 in order to comply with the provisions of the Implementation of the Republic of Slovenia's Budget for 2018 and 2019 Act (ZIPRS18-19). The public procurement procedure for helicopter equipment was not carried out, and nor was the procurement proposal for a firefighting vehicle, Fire House 3, and equipment for the Firefighting School.

Annex 5 (training) was implemented, while the funds for Annex 6 (November-December) were transferred to 2019, as were the funds for the firefighting training range, which has not yet been finished, and for the Fire Olympics. The training range in Radlje ob Dravi was constructed and put into use.

The research and development project "Firefighter Permanent Education and Training and the Physical and Mental Test" was not completed due to the revision of the investment programme (extension at the proposal of the contractor) and the payment funds for the last phase of the project were transferred to 2019. An investment project identification document for the research and development project SOS and Calculations in Firefighting is being prepared.

Forty-five chemical detectors with biological readers of good quality were delivered and received (30 detectors were paid through the Fire Protection Fund). Their distribution to the ACPDR and FUGI was planned for January 2019, and training for users (FUGI) for February 2019.

The final fire tax payments were made in the last days of December. In 2018, the entire fire tax was paid to local communities, which amounted to at least 70% of the total fire tax inflow per year. A new application is ready for use and has been accessible to all users, i.e. local communities, since 1st January 2019. In December 2018, local communities were briefed on the operation and use of the new application through two presentations held in Ig and Pekre.

2.4 Disaster Response

A severe storm with hail and floods hit the Dolenjska, Pomurska, Podravska, Zahodnoštajerska and Zasavska regions on 8th June 2018. In addition to residential buildings, the storm affected commercial and industrial facilities, public institutions, and cultural heritage. There are 4738 different structures in the area of approximately 60 km² which was affected by the hailstorm.

According to the collected data, 3069 firefighters from the local firefighting associations and from the Posavska, Ljubljanska, Gorenjska, Savinjsko-Šaleška, Notranjska, Zasavska, Celjska and Dolenjska regions, 305 members of the Civil Protection, the Red Cross and other organizations and services, 212 members of the Slovenian Armed Forces, and 100 firefighters from the Republic of Croatia participated in disaster relief. A total of 3686 people participated in mitigating the consequences.

At its 260th Correspondence Session on 18th July 2018, under Item 2, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted Decision No. 84400-4/2018/8 to provide funds from the budget reserve in the amount of EUR 412,659.36 to cover the intervention costs of the Municipality of Črnomelj, the Firefighting Association of Slovenia, the Novo mesto Fire and Rescue Centre, and the ACPDR (to complete the NMRs).

2.5 Damage Assessment

Post-disaster damage assessment committees are manned, equipped and trained in damage assessment. Ensuring the manning level, equipment and competence of the committee members continued as planned in 2018. Four training courses were conducted, focusing on newly appointed members. The realization was 70% due to the various objective reasons of the invitees who did not attend the consultations.

In this context, the appropriate roles and rights for the use of the damage assessment application were provided. Upgrading and manning of the municipal damage assessment committees were ensured. The following damage was assessed:

- Damage resulting from the consequences of the storm with floods between 4th and 6th May 2018 in the Koroška, Podravska, Pomurska and Vzhodnoštajerska regions, which caused damage in 40 municipalities in the amount of EUR 6,005,405;
- Damage to property resulting from the consequences of the severe storm with floods and hail of 8th June 2018 in the Dolenjska and Zahodnoštajerska regions, Podravje and Pomurje, in 40 municipalities in the amount of EUR 13,319,664;
- Damage to property resulting from the consequences of the storm with wind, rain and floods of 13th July 2018 in three municipalities of the Ljubljana region and one municipality in Zasavje, in the amount of EUR 4,472,810;

– Damage to property resulting from the consequences of the storm with strong wind and floods of 29th and 30th October 2018 in the Gorenjska, Koroška, Ljubljanska, Notranjska, Obalna, Podravska, Severnoprimorska, Vzhodnoštajerska and Zahodnoštajerska regions; the total damage in 71 municipalities amounted to EUR 49,808,388.

3 PROVISION OF SUPPORT FUNCTIONS TO THE SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

The ACPDR, through its personnel, financial and legal functions, and through logistics and information support, supports the administration, the preventive and operational pillars, and the protection, rescue and relief forces.

3.1 Provision of Personnel, Financial and Legal Functions for the Operation of the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters

On 31st December 2018, the ACPDR employed 327 people, not counting three temporary employees for projects and one self-funded post, as well as five staffing procedures to be completed in 2019 (two official posts and three professional and technical posts). In 2018, 14 people left the ACPDR and 23 were hired. Continuous functioning of the system of protection against natural and other disasters was ensured in 2018, despite a personnel shortage primarily in the notification centres, which must operate continuously 24/7 as well as in other areas, due to the increased number of tasks.

In order to ensure the implementation of the regular and new tasks resulting from the new EU Civil Protection Mechanism (risk assessments, risk management plans, voluntary set of forces), new international projects, migrant issues, and the increased number of Civil Protection interventions, the number of work posts in the ACPDR Personnel Plan should be increased to 347, and all vacancies should be filled to bring the total personnel up to 347.

The approved budget for 2018 was EUR 39,543,525, and the established budget on 31st December 2018 was EUR 42,497,180. The realization of the budget on 31st December 2018 was EUR 38,067,208, or 89.64%.

In 2018, the total number of overtime hours approved was 6786, which is 52% fewer approved and paid overtime hours than in 2017.

3.2 Provision and Development of Protection and Rescue CIS and IT Services

A public procurement contract was completed for the purchase of pagers and radios through framework agreements. New maintenance contracts were concluded for the ZARE and Paging systems, the computer network, the web portal, computer equipment, UPS devices, and generators. In 2018, the ACPDR continued to update its computer equipment for the operation of the system of protection against natural and other disasters. Several new pieces of IT equipment, such as desktops, laptops, monitors and a server were bought. The old virtualization server environment was replaced, and the computer library was expanded. The computers in the RNCs were unified. Twelve Android tablets were purchased to test the eSPIN application, which enables the protection, rescue and relief units to monitor input data, identify locations, and monitor the route to the site of an incident by communicating data on the emergency response and the time frames of individual activities. The software upgrades of services which were planned for 2018 were completed. The most important was the establishment of the ACPDR pool and the upgrade of the SPIN system.

Contracts were not concluded for the maintenance of the microwave link to Ig, the maintenance of radios and pagers, and the maintenance of air conditioners.

Documentation for tenders for the purchase and installation of the SIP switchboard with dispatch terminals for the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Ig was published on the public procurement portal. The public procurement procedure has not yet been completed. Based on the review of technical solutions for 112 return calls across the EU countries, a proposal for a technical solution in Slovenia was prepared.

3.3 Provision of Logistics Support to the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters and Real Estate Management

The entity responsible for logistics support to PRR forces is the National Logistics Centre as the central capability, complemented by 13 Regional Logistics Centres forming a territorial component. Logistics support organized in this way and including maintenance, servicing and conditioning ensures high availability of resources and equipment for protection, rescue and relief. This enables efficient operation throughout the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, and acceptable response times for issuing and delivering rescue and protective equipment and resources to every part of the country.

3.3.1 Provision of Logistics Support

It was difficult to provide the required availability and responsiveness of the logistics centres and the availability of special rescue equipment due to insufficient human resources. Despite the insufficient personnel, the objective was still achieved by placing an increased and additional burden on logistics support providers. This, however, if continued, could lead to burnout, increased sick leave and, consequently, the loss of some or all of the logistics support. As many as 5 of the 13 Regional Logistics Centres have unfilled posts; of the 16 planned posts, only 9 are filled.

The planned purchases and maintenance were carried out. As part of the maintenance plan, maintenance work was carried out on materiel and equipment in individual areas. Maintenance of the vehicle fleet was carried out according to the stated needs. No major failures were detected. Regular maintenance and supplementation of the national material reserves (NMRs) were carried out in accordance with the plan and in line with the use of individual resources.

3.3.2 Real Estate Management

As part of the maintenance plan, maintenance work was carried out on materiel and equipment in individual areas. Regular maintenance of business premises and emergency maintenance work in four RNCs, the Roje National Logistics Centre, and two Regional Logistics Centres were carried out on the basis of concluded contracts for the maintenance of facilities. The roofs of two ACPDR facilities were urgently repaired, and the rehabilitation of the pool at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief was begun. Due to low temperatures, the rehabilitation of the Training Centre's training pool was postponed to the first quarter of 2019, at the proposal of the supervisor. Several smaller unforeseen works were carried out on the ACPDR facilities due to deterioration (water intrusion in business premises, rehabilitation of the furnace in the boiler room, and replacement of electric lighting).

The rehabilitation and adaptation of sanitary facilities and part of the lobby were also carried out. The installation of new air conditioners was completed in the main building and in the residential building.

3.4 Development of the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters and the Implementation of Projects

At the end of 2018, the ACPDR registered 18 projects under implementation, while several major projects are still under preparation. The project portfolio includes projects from the national programme of protection against natural and other disasters, research and development projects financed from the integral budget of the ACPDR, and EU projects.

Major projects that are being carried out:

- Increasing the operational capability of units for pumping large quantities of water. The aim of the project is to organize, equip and train regional water pumping units, and to design an EU module for pumping large quantities of water in line with international standards;
- Research and development projects: a) MASPREM (early warning of the risk of landslides during heavy rainfall), b) POTROG (assessment of the seismic vulnerability of facilities, an application for citizens, and assessment of the seismic risk to the population), and c) the development of a comprehensive model of disaster response management at all levels in protection, rescue and relief in the Republic of Slovenia;
- EU Projects.

Among the EU projects that are being implemented, the projects encompassing the following should be highlighted:

- Training;
- Exercises;
- Increase in operational capabilities;
- Upgrade and development of IT services;
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

Of the EU training projects in 2018, the majority of activities were devoted to the preparation and implementation of Modules Basic Courses (MBC) and Technical Expert Courses (TEC), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) courses, and Environmental and Emergency Training (EET). In the context of the EU Exercise Projects, the exercises Neiflex and Adriatic, and modules staff exercises for Technical Assistance Support Teams (TAST) and European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) were carried out, and the preparations for the EU Exercise #SIQUAKE 2020 were begun. The following were carried out in the context of EU projects aimed at enhancing the operational capability of the protection and rescue system: capabilities were developed for seismic risk assessment; measures were implemented for the support of buildings after earthquakes (the MATILDA project); units of the Cave Rescue Service were developed for operation in international emergency response operations (the SI Cave SAR project); operational procedures and guidelines were prepared for responding to the consequences of heavy rainfall and torrents (the TAFF project); flood warning and notification (FRISCO) was improved; and people were informed of and acquainted with flood response measures. In the context of EU projects for the upgrade and development of IT services, activities were continued for the upgrade and development of modern information solutions to manage and monitor emergency response operations (the ALPDIRIS project), and the introduction of the new in-vehicle eCall service (I HeERO) was completed. In the framework of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and

the IPA FLOODS project, activities were undertaken to increase flood preparedness in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Turkey. As part of the IPA DRAM project, activities were carried out to develop a programme for disaster risk assessment and mapping in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, and Turkey.

Financial resources for the EU projects implemented by the ACPDR in 2018:

- Resources of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
- European structural and investment funds;
- The Connecting Europe Facility project for the period 2014-2020;
- EU external assistance funds such as the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

In 2018, the ACPDR successfully applied to calls for proposals in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, and launched the following projects: the EU Exercise Project – Earthquake in Central Slovenia #SIQUAKE2020; the TAFF project – preparation of operational procedures and guidelines for responding to the consequences of heavy rainfall and torrents; and the Staff Exercise project for Civil Protection Modules, for Technical Assistance Support Teams (TAST), and European Union Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT).

The ACPDR regularly monitored the implementation of other projects in protection against natural and other disasters. In 2018, eight letters of support were issued for various EU projects by other contractors. ACPDR representatives participated in a number of activities under the Alpine, Danube and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional strategies, the National Committee for Transnational Programmes, the Interreg Europe and Interact 2014-2020, the Monitoring Committee of the European Cohesion Policy Operational Programme 2014-2020, and other activities for the integration of protection against natural and other disasters into the programming documents and topics that will shape the next financial perspective beyond 2020.

In addition, the ACPDR assisted other contractors and promoters of projects in the field of protection against natural and other disasters.

Eighty members of project teams, mostly employed by the ACPDR, were involved in the implementation of all the identified projects.

4 INSPECTION ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL AND OTHER DISASTERS

The Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters (IRSPANOD) carries out inspections of the implementation of regulations in fire protection, firefighting, protection against natural and other disasters, and protection against drowning. In compliance with the Minor Offences Act, the IRSPANOD also performs the function of a minor offence authority in these areas. The IRSPANOD inspectors participate in emergency response operations during natural and other disasters, and in investigations into the causes of fires. As evaluators, they participate in national and regional emergency response exercises and in NATO and EU crisis management exercises. They actively participate in the Inspection Board and in regional coordination.

In 2018, inspectors for protection against natural and other disasters carried out 4354 inspections. In fire protection, inspections were carried out in buildings with large numbers of people, and in facilities where activities are carried out that may endanger workers and nearby residents. Inspections were conducted during the construction of buildings, based on the filed reports. Inspectors participated in joint actions of different inspection bodies at the level of regional coordination and of the Inspection Board. Planned inspections of fire protection were carried out in SAF facilities, for example in explosive ordnance depots. In addition, inspectors participated in firefighting emergency response operations and in determining the causes of fire. Firefighting units were supervised to ensure their members had completed medical examinations and carried the prescribed personal protective equipment.

In protection against drowning, inspections of swimming pools, equipment lenders and water activity organizers were carried out. Special attention was paid to the organizers of rafting and canyoning.

In protection and rescue, inspections were carried out of companies representing a major source of environmental risk, as well as inspections of unexploded ordnance storage sites. In addition, inspections were carried out in municipalities, ministries, primary schools and organizations with concluded contracts with the ACPDR.

The IRSPANOD carried out planned, regular inspection controls in all areas under its surveillance, in accordance with the work programme. Seventy operators of plants with environmental permits were inspected in 2018.

Based on the Minor Offences Act, the IRSPANOD carried out 3968 inspections and issued 34 payment orders. It introduced 10 procedures for the issuing of offence decisions and issued 3924 offence warnings.

In 2018, the Inspectorate assessed three exercises related to protection and rescue. Inspectors for Protection against Natural and Other Disasters, together with other competent inspectors and experts from health care, firefighting, and the Police, evaluated the following exercises of regional importance: Earthquake – Zahodna Štajerska 2018; the Southern Railway Accident in Šentjur – Railway 2018; and Ljubelj Tunnel 2018.

Due to the lack of inspectors in specific areas of the country, and in order to ensure an even range of inspections in Slovenia (which, within the competence of the IRSPANOD, provides a uniform standard of safety for the citizens of Slovenia in the field of protection against natural and other disasters), 2018 saw

the continued implementation of the concept of provision of uniform criteria to perform inspections in Slovenia. The work of the IRSPANOD continued to be adapted in administrative operations, where the ACPDR and the Defence Affairs Directorate signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Performance of Tasks in Administrative Operations and Maintenance of Materiel and Equipment in 2013. According to this Agreement, employees of the organizational units of the signatories carry out tasks related to joint administrative operations.

DEFENCE SYSTEM AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

1 DEFENCE POLICY AND PLANNING

1.1 Preparation of Strategic and Planning Documents

In 2018 the reform of strategic and of development and guidance documents continued.

Following the decisions of the Government of the RS and the Secretariat of the National Security Council, a review and revision of the Resolution on the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia began at the national level. Based on the review results of the current Resolution on the National Security Strategy, the Ministry of Defence submitted proposals for its revision, introducing a current assessment of the security trends, risks and threats, and their consequences in the security environment. New conceptual and strategic guidelines from the European Union and NATO were included in the common and collective defence and security.

Preparation of the White Paper on Defence began in 2018; the Paper, based on the important findings of the Strategic Defence Review and with due regard to the principles of the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces up to 2025, will comprehensively, objectively and credibly present the vision of development and identify specific key development goals in the field of defence up to 2030. In addition to the most important achievements and the contribution to national, regional and global security, defence and stability, the document will also define the long-term development goals, the necessary defence resources for their realization, and a vision for the future development of Slovenia's defence system and its defence capabilities. The White Paper on Defence is a strategic and operational document that is more specific in terms of content than the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces up to 2025 (ReSDPROSV25) and covers a longer period of time than the current Medium-Term Defence Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2018-2023 (SOPR 2018-2023). Above all, it gives specific answers to the most important development and structural dilemmas facing the defence system today. The White Paper goes beyond and fills the development and conceptual gaps resulting from the changes in the security environment, the new technological trends, and demographic trends in Slovenia and abroad. The findings and recommendations of the White Paper on Defence will provide the necessary expert basis for supplementing and upgrading the current ReSDPROSV25, and for preparing the Resolution on the General Long-Term Development and Equipping Programme of the Slovenian Armed Forces up to 2030 (ReSDPROSV30) and the new Medium-Term Defence Programme of the Republic of Slovenia (SOPR).

The proposal for the Medium-Term Defence Programme 2018-2023, prepared by the Ministry of Defence in 2017, was adopted by the Government of the RS in April 2018. The MoD prepared mandatory guidelines for the Programme's implementation, which include the implementation plans for the medium term: the Defence Capability Development Plan; the Plan for the Realization of NATO Capability Targets for 2017 for the Republic of Slovenia; the Financial and Personnel Resource Plan; the Procurement and Investment Plan; the Infrastructure Construction Plan; the Research and Development Plan; and the Plan for Participation in International Operations and Missions.

In 2018, the regular cycle of the NATO Defence Planning Capability Survey 2017 came to an end. Based on the findings of the bilateral talks between the representatives of NATO and the RS in January 2018 in Ljubljana, a multilateral review of the draft assessment for Slovenia followed in April 2018, at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels. A multilateral review, involving representatives of all the NATO member states, assessed each member state's assessment proposal following the principle of "consensus minus one", according to which the member state in question clarified its views but could not vote on the NATO assessment proposal that was endorsed by all the other member states. The NATO Defence Planning Capability Survey 2017 formally ended in June 2018 at the meeting of the NATO Ministers of Defence, at which the Ministers endorsed assessments of each member state's defence capabilities and of the Alliance as a whole.

1.2 NATO

The Alliance continued to intensively adapt to the changing security conditions by updating and enhancing its capabilities to respond to any threats and challenges from any direction. It was emphasized that an increase in defence spending was an essential condition for the development of the necessary capabilities, in accordance with the Wales Defence Spending Commitment adopted in 2014.

The focus was on the preparation of the July meeting of the NATO Heads of State and Government in Brussels, and on the implementation of its conclusions. The decisions made at the July Summit helped the Alliance to move to the final stage of aligning its allied posture. This concerns decisions related to reinforcing the preparedness of forces; to increasing the responsiveness in political decision-making; to providing further reinforcement, operational support, maritime security, and cyber defence; to ensuring preparedness to face the challenges coming from the south; and to adapting the NATO Command Structure. Member states are committed to further implementing the adopted decisions in a spirit of unity, solidarity and commitment. The leaders reaffirmed the Wales Commitment, recognizing that in the future it will become even more important that the commitments made on defence spending be fully realized, preferably before the end of 2024. Awareness was strengthened of the key importance of full implementation of the Wales Commitment for the unity and solidarity of the Alliance.

Slovenia was active in shaping the Alliance's efforts to stabilize the situation in the south, since the events in this area have direct security implications on the Western Balkans and, consequently, Slovenia's security. Accordingly, an officer was seconded to NATO's Regional Command South in Naples earlier in 2018.

Slovenia continued its active support to the Alliance's open door policy and underlined the need for a clear Euro-Atlantic perspective for the Western Balkan countries. The name agreement between Greece and Macedonia made it possible to begin the process of Macedonia's accession to NATO under the name North Macedonia. Slovenia supported the efforts of North Macedonia by sharing its experience of the accession process, through public diplomacy events, and through the defence advisor at the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, which is led by a Slovenian officer.

As part of NATO's Framework Nation Concept for Capability Development, Slovenia joined the German-led group in July and hosted an Italian-led group meeting in September.

1.3 EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

In 2018, the Ministry of Defence was active in the process of further strengthening the EU in the field of security and defence. This was also highlighted by the representatives of Bulgaria and Austria, which chaired the EU Council in 2018. The guiding principle of the EU's joint defence and security action was the implementation of the EU's Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy (2016), the European Commission's Defence Action Plan, and the EU-NATO Joint Declaration (2016). Emphasis was placed on ensuring coherence between the various defence initiatives (the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the Capability Development Plan (CDP), the European Defence Fund (EDF), and the upgrade of the institutional framework for planning and conducting non-executive military CSDP missions (Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC)).

As part of PESCO, Slovenia prepared an update of the National Implementation Plan for meeting the PESCO criteria and commitments, which define the report on the fulfillment of Slovenia's commitments under PESCO for 2018 and the planned commitments up to 2025. Slovenia decided to participate in three PESCO projects: Military Mobility; Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations; and CBRN Surveillance as a Service (CBRN SaaS).

Slovenia was actively involved in the creation of the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP), which is an EU capability development tool that, together with the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), is equivalent to NATO's Defence Planning Process (NDPP). The CDP identifies eleven priority areas that underpin the member states' collaborative projects (currently on a voluntary basis) to achieve the level of the EU's defence ambitions.

In the context of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), the European Commission established the European Defence Fund (EDF), which was aimed at achieving a more efficient use of resources for joint defence capabilities, and enhancing the safety of citizens.

Slovenia was also involved in the debate on the European Peace Facility (EPF). Slovenia seeks to reach an agreement which will further strengthen its partners and allow the EU's defence and military activities and other related tasks to be carried out more effectively. At the same time, the agreement should ensure the appropriate transparency, effectiveness and role of member states and the Common Foreign and Security Policy institutions in its use and management.

Slovenia participated in numerous projects within the European Defence Agency (EDA). In 2018, the MoD actively participated in the form of points of contact and directors in the areas of defence policy, capabilities, weapons, and research and technology.

In the context of EU-NATO cooperation, Slovenia advocated the principle of a unified pool of forces and capability development, while respecting the principle of complementarity with NATO. Slovenia places great importance on coordination in countering cyber and hybrid threats, and on active participation in the development of military mobility. Cooperation in the area of military mobility is a specific example of the mutual benefit of joint efforts of the EU and NATO.

The MoD began preparations for Slovenia's Presidency of the EU Council, which it will hold in the second half of 2021, in terms of personnel and financial plans, event definitions and indicative programme

frameworks, which will be coordinated in the context of the 18-month trio presidency with Germany and Portugal.

1.4 Bi- and Multilateral Events and Defence Diplomacy

The strategic interest of Slovenia remains in the Western Balkans, as well as in cooperation with its neighbouring and partner countries. This is reflected in the events held and in the intensive cooperation with individual strategic partners. In order to pursue strategic interests, in the area of bilateral cooperation in 2018 attention was paid to supporting the MoD's leadership at bilateral meetings with Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the USA, North Macedonia, Croatia, Hungary and Ukraine, as well as through multilateral cooperation (CEDC, CHILDREN/MLF, A-5, BMTF, OSCE, SEDM).

Minister Andreja Katič met with the Minister of Defence of Montenegro, and they agreed on the further strengthening of cooperation in the field of defence and the military, the continuation of Slovenia's assistance to Montenegro in the area of defence reforms, and the continuation of assistance to Montenegro in the form of sharing Slovenia's experience of NATO membership. The two Ministers signed an agreement on military and technical cooperation.

On the sidelines of the visit of Slovenian members to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Minister Katič met with the BiH Minister of Defence, Marina Pendeš, discussing in particular the strengthening of bilateral cooperation, and exchanging views on the security situation in the region.

On a visit to the US, Minister Katič met with the US Secretary of Defence, James Mattis, at the Pentagon to discuss the continuation of a large-scale bilateral cooperation and to exchange views on security challenges.

In Ukraine, Minister Katič met with Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Anatolii Petrenko, to exchange information on the activities of both countries in the field of defence, and to agree on closer cooperation.

Minister Katič responded to the invitation of the Minister of Defence of North Macedonia, Radmila Šekerinska, speaking primarily of Slovenia's support of North Macedonia in the process of its accession to NATO. The main purpose of the visit was to express support to the agreement between North Macedonia and Greece on the name change, which opened the door for Macedonia to become a NATO member. The two Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Use of Military Training Areas in North Macedonia and Slovenia.

After taking office as Minister of Defence, Minister Karl Erjavec hosted the Croatian Minister, Damir Krstičević, in Slovenia, discussing the continuation of successful and extensive cooperation in the fields of defence and the military, and the continuation of joint efforts for peace and stability in the region and participation in joint projects.

Minister Erjavec responded to the invitation of the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Tibor Benko. They discussed, in particular, the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and cooperation in regional projects.

Within the framework of multilateral cooperation, representatives of the MoD regularly participated in the events of multilateral initiatives, at which they represented Slovenian positions and held several

bilateral meetings on the sidelines. Minister Katič attended a meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the Central European Defence Cooperation (CEDC) Initiative, and an extraordinary meeting of the A-5 Ministers of Defence; State Secretary Klemen Grošelj attended the regular annual meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Initiative; and State Secretary Miloš Bizjak attended the regular annual meeting of the A-5 Ministers of Defence.

An important part of bilateral cooperation was the work of Slovenian defence attachés, advisers and representatives. The scope of the defence and diplomatic network remained the same as in previous years (eight resident and two roving attachés, two defence representatives at the OSCE and the UN, and one defence counsellor in Montenegro). The defence and diplomatic corps, accredited in Slovenia, remained the same as in 2017. The defence attachés accredited in Slovenia regularly attend several annual meetings, in order to be informed of the activities and developments in the field of defence. Slovenian defence industry companies are also involved in the activities.

1.5 International Operations and Missions

The MoD was actively involved in the national decision-making processes on participation in International Operations and Missions (IOM) and in monitoring and assessing the operational activities of individual international organizations. At the highest decision-making level of the MoD, the Coordination Group for IOM continued with the practice of regular consultations and coordination activities with regard to the participation of defence capabilities in IOM. At the beginning of 2018, new directives for the planning of Slovenia's cooperation in IOM in the following two-year period were prepared and then supplemented during the year. In line with the IOM Strategy, the MoD participated in the preparation of the regular annual report of the RS Government to the National Assembly on Slovenia's participation in IOM. In 2018, the Government of the RS adopted a decision on Slovenia's participation in and contribution to IOM (financial contribution to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund (ANA TF)), the preparation of which was the responsibility of the MoD. The Minister of Defence visited members of the Slovenian contingents in the EUFOR ALTHEA Operation/NHQ Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in January) and members of the Slovenian contingents in the KFOR Operation in Kosovo (in December). Inter-ministerial coordination and the exchange of information and viewpoints on Slovenia's participation in IOM took place at different levels and on a regular basis.

1.6 Provision and Implementation of the Unified Operation of the NATO Registry System in Slovenia

In 2018, the Central NATO Registry and the EU Sub-Registry successfully coordinated the work and ensured the operation of the NATO Registry System in Slovenia, the NATO sub-registries, and the EU sub-registry at the MoD. All conditions for the receipt, traceability, sending and destruction of classified and official NATO and EU data were fulfilled in due time and in full. The transport and transfer of NATO and EU classified and official data in Slovenia and abroad for the needs of the MoD and other ministries and public authorities in Slovenia were carried out successfully. The Central Registry, in cooperation with the national security authority, provided and upgraded the conditions for compliance with the security principles and standards which Slovenia, as a NATO member state, must satisfy in order to ensure a unified level of protection for the data exchanged between the member states.

2 SLOVENIA'S CRISIS PREPARATIONS AND RESPONSE MEASURES

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of Article 20 of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia Act (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 55/2017), the Government of the RS adopted a new Ordinance on the National Security Council (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 17/2018) in the first half of 2018 and the Decree on Crisis Management and Governance and on the National Crisis Management Centre (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 28/2018), which replaced the previous Decree on the Organization and Operation of the National Crisis Management Centre. The Ordinance on the National Security Council defines the structure, responsibilities and peacetime tasks of the National Security Council (NSC), the Secretariat of the NSC (SNSC), and the SNSC's operational group. Administrative and technical support for their operation is provided by the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) in accordance with Article 12.

The Decree on Crisis Management and Governance and on the National Crisis Management Centre, in addition to the NSC's and SNSC's tasks during a complex crisis, regulates in detail the tasks and functioning of the NCMC, and the structure, operation and tasks of the inter-ministerial analytical group as one of the crisis management bodies.

In accordance with the Decree on Defence Planning (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 51/13), the MoD continued the activities and tasks of the manager of the National Defence Plan. In this context it prepared the necessary bases and guidelines for the providers of defence planning and crisis response in Slovenia. In accordance with the annual programme of professional guidance and coordination with the defence planning entities in the supplementation of defence planning documents, the MoD provided expert assistance in supplementing and coordinating the defence plans to ensure they were up-to-date, useful, and in line with the regulations, which was also reflected in the National Defence Plan.

Regular supplementation of the MoD's Defence Plan and up-to-date records of defence duties were ensured.

National activities whose coordination and guidance was temporarily (pending the determination of the central authority or authority at the level of the RS) taken over by the Ministry of Defence, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries, were adapted to the intensification of the EU and NATO's activities in dealing with hybrid threats.

The MoD also has a national point of contact (POC) for the EU Hybrid Fusion Cell (EU HFC).

In the area of civil preparedness, activities intensified in the context of the NATO Civil Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC) and its planning groups (the Civil Protection Group (CPG); the Transport Group (TG); the Joint Health, Agriculture and Food Group (JHAFG); and the Industrial Resources and Communication Services Group (IRCSG), in line with the strengthened deterrence and defence posture of the Alliance, and in line with the national representatives representing the positions of the RS.

Military Mobility is an initiative in the context of the new security and defence objectives and ambitions of the European Union. There was a need to strengthen and assess the suitability of the infrastructure, and to modernize and standardize the normative acts and procedures at border crossings.

In addition to the MoD, other state bodies in Slovenia are actively involved in the project in order to fully and effectively address military mobility and implement the proposed solutions. Within their competence, these state bodies participate in the Permanent Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group for monitoring and guiding the implementation of measures in the area of military mobility.

Regular examination and coordination of applications within the MoD's organizational units and constituent bodies was carried out for construction adaptations for the needs of defence. The MoD regularly prepared resolution proposals for government consideration concerning the issuing of authorizations by the Government of the RS for carrying out air imaging for the production of cartographic publications. Regular examination and coordination of applications within the MoD's organizational units and constituent bodies was also carried out for issuing consents for the conduct of research relevant to defence.

The MoD participated in the preparation and coordination of the legal documents which fall under the competence of other ministries in areas that refer to crisis management, defence planning, and the protection of critical infrastructure. The MoD's views on defence planning were represented in numerous inter-ministerial working groups and commissions.

In accordance with the Plan of Exercises in the Defence System and the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters in 2018 (Government of the RS, No. 84300-1/2018/4, of 7th February 2018) and in accordance with the Rules of Exercises in the Defence System (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 100/13), the following exercises were organized and conducted: the NATO nuclear safety exercise Able Staff 18; the NATO cyber defence exercise CC18 (Cyber Coalition 2018); the EU Hybrid Exercise – MULTILAYER 18 (Parallel and Coordinated Exercise) – EU HEX-ML18 (PACE); and the Comprehensive Cyber Strategic Decision-Making Exercise (CCSDM 18). The MoD prepared and harmonized draft reports of the exercises for submission and consideration by the Government of the RS.

In accordance with the Critical Infrastructure Act (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 75/17), the MoD, as the body responsible for directing and coordinating activities relating to critical infrastructure, prepared and harmonized the Decision on the Criteria for the Identification of Critical Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia, the limit values of these criteria, and the priority of operation of the critical infrastructure sectors, and submitted the Decision to the Government of the RS for adoption. On this basis, a proposal for the Decision on the Identification of Critical Infrastructure of the RS and the managers of critical infrastructure of the RS was prepared and harmonized, along with a proposal for the Guidance on Risk Assessment for the operation of critical infrastructure of the RS. Both proposals were forwarded to the Government of the RS for consideration and adoption.

A report was prepared for the Government of the RS on the work of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group for the coordination of preparations for the protection of critical infrastructure for 2018, which was at the same time the final report of the Group. The Government established that the Group had fulfilled its tasks and could therefore cease to operate.

In the context of the tasks carried out by the MoD in the role of the national POC for the protection of European critical infrastructure in the RS, the MoD participated in events organized by the European Commission. In the same context, responses to the Commission's initiatives and to proposals from individual EU member states were ensured. Particular attention was paid to the evaluation of Council Directive (EC) No. 114/2008 on the identification and designation of the European critical infrastructure, on an assessment of the need to improve its protection, and on an analysis of the implementation of its provisions in member states. In 2018, the MoD participated in the activities of the European Commission.

In accordance with the Decree on European Critical Infrastructure (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 35/11), a regular annual report was submitted to the European Commission on the implementation of the provisions of the Decree and the Council Directive (EC) No. 114/2008 on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructure and an assessment of the need to improve its protection.

In the context of the EU Financial Perspective 2014-2020, the MoD carried out a number of projects funded by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) in the areas of crisis management and critical infrastructure protection. The following projects took place in 2018:

- The necessary knowledge and proposal for a training programme for Critical Infrastructure Managers (PROPU);
- Basic Training of Critical Infrastructure Managers and Responsible Entities (UNUKI);
- The preparation of expert bases for the assessment of risks posed to the functioning of critical infrastructure (SPOTKI);
- Cyber security of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) network – in 2018, the National Crisis Management Centre launched a two-year project named Cyber Security of the NCMC's Communication and Information System (NCMC CIS). It consists of three parts: conducting an awareness campaign for NCMC CIS users; a network security review; and the development of criteria and procedures for the installation of applications on a secure network. In 2018, a campaign was launched on the importance of an information security culture, during which a brochure was prepared, in collaboration with the IT and Communications Service, with concise recommendations on the safe use of modern technologies and applications. Five screensavers were created for both networks (for the NCMC CIS and for the MoD INTRANET CIS), a seminar was conducted and an e-course entitled Social Engineering was added to the e-classroom;
- Updating of the cartographic bases with a scale of 1:25,000 for the needs of the crisis management actors at the operational level and the holders and managers of critical infrastructure (POSKART).

3 DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIAN CAPABILITIES

3.1 Civilian Functional Experts

In 2018, most of the efforts relating to civilian functional experts were oriented towards the provision of the continuity of their work in IOMs, and, in accordance with the Guidelines for the Planning of Participation in IOM in the Period 2018-2019, towards the search for additional opportunities for cooperation, primarily in the Western Balkans and in areas of operation with greater security challenges, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2018 the MoD participated in the provision of civilian functional experts as part of the contribution of the Republic of Slovenia to NATO's IOM in Kosovo, in the context of NATO's initiative for the establishment of defence capabilities in Georgia, in the NATO Liaison Office (NLO) in Skopje, and in the Multinational Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Group (MNCG) in Italy. Eleven civilian functional experts manned seven different positions in IOMs and within the NATO initiative. Within the framework of the NATO initiative for the establishment of defence capabilities, one civilian functional expert operated in Georgia, two in the NATO Liaison Office (NLO) in Skopje, one in the KFOR command as SPECAD POLAD, and six in the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), more specifically in the areas of contracts and public procurements, budget and finance, and legal affairs. One Slovenian civilian functional expert continued to serve as a liaison consultant in the Multinational CIMIC Group (MNCG) in Italy.

Intensive civil-military cooperation with the Multinational CIMIC Group (MNCG) was in place to ensure an enhanced role for civilian functional experts within the MNCG, and the integration of part of the civilian capabilities (a team of civilian functional experts) into the MNCG structure. The MoD's aim was to maintain cooperation with the MNCG and establish more active participation of civilian functional experts within the framework of the new MNCG capability, Remote CIMIC Support in MNCG exercises and training, implemented in the computer-assisted staff exercise Double River 18 (DORR 18).

With the support and under the auspices of NATO's CIMIC Centre of Excellence (CCOE), Slovenia hosted the NATO CIMIC Staff & Field Worker & Functional Specialists Course. The NATO CIMIC Education and Training Conference (NCETC) for the implementation of training in the area of CIMIC was also attended.

3.2 Cartographic and Geospatial Support to the Defence System

In the area of mapping and geospatial affairs, the MoD continued the execution of developmental tasks and maintenance of the mapping system, coordinated with the national military and NATO standards and the NATO geospatial policy, with a view to providing mapping and geospatial support to the Slovenian Armed Forces and to the protection and rescue services. In cooperation with the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, the contents of multiple sheets of the military topographic map of the Republic of Slovenia in different scales were renewed and printed. An updated Catalogue of the MoD Cartographic Material 2018 was issued.

For the purposes of preparing SAF members for exercises and IOMs, the MoD exchanged and acquired certain cartographic material and other geospatial data based on agreements concluded with the countries of the Alliance in the geospatial region and the Allied Supreme Command in Europe (SHAPE).

4 INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY OPERATIONS

The MoD intelligence and security operations were carried out in line with the Defence Act and with the adopted annual work programme, objectives and tasks. The key tasks and pursued objectives were linked to the provision of appropriate intelligence and security support to SAF members and other MoD employees in Slovenia and abroad, as well as to cooperation with other national security system bodies.

To this end, the Intelligence and Security Service analyzed and assessed data intended for high state representatives for the adoption of decisions on national and defence policy, and drew attention to potential sources of threat to the defence system at home and abroad.

For the purposes of providing intelligence, counterintelligence and security support to the SAF in Slovenia and abroad, the Intelligence and Security Service cooperated directly with the Intelligence, Counterintelligence and Security Division of the SAF General Staff. During the period concerned, the Intelligence and Security Service actively cooperated with partner intelligence and security services, NATO, and the EU in the areas of intelligence, counterintelligence and security.

In line with Article 32 of the Defence Act, the Intelligence and Security Service identified and assessed the military, political and security conditions and the military capabilities outside the state, and collected and assessed data on the situation in the areas where SAF members and MoD employees are active within international peacekeeping forces and peacetime NATO structures abroad, i.e. in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, on the Golan Heights, in Mali, in the sea area of south-east Sicily, which represents the wider area of the EUNAFOR MED humanitarian operation, and in Latvia.

The basic security-related tasks of the Intelligence and Security Service were focused on the detection, investigation and prevention of security threats to people, work posts, facilities and areas of special importance for defence in the Republic of Slovenia and abroad. The Intelligence and Security Service also carried out functions of detection and prevention in relation to the activities of foreign intelligence services of military organizations and other bodies and organizations which pose a threat to the defence interests of Slovenia, the SAF and the MoD.

5 EQUIPPING, REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT, STANDARDIZATION AND CODIFICATION

5.1 Equipping

In relation to equipment, the MoD continued to carry out major projects of equipping the SAF with military equipment, weapons and other materiel in line with the objectives of the Alliance. The 8x8 Combat Wheeled Armoured Vehicle project was carried out in the context of joining the international organization OCCAR (accession activities and preparation of a contract). Investment documentation was prepared for the acquisition of a 4x4 light wheeled armoured vehicle with increased ballistic and counter-mine protection, and an LOA was signed with the US government. Investment documentation was prepared and a contract was concluded for the investment maintenance of CBRN light wheeled armoured vehicles, the upgrade of aircraft, and hand-held anti-armour weapons. Other projects for equipping SAF units were also carried out, specifically: special forces equipment; explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) equipment; joint terminal attack control (JTAC) equipment; engineering machinery; the reconstruction of the MoD's vehicle fleet; communication equipment; the modernization of Cerklje ob Krki Military Airfield; and the Air Command and Control System – ACCS Software Based Element (ACCS – ASBE). Investment documentation was prepared mainly for those projects which are included in planning documents and carried out within the framework of establishing the Alliance's capabilities and national defence. Investment documentation was also prepared for the purposes of the ACPDR, specifically for the following major projects: emergency special all-terrain cargo vehicles for Civil Protection; cargo vehicles; national material resources and equipment for national protection, rescue and relief forces – Civil Protection; and construction and loading machinery.

5.2 Real Estate Management

In 2018, the MoD completed the preparation of energy performance certificates for all 915 MoD apartments. Inspections of the correct use of two-thirds of the MoD apartments were carried out. In October and November, the MoD submitted data to the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia on buildings and parts of buildings (with measurements of all the rooms) under its management, to be registered in the Real Estate Register. This means that the deadline of 22 November 2018, set by the Real Estate Records Act, was met. After this date, data in the Real Estate Register can only be changed on the basis of an expert's detailed report prepared by an authorized surveying and mapping company. A large amount of financial resources was saved by this project. An insurance policy was taken out for a package of non-life insurance of real estate at the insurance company Generali for the period 2018-2020.

In recent years, the percentage of the real estate registered in the Land Register has been increasing. Of the 982 apartments managed and used by the MoD, 96 are still not registered in the Land Register, which means that 93% of the apartments are registered.

Due to wear and tear, the renovation of the apartments is beginning to require increasingly greater financial resources, so problems with the provision of resources have begun to occur, as the renovation of the apartments is funded exclusively from rents. Regular maintenance works were carried out in the

apartments. Work was carried out under multi-annual maintenance contracts for the maintenance of MoD and SAF facilities and installed infrastructure. Technical documents were prepared for awarding public contracts for regular monthly service and repair of lifts in MoD and SAF facilities, regular monthly service and repair of air-conditioning appliances, and statutory inspections of lightning and electrical wiring.

5.3 Standardization and Codification

The adoption and implementation of Slovenian Military Standards in support of the establishment and maintenance of SAF capabilities is one of the cornerstones for achieving the interoperability of the Slovenian defence system with NATO, NATO member states, NATO partner countries, and the EU member states. In 2018, the MoD integrated standardization plan for 2018 and 2019 was issued, which included eliminating pre-2018 backlogs, and current tasks for 2018. Business planning in the area of standardization changed. A particular focus was on the elimination of backlogs in the national approval of STANAGs, with an emphasis on important Alliance standards arising from the commitments made in Wales and Warsaw. Slovenia reduced its backlog to 317 STANAGs, but slid down to number seven of the Alliance members with backlogs.

This year, the MoD standardization plan, which includes the adoption and implementation of Slovenian Military Standards, as well as the certification of NATO standards, was not implemented in accordance with expectations. In 2018, a total of 42 out of the planned 201 Slovenian Military Standards were adopted, resulting in the realization of 21% of the MoD standardization plan. Fifty-three decisions and orders of the planned 98 were issued for the implementation of Slovenian Military Standards, resulting in the realization of 54% of the MoD standardization plan. In the process of the national certification of NATO STANAGs and STANRECs, 97 national responses (70 MC, 9 CNAD, 18 others) of the planned 200 were signed, resulting in the realization of 48% of the plan. The progress made in 2018 in response to important NATO standards was insufficient, with 25% unresponsiveness and only 30% implementation in Slovenian Military Standards. Since defence standardization should be addressed in a systematic (comprehensive) way, amendments to the Defence Act were proposed. To this end the MoD will have to supplement the Standardization Act, and prepare new Rules on the Implementation of Standardization at the MoD.

Codification is the only universal logistics tool that contributes to a transparency and reduction in costs of the equipping and maintenance of weapons and military equipment. The codification of supply resources (organic means and associated spare parts) is incorporated throughout the equipping processes, from investment programmes to delivery orders, acquisitions, and the introduction of weapons and military equipment into operational use, to their removal from service and divestment. The results are best seen in the optimization of stocks and in achieving the best prices for spare parts. Codification strengthens the status of Slovenian economic and other organizations which manufacture products and provide services for the needs of the defence systems of NATO member states and partner countries.

Within the framework of its national competence, the National Codification Bureau of Slovenia allocated 75 new NATO codification numbers (NSNs) to Slovenian products in 2018, and registered 44 Slovenian companies, which brings the total to 365. There was an increase in US requests for financing projects through the SAM system. On the basis of the acquisition of new supply resources, Slovenia was registered as the user of 509 NSNs; altogether it uses 35,231 NSNs. A total of 1489 identifications of

material resources were carried out. Data for identification was fully prepared in the SAP and e-ZAHMAT software environments, which ensures quality data for use in logistics procedures. In 2018 codification was incorporated into all initial public procurement procedures.

5.4 Cooperation with the Defence Industry

Nineteen activities were carried out in cooperation with the military industry, specifically presentations of Slovenia's defence industry organized for national and foreign diplomatic representatives. Several meetings were held with the ARTEC consortium about the participation of Slovenia's industry in OCCAR projects. The industry was introduced to the CapTech Land, and made an appearance at an industry day organized by the NATO Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare and at a development conference in Austria. The MoD updated the catalogue of the capabilities of the Slovenian industry and scientific institutions, organized the SOBRA Fair (an international fair of defence, security, protection and rescue) in Gornja Radgona in collaboration with the industry, and actively participated in a fair appearance at Eurosatory in Paris. The Slovenian Defence Industry Cluster (GOIS) gave a presentation at the ESDC European Armament Cooperation Course in Maribor, and Slovenian commercial companies were given the opportunity to test 60mm mortar barrels, test combat shirts, watch the presentation of the combined mine-countermeasures diving apparatus in the SAF, and test the anti-drone system at the SAF training range. The MoD enabled the meetings of representatives of the Slovenian defence industry and scientific institutions with Croatian, Hungarian and Norwegian government and industry representatives.

6 COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (CIS)

By implementing preventive measures, the MoD improved the cyber-security of the communication and information system. These measures comprised the replacement and update of information infrastructure and software, the introduction of more restrictive control over the use of portable storage media, and the introduction of new safety devices (new-generation firewalls) and software tools (e. g. tools for detecting advanced cyber-threats).

The training of professional staff in responding to cyber-security events and the users' awareness of risks in cyberspace are key elements in the provision of cyber-security. For this reason, the MoD was actively involved in the annual NATO exercise Cyber Coalition. With the assistance of the European Defence Agency (EDA), the MoD carried out a national inter-ministerial exercise in strategic decision-making in cyber-defence processes. In order to increase awareness of risks in cyberspace, an e-classroom was established on the MoD's intranet, and online courses in information and cyber-security were introduced.

With regard to PESCO projects and NATO Smart Defence projects, the NATO Smart Defence Cyber Defence Education & Training project deserves special mention. The aim of the project is to prepare NATO education and training programmes for all cyberspace participants, from tactical to strategic levels. The MoD succeeded in actively involving the Faculty of Organizational Sciences of the University of Maribor in this project.

7 INSPECTION AND INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DEFENCE

7.1 Inspections in the Field of Defence

In line with regulations, the Defence Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia (DIRS), as a Ministry of Defence body, performs inspections of the implementation of laws and other regulations, as well as of command and control acts in the field of defence. It reviews, identifies and evaluates the preparedness and performance of military commands, units and institutions, the status of defence preparations, the implementation of military education and training, and the provision of administrative and technical issues in the field of defence.

In line with statutory provisions, the DIRS carries out inspections of the implementation of the Act on the Protection of Classified Information at the MoD and in the entire field of defence. It also inspects the MoD organizational units in the implementation of their administrative and technical tasks, except the tasks and activities of the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) and the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters (IRSPANOD).

Inspectors conduct procedures and decide on any violations in accordance with the Minor Offences Act. The key objectives of the Inspectorate for 2018 were specified in the DIRS annual work plan:

- Work planning and management of the Inspectorate;
- Implementation of inspections in the field of defence;
- Implementation of inspections in the area of classified information;
- Conduct of procedures and decision-making in minor offence proceedings;
- Training of DIRS inspectors and employees;
- International cooperation.

To achieve the above objectives, the chief inspector directed special attention towards the planning and coordination of the work of the Inspectorate, which was conducted throughout the year on the basis of monthly and weekly DIRS work plans.

In 2018, the Inspectorate carried out inspections in accordance with the adopted amendments to the Rules on Inspection Procedures in the Field of Defence, which it commenced in 2016.

The DIRS carried out a total of 54 inspections, of which 47 were regular, 5 were special announced inspections, and two were repeat inspections. These inspections were conducted over a period of 318 days. Based on the findings, a total of 254 inspection measures were issued, all in relation to the elimination of established deficiencies or non-compliance with regulations.

In accordance with the imposed inspection measures, the inspectors regularly monitored their implementation, based on the analysis of notifications on the implementation received by the inspected entities, and, if necessary, carried out repeat inspections and took action by issuing inspection decisions.

In accordance with the Minor Offences Act, the defence inspectors introduced appropriate minor offence proceedings for the identified offences in 2018.

The DIRS provided the Minister of Defence and the Secretary of State with up-to-date information on the findings of the inspections. Similarly, on the basis of Article 32 of the Inspection Act, defence inspectors submitted to the competent authorities several initiatives to improve the situation in inspection.

7.2 Internal Auditing

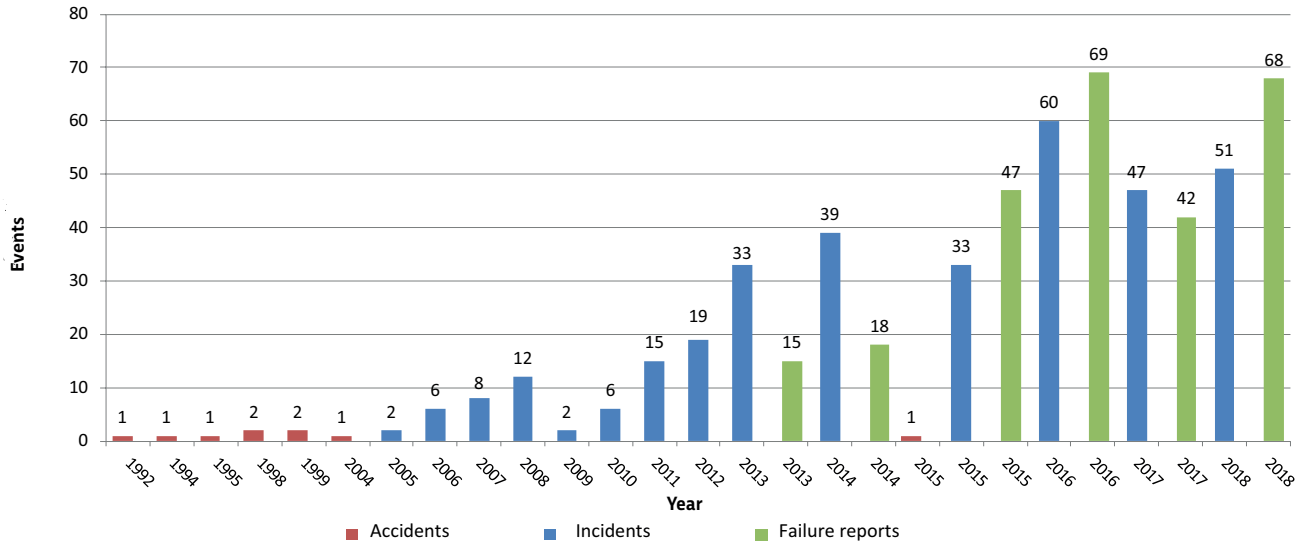
In line with the annual work plan of the MoD internal audit for 2018, the implementation of seven internal audits and two formal consulting engagements was planned. Of the planned audits and consulting engagements, five regular internal audits and two formal consulting engagements were carried out. In addition, one extraordinary audit was carried out at the request of the MoD's leadership, and another two formal consulting engagements. The realization of the internal annual audit plan was 85%, and the realization of the consulting engagements carried out was 200%.

In 2018, the Internal Audit Service prepared 56 recommendations for the improvement of operation in the audited fields. Of these, 30 recommendations have been implemented, while the deadline for the implementation of the remaining 26 recommendations has not yet expired. Since the audited entities accepted the recommendations, at least 90% of them are expected to be implemented.

8 INVESTIGATIONS INTO AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

The issuing of safety recommendations represents the implementation of measures to reduce or prevent new threats and risks to military air traffic, and is based on the findings of investigations into aircraft accidents and incidents. Investigations into accidents and incidents do not include the determination of blame or responsibility of those involved in an accident or incident. Timely implementation of security measures affects the elimination of or reduction in the possibility of the loss of human life and material damage to military equipment and facilities on the ground.

In 2018, SAF aviation units reported 51 emergencies (in 2017, it was 47). However, it should be noted that the number of flying hours decreased. Eight investigations were launched. Four investigations were concluded, and some were transferred to 2019 due to their extent. In terms of flight safety, the military aviation of the Republic of Slovenia remains at the top of the NATO aviation scale. The upgrade of military aircraft by new Emergency Locator Transmitters, new radios, and transponders should be urgently accelerated, as the current ones do not in general meet the new European Aviation Regulations (EASA) for flying in civilian air traffic. The Bell 412 helicopters, which have carried out the most difficult military tasks, especially within the protection and rescue system, for over 25 years, should be modernized. Consideration should be given to the purchase of new helicopters. In 2018, a helicopter pilot was reassigned from the SAF, who is undergoing investigator training on the basis of a two-year programme. Due to an increase in the number of aircraft incidents related to technical failures, the MoD RS Aviation Investigation Body needs a new flight engineer – an investigator. The identification of the reasons for the occurrence of aircraft accidents and serious incidents, and the rapid introduction of effective measures, is imperative for the further operational availability of the military aircraft of the SAF; however, it is not possible to carry this out without competent and trained aviation personnel. The MoD also successfully carried out the international and inter-ministerial crisis response exercise »Broken Wing 2018«. On the basis of the order of the Minister of Defence, the Service for the Investigation of Aircraft Accidents and Military Aircraft Incidents participated in the investigation of accidents involving civilian aircraft which resulted in fatalities. In accordance with the annual plan, theoretical and practical training was carried out with the permanent professional staff of the MoD's Aviation Investigation Authority in 2018.



9 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The Strategic Communication Service notified the public of different events and projects in a timely and objective manner. It also ensured the transparency of operation of the MoD with the organization of press conferences, the preparation of public releases and answers to press enquirers, and publications of content on the internet, on social media and in the MoD's publications, as well as through posting short presentation videos on the MoD YouTube channel.

At the ministerial level, the MoD organized several press conferences on defence politics, equipping, international cooperation, SAF activities, protection against natural and other disasters, and preparations of new content for different laws; and a number of public presentations of proposals for new acts, i.e. the Defence Act, and the Service in the Slovenian Armed Forces Act, which, despite the MoD's and the expert public's promotion of the urgent introduction of changes to the umbrella legislation, especially with a view to arranging the status of soldiers and improving their position, were halted at the second reading during the previous convening of the National Assembly session.

Among the most important topics was the participation of the Republic of Slovenia in international operations and missions. Several media presentations of and press visits to SAF contingents in international operations and missions were organized (in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Latvia). Two video conferences with members of Slovenian contingents in international operations and missions were held, one with the President of the RS, and one with the Prime Minister of the RS. A number of events took place in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, including the celebratory unveiling of a memorial to the Slovenian soldiers who fell in Ukraine during the First World War. Much attention was paid to the notification of the public on SAF activities at the Poček Central Firing Range and Training Area, and to cooperation with local communities in the vicinity of Poček.

In line with the expectations and priority tasks of the MoD, questions from both the media and citizens were mainly focused on the provision of adequate financial means for the operation of the MoD, on investments in equipment, the purchase of vehicles, and the management of the lack of personnel in the SAF. A great deal of media attention was given to the evaluation of the readiness of the SAF, the alleged inappropriate footwear, and the negative grade at the certification of the 72nd Brigade of the SAF. There were a number of press inquiries concerning the planned purchase of the 8x8 wheeled fighting vehicles for the needs of setting up a Medium-Sized Battalion Battlegroup, the new Toyota Land Cruiser all-terrain vehicles, and the 4x4 light wheeled armoured vehicles. Also in 2018, the media and the interested public were curious about the management of physical assets and the sell-off of uneconomic real estate and investments in local infrastructure in connection with the Poček Central Firing Range and Training Area.

The MoD used both classic communication channels and social media to communicate with the public. In 2018, an average of 1.6 press releases a day were published on MoD and SAF websites – a total of 570 releases. The releases were accompanied by 1555 photographs, 99 sound recordings and 50 video recordings published on the MoD YouTube channel (Table 1). A total of 58 releases were published on MoD and SAF websites in English.

A comparison with the previous five-year period shows that the number of messages, accompanied by photos and sound recordings and published on the different websites, remains the same, as does the number of posts on Twitter. In 2018, the number of posts on YouTube was approximately the same as

in the previous years; however, an increase in the number of videos and tweets, which is in line with the predominant guidelines of internet communication, was noted. The MoD published 50 videos on YouTube, which reached 12,063 views by the end of 2018. The video of Alenka Ermenc's promotion to the rank of Major General received the most views (949).

Videos on the MoD YouTube channel received a total of 161,270 views in 2018. In the period from December 2008 to December 2018, 905 videos were published on the MoD YouTube channel, which have received a total of 1,365,626 views thus far. The videos of the march Ponosni nase (We Take Pride) and of the Pilatus PC-9 have the highest number of views, specifically 61,034 and 45,898 respectively.

In 2018, the MoD continued its project to upgrade the single editorial structure and the policy of the state administration's websites (Project P11), whose operators are the Ministry of Public Administration and the Government Communication Office. Editors attended technical training on the Silverstripe tool, and prepared presentation sites of the institution for the gov.si portal.

In 2018, all the planned numbers of periodical publications were issued in the administrative part of the MoD, in the SAF, and in the ACPDR (Revija SV (the SAF Magazine), Ujma No. 32 (The Natural Disasters Magazine), Sodobni vojaški izzivi (Contemporary Military Challenges), Vojaškošolski zbornik (The Military Schools Collection of Scientific Papers), and Vojaška zgodovina (Military History)). The MoD also reprinted the Contemporary Military Challenges entitled Women, Peace and Security from 2016, and published an additional 300 copies.

In line with the plan for military professional literature, the following publications were published in 2018: Prodor v Posočju leta 1917: Zmaga konceptov, moralne in bojne moči (Breakthrough in the Isonzo Region in 1917: A Victory of Concepts, and Moral and Combat Power); Molitvenik slovenskega vojaka (Slovenian Soldier's Prayer Book) and Zvest Bogu in domovini (Faithful to God and Homeland); and Molitvenik slovenskega vojaka evangeličanske veroizpovedi (Prayer Book for the Slovenian Soldier of Evalngelical Faith). Three manuals for everyday use were also published in printed form: Psihološka dejavnost v SV: stres in travma (Psychological Activity in the SAF: Stress and Trauma); Psihološka dejavnost v SV: Dobrodošli doma! (Psychological Activity in the SAF: Welcome Home!); and Psihološka dejavnost v SV: (Psychological Activity in the SAF: Happy at Home). In line with the plan, the MoD published the following e-publications: Katalog zbirke pehotnega strelnega orožja VM SV (Catalogue of the Infantry Firearms Collection of the SAF Military Museum); materials for two case studies of armed conflicts from military history: Vojna za Slovenijo 1991 (War of Slovenian Independence 1991), and 12. soška bitka in preboj pri Kobaridu (Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo and the Breakthrough at Caporetto); and Priročnik za inštruktorje Centra vojaških šol SV (Manual for the Instructors of the SAF Military Schools Centre).

In the field of the ACPDR, Knjižica za reševalce (Booklet for First Responders), the booklet Let's Act Preventively (the English translation), and a leaflet on the topic of natural and other disasters were published in 2018. With regard to the plan, the projects that remained unrealized concerned mostly literature whose publication was planned with the support of the Cohesion Fund resources. The publication of a manual for the operation of the national unit for search and rescue in urban environments – MUSAR (Medium Urban Search and Rescue), and the manual VADEMECUM STOP were postponed until 2019.

Within the Strategic Communication Service, over 10,000 pages of military professional and other published literature, various official texts for the MoD, and material which was submitted to the Government of the RS for treatment were proofread.

In 2018, the School of Foreign Languages of the SAF Military Schools Centre organized a Conference on Slovenian Military Terminology, which encouraged discussion on the further development of Slovenian terminology at the MoD. Towards the end of 2018, the MoD, in collaboration with the School of Foreign Languages, commenced the formation or reestablishment of a working group responsible for military terminology, and the establishment of unified coordination routes for the unification, standardization, presentation and enforcement of new terms.

The MoD documented all major events in video production: official and working visits at the levels of the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the General Staff of the SAF, SAF exercises and training, video conferences, and other important events. The MoD devotes special attention to a safe and healthy work environment and wellbeing of its personnel. To promote this, it prepared a series of short videos on exercise in the workplace in 2018. In addition to videos of current concern, the MoD provided archival recordings on request to media and other societies, and maintained the MoD's video archive. The MoD followed the work of SAF members abroad (in Kosovo, Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, and Hungary). One of the most important tasks in 2018 was the on-camera training of personnel, especially SAF members. According to the feedback of the participants, such training should be organized more often; however, human resources are limited.

In the context of the CAF project (quality model in public administration) and after the completion of a self-evaluation procedure at the Strategic Communication Service in the framework of the action plan for 2018, the MoD carried out a survey on internal communication and the usefulness of internal MoD websites. The analysis results showed that internal MoD websites should be updated in terms of content and graphics to increase their useful value. Towards the end of 2018, the Strategic Communication Service began the renovation of the internal website.

A survey on the readership and contents of the SAF Magazine aimed at the internal and external public was also conducted. According to the readers, the most widely-read content included articles reporting on the training of SAF units, news coverage from abroad, and expert articles relating to defence. Among the topics the readers would like to see more of were articles dealing with history, the presentation of SAF units and successful individuals, and the presentation of weapons and equipment.

9.1 Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

In 2018, nine societies and associations acting for veterans in the public interest (hereinafter: societies/associations) submitted tenders in response to a public invitation to tender for co-financing the activities of such societies and associations. All nine of them met all the requirements. At the beginning of April 2018, the MoD and the societies/associations signed contracts on co-financing their activities, in the total amount of EUR 1,504,519.

At the beginning of October, a working meeting with the representatives of the societies and associations was organized. Deficiencies which occurred in the applications of the societies/associations to public tenders in previous years were presented, and general information on the 2019 public invitation to tender was provided. The invitation to tender for 2019 was published on 22 October 2018, on the MoD official website. All eleven societies/associations which applied met the tender requirements.

The MoD issued two positive decisions based on the Societies Act and the Rules on the Criteria Determining an Association's Significant Achievements in Order to be Granted the Status of an Association Operating in the Public Interest in the Field of Defence.

The MoD issued six positive decisions in accordance with the War Veterans Act and the Rules on the Criteria Determining an Association's Significant Achievements in Order to be Granted the Status of an Association Operating in the Public Interest in the Field of War Veterans.

9.2 Maintenance of the cenotaph for the victims of the War of Slovenian Independence at Žale and the memorial to Andrej Komel pl. Sočebran in Graz (AT)

With a decree on the proclamation of the cenotaph for the victims of the War of Slovenian Independence at Žale in Ljubljana as a cultural monument of national importance, the Republic of Slovenia conferred the management of the cenotaph to the MoD.

Emergency restoration work took place from 2 to 23 November 2018 and was carried out fully in accordance with the project.

Within the cultural spheres of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (hereinafter: SASA) ideas have been emerging to erect memorials to important Slovenians, and thus showcase the long and rich history of significant figures who contributed key milestones to their professional fields. One of these figures is Andrej Komel pl. Sočebran, the father of modern Slovenian military terminology. The MoD fosters his memory in a number of ways, including by naming the medal of the SAF Military Schools Centre for cultural achievements after him. Based on this, the SASA made a proposal to the MoD to put up a memorial plaque dedicated to Andrej Komel pl. Sočebran at St. Peter's Cemetery in Graz (Austria), where he is buried. On 11 May 2018, the takeover of the memorial was carried out. It was unveiled on 9 July 2018 by the Minister of Defence, Andreja Katič, and the military commander of the Austrian province of Styria, Heinz Zollner.

10 NORMATIVE ACTS

Internal General Normative Documents Adopted in 2018

REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN 2018

	Review of Regulations from the Field of Work of the MoD, Adopted in 2018	Publication
January	Decree Amending the Decree on Airspace Surveillance Arrangements	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 3/18
2.	Strike Agreement*	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 5/18
3.	Annex 2 to the Collective Agreement for the Professional Firefighting Sector – Tariff Schedule*	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 5/18
4.	Decree Amending the Decree on Authorizations for the Production of and Trade in Military Weapons and Equipment and on Prior Authorization for the Import, Export, Transit and Transfer of Defence-Related Products	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 14/18
5.	Regulation on Crisis Management and Governance and on the National Crisis Management Centre	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 28/18
6.	Decree Amending the Decree on Voluntary Military Service	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 28/18
7.	Decree on the Amount of the Contribution for the Slovenian Red Cross during Red Cross Week and Solidarity Week*	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 28/18
8.	Rules Amending the Rules on the Employment of Elite Athletes and Coaches in the Slovenian Armed Forces	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 29/18
9.	Rules Amending the Rules on Measures for Protection against Drowning in Public Bathing Areas*	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 33/18
10.	Rules on the Criteria Determining Significant Achievements of NGOs in Order to be Granted the Status of an NGO Operating in the Public Interest in the Area of Defence and War Veterans	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 67/18
11.	Rules Amending the Rules on the Awards of the Ministry of Defence	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 72/18
12.	Annex 3 to the Collective Agreement for the Professional Firefighting Sector – Tariff Schedule*	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 80/18
13.	Decree Amending the Decree on the Classification of Work Posts and Titles of the Slovenian Armed Forces into Salary Grades	Official Gazette of the RS, No. 88/18

Note: Regulations in the field of protection against natural and other disasters are marked with an asterisk (*) in the table.

A Short Explanation of the Normative Changes in the Field of Defence and Protection against Natural and other Disasters in 2018

(1) The Decree Amending the Decree on Airspace Surveillance Arrangements does not intervene with the fundamental principles of airspace surveillance, but rather regulates only the content that had to be adapted to organizational changes in the SAF, thus contributing to the transparency and operational functioning of this area. (2) With the Strike Agreement, concluded between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Trade Union of Professional Firefighters of Slovenia, the Government

committed to settling issues concerning the elimination of anomalies in the professional firefighting sector compared to other similar professions; to regulate the long-service bonus comparable to other authorized officials; to head and coordinate the preparation of an appropriate proposal for amending job titles in professional firefighting; and to prepare an appropriate proposal for amendments to position bonuses. (3) The aforementioned Strike Agreement resulted in an appropriate amendment to the Collective Agreement for the Professional Firefighting Sector, which redefined salary grades for individual work posts in the professional firefighting sector. (4) By adopting the Decree Amending the Decree on Authorizations for the Production of and Trade in Military Weapons and Equipment and on Prior Authorization for the Import, Export, Transit and Transfer of Defence-Related Products, a modified list of defence products defined by Commission Directive (EU) 2017/2054, dated 8 November 2017, and the Amending Directive 2009/43EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the list of defence-related products (Official Journal L No. 311 of 25 November 2017, p. 1) was implemented into the Slovenian legal order. (5) The adoption of the new Regulation on Crisis Management and Governance and on the National Crisis Management Centre was a result of the introduction of the crisis management system defined by the Act Amending the Government of the Republic of Slovenia Act from October 2017. Within legal frameworks, this Regulation specifies crisis management procedures, from monitoring the situation, reporting on the observed phenomena and events which could lead to a complex crisis, and the decision-making process concerning the implementation of crisis management, to responding to a complex crisis, including crisis communication and post-crisis activities. This Regulation precisely defines the responsibilities and tasks of individual crisis response bodies, particularly the National Security Council, its Secretariat and operational group, the National Crisis Management Centre, and the inter-ministerial analytical group. It also defines the framework content of plans for responding to complex crises. (6) With the aim of stimulating interest in voluntary military service, which has been in decline in recent years, the Decree Amending the Decree on Voluntary Military Service increased the basis for the calculation of soldiers' revenue from voluntary military service by approximately one quarter. (7) On the basis of the Decree on the Amount of the Contribution for the Slovenian Red Cross during Red Cross Week and Solidarity Week, the amount of the contribution which had to be paid by legal and natural persons for each sold fare ticket and postal item in domestic and international traffic during the Red Cross Week and Solidarity Week in accordance with the Act on Slovenian Red Cross was specified for 2018. The contribution was 0.17 EUR, and all the collected funds were dedicated to humanitarian activities carried out by the Slovenian Red Cross. (8) The Rules Amending the Rules on the Employment of Elite Athletes and Coaches in the Slovenian Armed Forces enable elite athletes to continue their employment in the SAF after reaching 45 years of age by filling the work posts of military specialists, normally at the SAF Sports Unit. Coaches have been granted this since before the adoption of these Rules. (9) The purpose of the Rules Amending the Rules on Measures for Protection against Drowning in Public Bathing Areas was to eliminate a mistake in references in one of the articles of the Rules, which occurred during the amendment of the Rules in 2013. (10) The adoption of the new Rules on the Criteria Determining Significant Achievements of NGOs in Order to be Granted the Status of an NGO Operating in the Public Interest in the Area of Defence and War Veterans was necessary due to the adaptation of its contents in the Non-Governmental Organizations Act adopted in 2018, which replaced the institution of former societies operating in the public interest with the institution of non-governmental organizations in the public interest. However, the content of the criteria for granting the status of an NGO in these areas has not changed significantly. (11) The Rules Amending the Rules on the Awards of the Ministry of Defence reintroduced the institute of awarding the Commemorative Signet Ring to SAF officers who are promoted to the rank of General, which had been discontinued in 2013 due to the financial crisis. (12) Due to the implementation of the Agreement on Salaries and Other Payments of Labour Costs in the Public Sector concluded in late 2018, Annex 3 to the Collective Agreement for the Professional Firefighting Sector provided for an appropriate adjustment (increase)

in salary grades for work posts in the professional firefighting sector. (13) For the same reason that is explained in Item 12, the Decree Amending the Decree on the Classification of Work Posts and Titles of the Slovenian Armed Forces into Salary Grades was adopted, which provided for an appropriate rise in salary grades for work posts and titles in the SAF.

In 2018, three other implementing legal acts whose content is directly related to the MoD's area of work were adopted by (other) competent ministers in agreement with the Minister of Defence: (1) The Rules on the Quality of Service for the Single European Emergency Call Number 112 and Police Call Number 113 (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 17/18) specify in detail individual aspects related to the quality assurance of services provided at these two call numbers, in particular the time and method of service provision, the time of establishing a call connection, and the provision of information important for providing services, such as information on a caller's location etc. (2) The Rules on the Assessment of the Health Condition of Operational Firefighters (Official Gazette of the RS, No 19/18) simplify the procedures of determining the health condition of operational firefighters who do not perform the most demanding firefighting duties, which has brought financial relief to those who order such assessments. (3) The Rules on the Provision of Pharmacy Practice within the Military Healthcare of the Slovenian Armed Forces (Official Gazette of the RS, No 73/18) regulate in detail those individual questions concerning the provision of pharmacy practice in the SAF which are so specialized that general regulations governing this field cannot be applied. In particular, the Rules precisely define professional tasks carried out by the military pharmacy within the framework of pharmacy practice services for the needs of the SAF, the role of the military pharmacy in international operations and missions, and its provision of Host Nation Support.

11 RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTS

In 2018 there were a total of eight completed and uncompleted projects, six of which were national projects in support of military and civilian capabilities, and two which were carried out within the framework of the EDA (IAPUNIT is in progress and is continuing, JIP RPAS has finished). In addition, preparations for two projects beginning in 2019 were made within the EDA (European Defence Agency). Within the framework of NATO STO, the MoD participated in 22 technical groups in six panels. In the context of research and development, it carried out national projects and was included in the international environment.

The two national projects in support of military capabilities were the upgrade of the 3D GIS system for visualization within the JCATS simulator, and the use of food supplements among SAF members. A direct effect of the completion of the upgrade of the 3D GIS system for visualization within the JCATS simulator will be easier analyses of the state of military entities and the planning of operations in national and international computer-assisted exercises. The project concerning the use of food supplements among SAF members, which will be completed in 2019, will assess the situation in the use of food supplements in the SAF for the first time, and prepare guidelines for their use. With this project, the MoD will be actively involved in an international project within the framework of NATO STO.

The MoD carried out several projects in support of the protection, rescue and relief system. The Development of a Comprehensive Model of Disaster Response Management at all Levels of Management in the Field of Protection, Rescue and Relief in the RS is aimed at acquiring key theoretical and empirical knowledge on the disaster response management system and improvisation, and providing an analysis of Slovenian legislation with regard to the compliance of the management model and harmonization in accordance with ICS procedures.

The completion of the R&D project Permanent Training and Physical and Mental Testing of Firefighters in 2019 will enable the physical and mental testing and licensing of professional firefighters, and the arrangement of permanent training of professional firefighters in the Republic of Slovenia. The Upgrade of the System for Determining the Seismic Threat and Responsiveness for the Needs of Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Slovenia is aimed at improving preparedness and response in the event of an earthquake. The Upgrade of the System for Notification and Warning in the Event of Landslides in the RS will contribute to better preparedness and response in the event of landslides. Development in both areas is continuing with new projects.

In the context of international cooperation with NATO STO (NATO Science and Technology Organization), Slovenia participated in 6 panels and 22 technical groups, and hosted a group meeting in Ljubljana in 2018. A total of 25 people were involved in this collaboration, of which 15 were from the MoD and 10 were from Slovenian scientific institutions.

In September 2018, Slovenia hosted Dr. Thomas Killion, NATO Chief Scientist and Chair of the NATO S&T Board. During his short visit to the RS he was informed about research and development, defence planning policy, the connection with the SAF, the involvement of the RS in NATO STO, the operation of the Research and Simulation Unit of the Joint Training Centre, and external knowledge institutions. Several successful small and medium-sized businesses and knowledge institutions gave presentations.

Cooperation within the framework of the EDA takes place at multiple levels. Slovenian representatives are actively participating in five out of twelve groups, i.e. capability technology areas – CapTechs (CapTech ground systems, CapTech materials and structures, CapTech modelling and simulation, CapTech communication information systems, and CapTech CBRN protection). Recently, they have also been actively involved in a special group for the energy management of defence systems by setting up the RESHUB energy project. In the context of CapTech projects, the MoD participated or prepared to participate in the following research projects in 2018:

– IAPUNIT (Innovative Auxiliary Power Unit for military purposes based on a high-temperature PEM fuel cell and reforming technology for military logistic fuels within ground systems). HybriDT – in preparation (hybrid military vehicles within ground systems);
– SF C-IED FL (establishment of a joint database for explosive ordnance within ground systems);
– RESHUB (military energy provision) is a Slovenian proposal of a trans-European project on island energy self-sufficient capabilities. The project received positive acceptance by the responsible authorities of the forum.

In addition, the MoD actively contributed to the preparation of long-term research technological planning in EDI (up to 2035+) by assessing important technological areas within the inspection and evaluation of groups which form technologically complete units by important research technology areas (i.e. Technology Building Blocs).

Interested Slovenian R&D entities were provided with information for the application to calls for proposals by the European Commission within the framework of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) project.

In the context of the PESCO initiative, the MoD prepared technical documents and arranged joint activities within the CBRN Surveillance as a Service (CBRN SaaS) project, which Slovenia joined towards the end of 2018.

On the basis of a contract concluded with the Slovenian Business and Research Association, the MoD organized a high-profile event with the aim of networking between Slovenian and foreign research organizations and businesses in Brussels.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOURCE PLANS

1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL PLAN

In 2018, the Ministry of Defence spent EUR 454 million on the accomplishment of its tasks, which makes up 97.7% of the applicable Financial Plan and 104.2% of the Adopted Financial Plan (adopted amendments).

2018 Budgetary Resources (EUR)

	Adopted Amendments 2018 (16. November 2017)	Applicable 2018 (31. December 2018)	Realization 2018
FINANCIAL PLAN	435,606,401	464,533,748	454,004,591
Percentage of the Adopted FP	100	106.6	104.2
Difference from the Adopted FP		28,927,347	18,398,190

1.1 MoD Financial Plan

The Adopted Financial Plan of the Ministry of Defence (adopted amendments) for 2018 was for EUR 435,606,401.

The applicable Financial Plan of 31 December 2018 amounted to EUR 464,533,748, which is EUR 28.9 million higher than the Adopted Financial Plan. Of this, the integral (budget) funds increased by EUR 10.4 million. The increase was a consequence of additional funds received by the MoD based on the RS Government's Decision to pay additional international obligations, to ensure the provision of emergency medical assistance, and for the SAF modernization projects, namely the procurement of 4x4 light wheeled armoured vehicles and 4x4 all-terrain vehicles.

The appropriations increased by EUR 18.8 million, chiefly as a result of higher revenue from state property management, which also represents a resource for equipping the SAF, and maintaining its equipment and infrastructure. Their value was estimated when preparing the budget, while the final amount depends on the actual inflow of funds and the transfer of unused appropriations funds from the previous year.

The realization of the financial plan, in the amount of EUR 454,004,591, represents 4.8% of the national budget and 0.99% of GDP (IMAD, Spring Forecast of Economic Trends 2019). In comparison to the applicable financial plan, the realization of integral funds was 99.9%, the realization of appropriations was 72.5%, and the realization of EU projects was 25.2% (centralized and other programmes: the Internal Security Fund, and EU projects related to protection and rescue).

The MoD integral funds represent 95.2%, appropriations 4.6%, and EU projects 0.2% of the financial plan's realization.

The Proportion of the MoD's Financial Plan in the National Budget and GDP in Millions of Euros

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
National Budget	9,314,513	9,654,921	9,797,661	9,000,298	9,156,852	9,463,367
MoD Financial Plan	350,703	339,949	343,939	389,227	406,569	454,005
DEFENCE EXPENDITURE	381,658	366,460	361,376	406,166	422,215	462,720
GDP in Million EUR	36,239	37,603	38,863	40,357	43,000	45,948
% of the MoD's FP in the NB	3.77	3.52	3.51	4.32	4.44	4.80
% of the MoD's FP in GDP	0.97	0.90	0.89	0.96	0.95	0.99
% of DE in GDP	1.05	0.97	0.93	1.01	0.98	1.01

The difference between the applicable Financial Plan and the realization is the uncommitted EUR 10.5 million: EUR 288,145 in integral funds and EUR 7.9 million in appropriations, all of which will be transferred to the 2018 budget year. There were EUR 2.3 million uncommitted EU funds with associated Slovenian participation. The majority of the unused EU funds was from the ACPDR cohesion policy, and the commitment appropriations were transferred to 2019.

In comparison to 2017, the realization in 2018 was EUR 47.4 million higher (index 111.7). The realization of integral funds indicates an increase of EUR 50.9 million, while appropriations decreased by EUR 3.9 million. In the spending structure, the proportion for salaries decreased by 2.8 percentage points, while the proportion of investments increased by 5.9 percentage points.

Comparison of the Realization of the FP in the Past Two Years (in EUR)

ECONOMIC PURPOSES	REALIZATION IN 2017	Structure	REALIZATION IN 2018	Structure
INTEGRAL FUNDS	381,417,387	93.8	432,275,037	95.2
APPROPRIATIONS	24,900,405	6.1	20,954,860	4.6
EU PROJECTS	250,761	0.1	774,693	0.2
MoD TOTAL	**406,568,553**	**100**	**454,004,591**	**100**

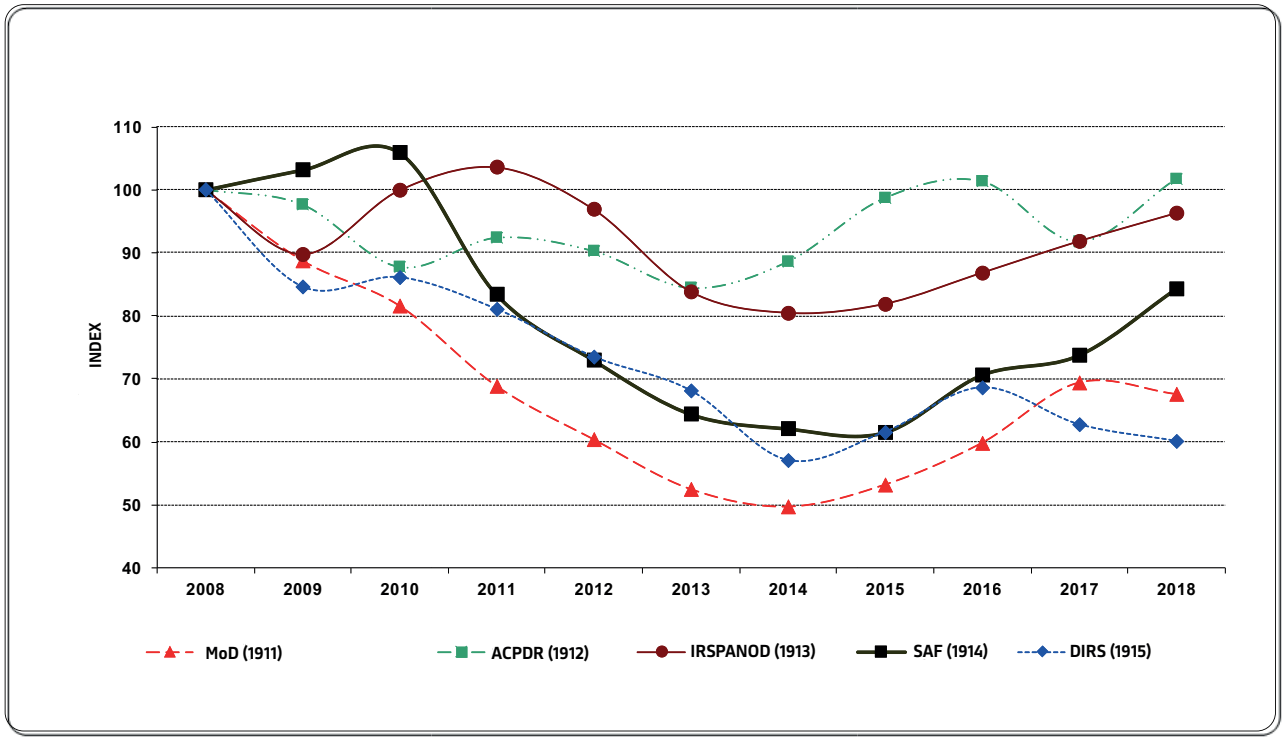
The overview of expenditure by budget users shows a decrease in the share of the MoD administration by 1.7 percentage points, and in the share of the ACPDR by 0.1 percentage points in comparison to 2017. The share of the SAF increased by 1.8 percentage points. Table 4 presents the realization by budget user

Realization of the 2018 Financial Plan by Direct Budget User

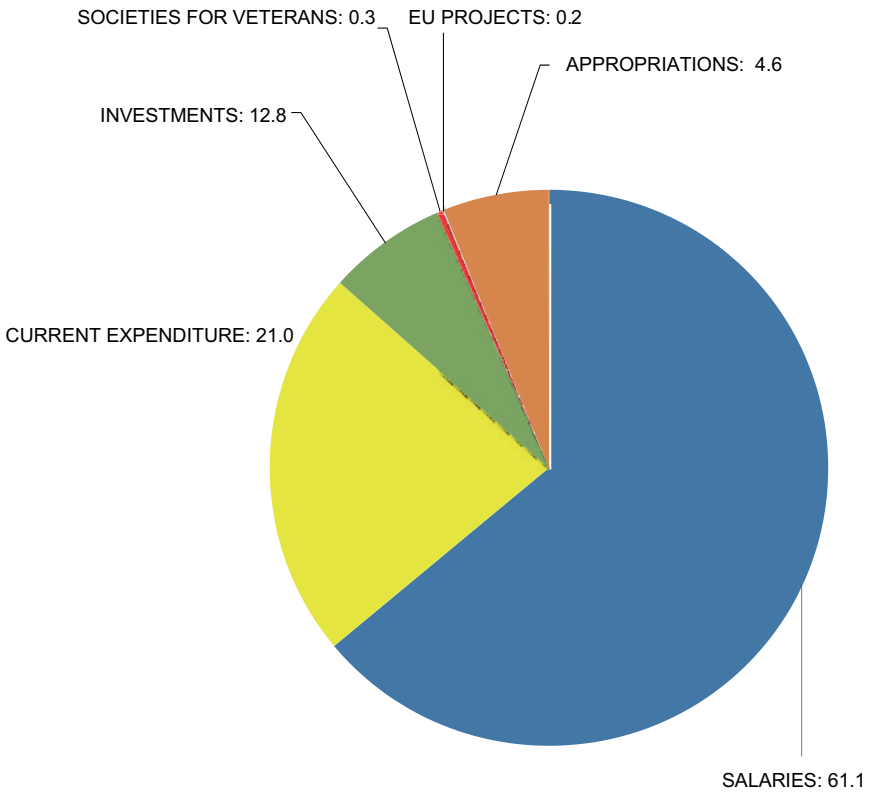
MoD TOTAL	BU 1911 Administrative	BU 1912 ACPDR	BU 1913 IRSPANO	BU 1914 SAF	BU 1915 DIRS
454,004,591	52,135,025	38,067,208	2,452,905	360,701,738	647,715
100	11.5	8.4	0.5	79.4	0.1

Graph 1 depicts the realization index by budget user for the period 2008-2017 (base year 2008). In comparison to 2008, only the ACPDR had higher realization (index 102), while all other users had lower realization: the index of the MoD's administration was 68; the index of the IRSPANOD was 96; the SAF's index was 84; and the index of the RS Defence Inspectorate was 60.

The Growth Index of Realization by Budget User (Base Year 2008)



Breakdown of 2018 Realization by Economic Purpose



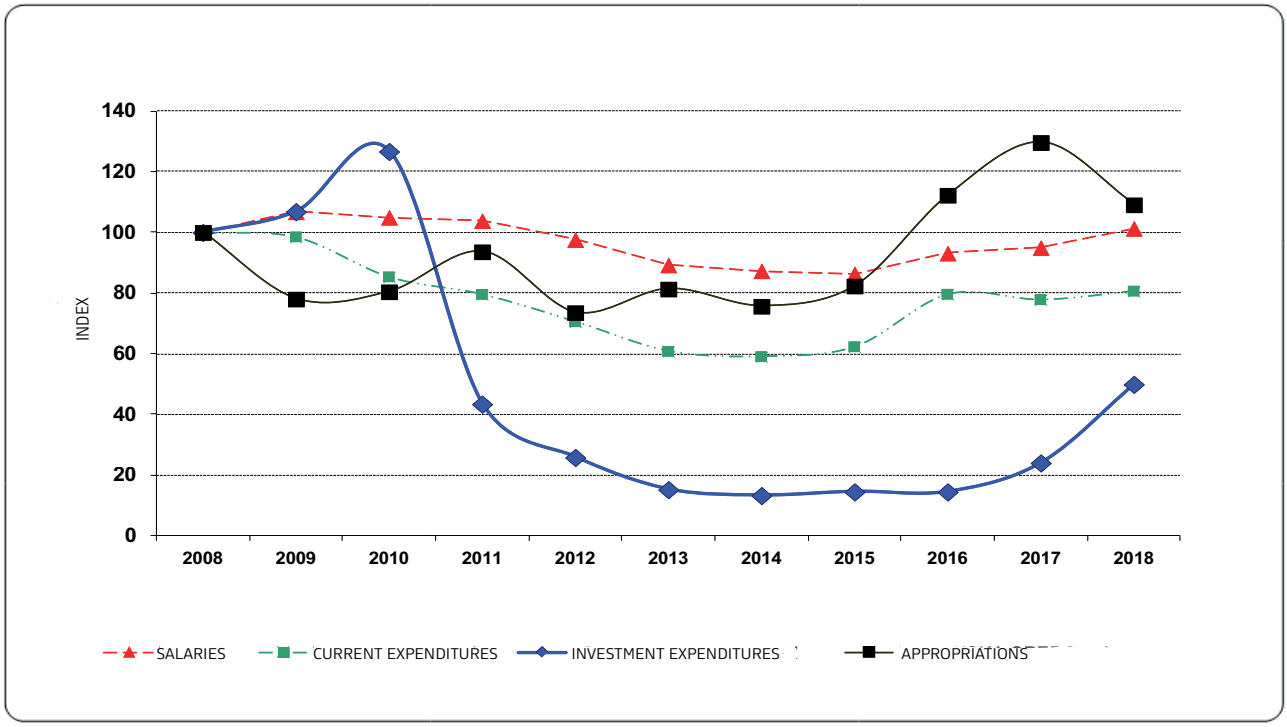
Salaries, in the amount of EUR 277.3 million, represent 61.1% of the total MoD expenditure. In recent years, the proportion designated for salaries has been decreasing, while the proportion of investments has been increasing.

Current expenditure amounts to EUR 96.9 million, which represents 21.3% of total spending. Of this, EUR 15.7 million are current transfers, including the costs of membership of NATO and EU bodies, the co-financing of societies for veterans, scholarships, and the co-financing of activities of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia and the international project The Soča Valley – the Walk of Peace. The ACPDR co-financed the national and regional examinations of the training level of first aid teams; firefighting units; the purchase of firefighting protection and rescue equipment; and societies and NGOs which form part of the operational protection, rescue and relief structure. In accordance with the conducted contract, assets were also allocated to the co-funding of the ITF Enhancing Human Security to carry out activities in counter-mine operations, provide assistance to mine victims, and provide training to counter-mine experts. In accordance with the provisions of the Fire Service Act and the Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters Act, funds were allocated to the Firefighting Association of Slovenia for the performance of its duties.

Investment expenditure stood at EUR 58.1 million in integral funds (including investment transfers), accounting for 12.8% of total MoD expenditure. An important resource for providing equipment to the SAF is dedicated revenue, which the MoD generates by selling movable and immovable property, and by renting facilities. EUR 8.9 million of appropriations were used for investments. Investment transfers totalled EUR 3.9 million (the co-financing of societies and NGOs which form part of the operational protection, rescue and relief structure; firefighting units of general importance; the purchase of firefighting protection and rescue equipment for firefighting units; and local infrastructure).

The dynamics of the individual categories of the MoD's expenditure in the period between 2008 and 2018 is depicted in Figure 3.

The Growth Index of Realization by Economic Purpose (Base Year 2008)



Overview of the Realization of the Financial Plan by Programme Structure

The year 2018 saw the implementation of the Financial Plan in line with programme planning. The Financial Plan was implemented through two policies, four programmes, 12 sub-programmes and 76 measures or projects. The MoD's fundamental policy is Policy 07: Defence and Protection, and three programmes: Defence System and Crisis Management, Military Defence, and Protection against Natural and Other Disasters. In the context of Policy 18: Culture and Civil Society, the MoD co-financed the activities of societies and associations acting for veterans in the public interest, in accordance with the Rules on the Criteria for Co-Financing War Veterans' Societies or Associations (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 5/15, 89/15).

2018 Realization of the Financial Plan by Programme Structure in EUR

CODE OF POLICY/ PROGRAMME	TITLE OF POLICY/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME		REALIZATION IN 2018	STRUCTURE
07	**DEFENCE AND PROTECTION**		**452,500,071**	**99.7**
0701	**Defence System and Crisis Management**		**51,278,221**	**11.3**
	070101	Common Defence Functions and Defence	28,368,733	6.2
	070102	Planning	6,492,702	1.4
	070103	International Defence Cooperation	15,769,071	3.5
	070104	Equipment and Infrastructure	647,715	0.1
0702	**Military Defence**		Inspections in the Field of Defence	**79.4**
	070201	SAF Human Resources Management, Education and Support	255,452,985	56.3
	070202	Operational Tasks and Readiness of the SAF	71,480,565	15.7
	070203	Infrastructure and Equipment of the SAF	25,754,239	5.7
	070204	Membership of International Organizations and Cooperation with the Local Environment	8,013,949	1.8
0703	**Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters**		**40,520,113**	**8.9**
	070301	Operation of Protection, Rescue and Relief System	19,112,879	4.2
	070302	Readiness of the Protection, Rescue and Relief System	18,954,329	4.2
	070303	Inspection and Tasks Related to Minor Offences	2,452,905	0.5
18	**CULTURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**		**1,504,520**	**0.3**
1804	**Support to Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society**		**1,504,520**	**0.3**
	180406	Support to Non-Governmental Organizations in the Area of War Legislation	1,504,520	0.3
MoD TOTAL			**454,004,591**	**100**

1.2 Defence Expenditure

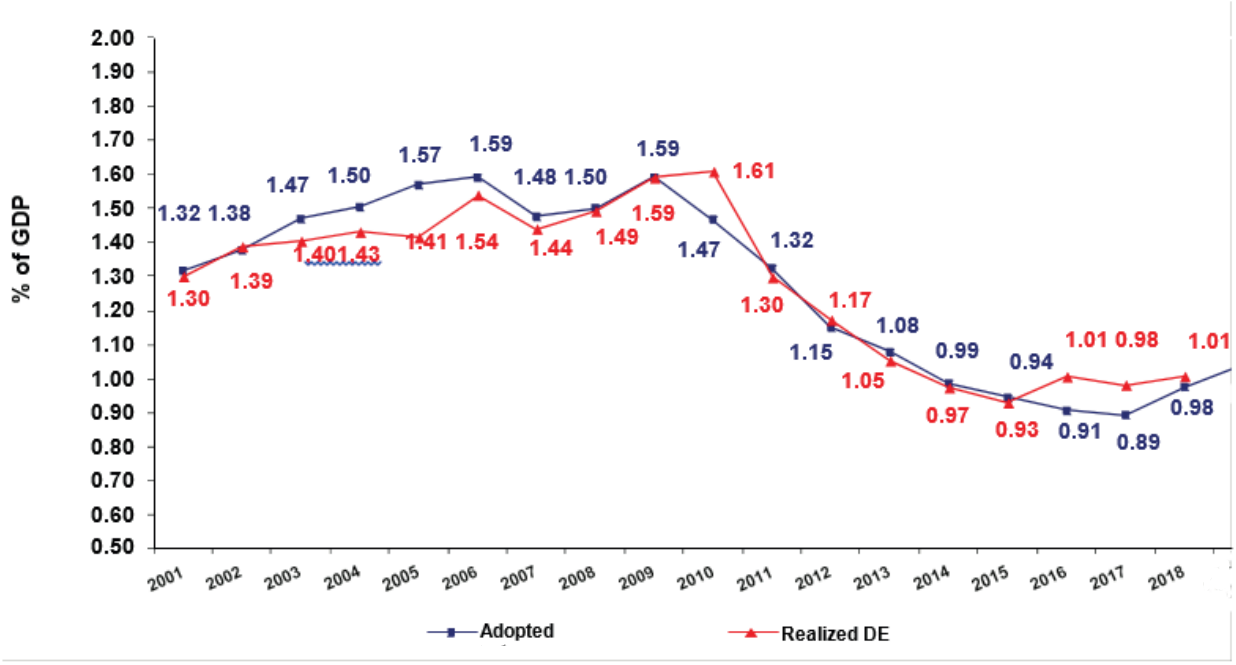
The realized defence expenditure stood at EUR 462.7 million, accounting for 1.01% of GDP (IMAD, Spring Forecast of Economic Trends 2019), and was higher than the adopted amendments by EUR 14.4 million (index 103.1). In comparison to the realization in 2017, defence expenditure increased by EUR 40.5 million (index 109.6).

Defence system resources (the Financial Plan of the Slovenian Armed Forces, the MoD administration, and the RS Defence Inspectorate) represented 89.4% of defence expenditure. The remaining 10.6% was represented by military pensions and resources of the Office for the Protection of Classified Information.

Defence Expenditure from 2017 to 2019

Budget Users	2017	Adopted amendments 2018	Realization 2018	Real 2018- Adopted amendments 2018	Real 2018 - Real 2017
BU 1911 Administrative Part	53,527,279	43,579,034	52,135,025	8,555,991	-1,392,254
BU 1912 ACPDR	34,350,587	39,543,525	38,067,208	-1,476,317	3,716,620
BU 1913 IRSPANOD	2,338,748	2,465,954	2,452,905	-13,049	114,157
BU 1914 SAF	315,675,627	349,217,635	360,701,738	11,484,103	45,026,112
BU 1915 DIRS	676,313	800,253	647,715	-152,538	-28,598
MOD FINANCIAL PLAN	**406,568,553**	**435,606,401**	**454,004,591**	**18.398,190**	**47,436,037**
% FP in GDP Spring 2019	**0.95**	**0.95**	**0.99**	**0.04**	**0.04**
Financial Plan without BU 1912and 2013	369,879,218	393,596,922	413,484,478	19,887,556	43,605,260
Military pensions	51,863,219	54,526,674	48,771,394	-5,755,280	-3,091,825
BU 1535 Office for the Protection Of Classified Information	472,232	481,668	464,212	-17,456	-8,020
DEFENCE EXPENDITURE	**422,214,669**	**448,605,264**	**462,720,084**	**14,114,820**	**40,505,415**
BGP in Million EUR	43,000	45,742	45,948		
	Spring 2019	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019		
% DE in GDP Spring 2019	**0.98**	**0.98**	**1.01**		

Comparison of the Percentage of Approved and Realized Defence Expenditure in GDP



The figure shows that realized defence expenditure reached the lowest percentage of GDP in 2015, i.e. 0.93%. The highest percentage was reached in 2010, when defence expenditure stood at 1.61% of GDP. The highest percentage of approved defence expenditure was recorded in 2006 and 2009, i.e. 1.59% of GDP. Across the period 2001-2018, both the average approved and the average realized defence expenditure represented 1.28% of GDP.

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERSONNEL PLAN

2.1 Implementation of the Personnel Plan in the Administrative Part of the MoD

In accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the RS No. 10002-33//2017/8 of 21 December 2017, No. 10002-33/2017/26 of 7 February 2018, No. 10002-33/2017/32 of 22 February 2018, No. 10002-33/2017/41 of 19 April 2018, and No. 10002-33/2017/63 of 26 July 2018, the number of employees permitted in the administrative part of the MoD was 1121. In 2018, the Government of the RS supported traineeship in state administration bodies by setting specific quotas for the employment of trainees within the joint personnel plan of state administration bodies. Eleven quotas for the employment of trainees were allocated to the MoD in 2018. Within the framework of the implementation of the personnel plan, exceeding the permitted number of employees is allowed due to the employment of a trainee in 2018 whose traineeship period ends in 2019; however, the number of employees must be harmonized with the adopted personnel plan by 31 December 2019. In accordance with Item 2 of the Resolution of the Government of the RS No. 10002-33/2017/32 of 22 February 2018, the Inspectorate of the RS for Protection Against Natural and Other Disasters may exceed the number of employees defined in the Joint Personnel Plan in order to form emergency response teams for reviewing and amending environmental permits under the Resolution of the Government of the RS No. 35400-8/2017/2 of 27 July 2017 by four employees for a period of two years. In accordance with Item 3 of this Resolution, the number of employees must be harmonized with the permitted number of employees by the completion of the project at the latest.

In accordance with the Joint Personnel Plan of the RS Government, the number of personnel in the administrative part of the MoD, as of 31 December 2018, was 1134 public employees, of which six were trainees. Due to the needs of several organizational units to change the systemization of work posts for the employment of trainees, the MoD concluded employment contracts with nine of the permitted eleven candidates in 2018, for the duration of their traineeship. If the trainees (six employees) and those employed for the period of increased workload in the IRSPANOD are subtracted, four people more than the permitted number were employed by the MoD in 2018. Exceeding the number of employees was the result of concluding full-time employment contracts with three trainees who began their traineeship in 2018, and the fact that since the new Government of the RS took office, the MoD has had two State Secretaries, which was not anticipated during the preparation of the Joint Personnel Plan for 2018 and 2019. In 2018, the administrative part of the MoD employed 65 new public employees (including the new employees who are excluded from the Personnel Plan), while 61 left.

The table below shows the permitted number of employees by individual year. It shows that the MoD fulfilled the RS Government Decisions regarding employment from 2009 to 2017.

Year	Allowed Situation Based on the Personnel Plan	Personnel Plan Realization	Difference
1	2	3=2-1	3=2-1
2008	1359	1378	19
2009	1328	1328	0
2010	1310	1300	-10

2011	1281	1274	-7
2012	1259	1190	-69
2013	1170	1161	-9
2014	1158	1134	-24
2015	1124	1123	-1
Year	**Allowed Situation Based on the Personnel Plan**	**Personnel Plan Realization**	**Difference**
2016	1124	1130*	6
2017**	1124	1118	-6
2018***	1121	1134	13

***** The realization of the Personnel Plan included 11 trainees, with whom the MoD was permitted to exceed the Personnel Plan.

****** The realization of the Personnel Plan included 8 trainees, with whom the MoD was permitted to exceed the Personnel Plan.

******* The realization of the Personnel Plan included 6 trainees and 3 people employed due to increased workload, with whom the MoD was permitted to exceed the Personnel Plan.

2.2 Implementation of the Personnel Plan in the SAF

The implementation of the Personnel Plan in the SAF is described in the following subsections, which provide more details on the Personnel Plan.

2.2.1 Active Component

The Medium-Term Defence Programme of the RS provided for 7255 members in the SAF active component in 2018. As of 31 December 2018, the SAF numbered 6628 members, meaning that the predicted size of the SAF had reached 91%. The structure of employees on 31 December 2018 was as follows: 1070 officers; 1965 non-commissioned officers (NCOs); 2578 soldiers; 258 senior military specialists; 325 junior military specialists; and 432 civilians. This situation was unsatisfactory, especially in the case of the soldiers, where the predicted number of employees only reached 77%. The 2018 Personnel Plan was not fully realized. The main reason for this is the reduced interest of young people in employment with the SAF.

In 2018, 266 members left the SAF (22 officers, 30 NCOs, 171 soldiers, 15 military specialists, and 28 civilians), which is fewer than in the previous years: 2017 (258), 2016 (316), 2015 (381), 2014 (312) and 2013 (292).

Comparison of the SAF Active Component in 2018 and 2017

Status	**Situation as of 31 December 2018**	**Situation as of 31 December 2017**	**Difference**
Officers	1070	1071	-1
NCOs	1965	1970	-5
Soldiers	2578	2711	-133
Senior Military Specialists	258	261	-3
Junior Military Specialists	325	318	7
Civilian Personnel	432	446	-14
TOTAL	6628	6777	-149

Ratio between Officers, NCOs and Soldiers

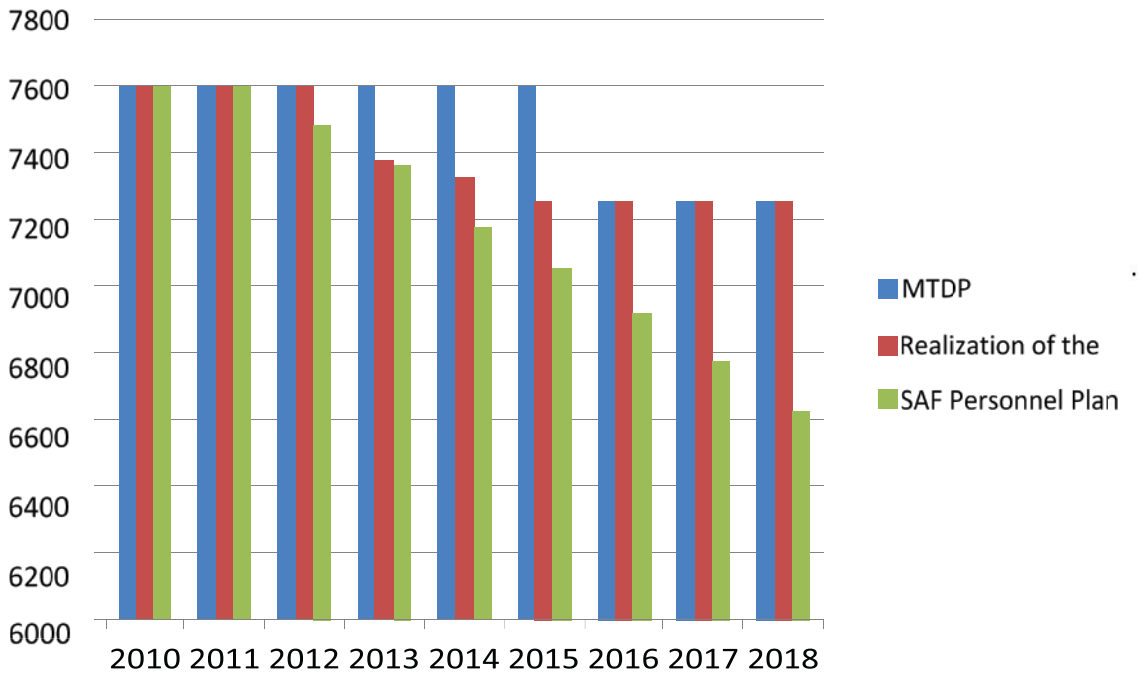
Category	Officers	NCOs	Soldiers
2018	1	1.8	2.4
2017	1	1.8	2.5
2016	1	1.9	2.7
2015	1	1.9	2.8

From 2011 to 2018, the average age of SAF members increased from 36.9 to 41.7, and the average age of soldiers increased from 30.1 to 34.8.

Average Age of SAF Members Between 2010 and 2017

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Soldiers	30.1	30.8	31.4	32.6	33.6	33.3	34.1	34.8
TOTAL	**36.9**	**37.5**	**38.2**	**39.3**	**39.8**	**40.4**	**40.9**	**41.7**

Planned and Achieved Number of SAF Employees by Year



2.2.2 Employment in the SAF

To achieve the target number of employees in the SAF (7254), the MoD was permitted to employ 626 candidates in 2018. Including employments by 31 December 2018, 177 members were employed. At the end of 2018, the SAF employed 6628 members, which is 91.4% of the Personnel Plan (7254 members). Despite the continuation of employment up to the age of 27, the right to a financial reward on the

signing of a five- or ten-year contract, and other measures to complete the SAF's active component, the personnel plan was not fully realized.

In 2018, 117 members were newly employed in the SAF: 12 officers, 3 NCOs, 94 soldiers, 4 civilians, and 3 military specialists.

2.2.3 Military Service in the SAF Contract Reserve

A total of 135 candidates applied for military service in the contract reserve in 2018. Sixty-three contracts concerning military service in the SAF contract reserve component were concluded. During the same period, contracts with 175 contract members were terminated or were not extended. At the end of 2018, 828 members were employed in the SAF contract reserve component, which is 55.2% of the Personnel Plan (1500 members).

The Medium-Term Defence Programme stipulated that in 2018 the number of contract reserve members would be 1050, which was also determined in the SAF's Personnel Plan. The realization of the SAF's plan to employ contract reserve members in 2018 was 79%. As of 31 December 2018, the SAF contract reserve numbered 828 members, of whom 21 were officers, 30 NCOs, 711 soldiers, 42 senior military specialists, and 24 junior military specialists.

Comparison of the Number of Contract Reserve

Status	Situation as of 31 December 2018	Situation as of 31 December 2017	Difference
Officers	21	23	-2
NCOs	30	40	-10
Soldiers	711	812	-101
Senior Military Specialists	42	41	+1
Junior Military Specialists	**24**	**24**	**0**
TOTAL	**828**	**940**	**-112**

2.2.4 Voluntary Military Service

In 2018, a total of 135 candidates applied for voluntary military service, 111 of whom were men and 24 were women. Due to non-compliance with the general conditions (cancellation of the application before signing the contract, reservations based on criminal records, reservations of the Intelligence and Security Service) and medical reasons, only 70 of these – 59 men and 11 women – were assigned to voluntary military service. So far, 47 candidates have successfully completed the training, which is 67% of the assigned candidates. Nine candidates assigned to voluntary military service in 2018 will remain in service until 15 February 2019. In comparison to the previous year, the number of candidates who applied for and were assigned to voluntary military service decreased by over 10%.

2.2.5 Promotion of Employment and Service in the SAF

In 2018, in accordance with the provisions of the Military Service Act, 9400 young men born in 2000 were invited to a briefing session for national service personnel. After the candidates' entry in the

military records (in the same calendar year as the candidates reach the age of 18), the administrative body competent for defence acquaints these young men with their obligations and rights, employment opportunities in the SAF, voluntary military service, military camps, the possibilities for the awards of scholarships for the SAF's needs, and military service in the contract reserve. In 2018, SAF members were actively involved in the briefing sessions. Of the candidates invited, 74.7% attended the briefing session, while the rest were subsequently informed by post.

In addition to briefing sessions, promotional activities took place in secondary schools, the Employment Service of Slovenia offices, and at other promotional events, i.e. fairs, barracks open days, and various sporting events. In accordance with the Promotional Activities Plan, 358 promotional events were carried out in 2018.

The promotion of the military profession was mostly carried out on the Postani vojak (Become a Soldier) website. In addition to advertising on the website, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, the MoD began to advertise the military profession on the business-oriented online social network LinkedIn, and to publish audio messages (podcasts) on the internet in 2018. During the year the Postani vojak website recorded nearly 85,000 visitors, who visited the website 132,130 times and opened 378,146 pages. An average visitor viewed 2.86 pages and stayed on a single web page for 2.26 minutes.

2.2.6 Scholarships for Work in the SAF

In 2018 there were 250 scholarship calls for secondary education and 16 scholarship calls for higher education for the academic year 2018/2019. A total of 22 contracts for scholarships were concluded (10 for higher education and 12 for secondary education), and another six candidates are going through the process.

2.2.7 Preparation of Personnel for Departure from Military Service

On 11-15 June 2018, a pre-retirement seminar was organized at MoD holiday facilities in Debeli rtič. Altogether 61 participants attended the seminar.

Twenty-six soldiers who had lost their employment contracts when they reached 45 years of age were granted one of the rights. Specifically, twenty members accepted the offered redeployment within the MoD. Of these, nineteen filled civilian work posts in the SAF, and one filled a work post in the administrative part of the MoD. Of the remaining soldiers, two members rejected the offered working positions; one member terminated the contract before it expired; one member received severance payment; and two members were granted the right to a lump-sum payment, which the MoD would have paid another employer within five years, and severance pay.

Employment contracts were not renewed with four soldiers for medical reasons. All four members received severance payment, and three of them exercised their right to be trained for a civilian profession.

2.2.8 Care of Former SAF Members

The MoD Intergenerational Information and Social Centres (MIDS), which are based in Ajdovščina, Slovenska Bistrica, Novo mesto, and Ljubljana, organized 135 major activities and events. Within the

framework of the MIDS annual work plans, the centres carried out various different thematic workshops, lectures, hikes, military professional excursions, meetings, photographic exhibitions, regular recreation, and a multi-day intergenerational camp. The four-day intergenerational camp at Ajševica Barracks was attended by 29 leaders of intergenerational groups for quality ageing, MIDS heads, and the most active members. The MoD participated in the Third Age Festival, where former SAF members who are active within MIDS and members of MoD intergenerational groups for quality ageing were offered a handicraft exhibition and handicraft workshops.

The MoD Voluntary Intergenerational Society for Quality Ageing (MPD) has 153 members. The society carried out its Annual General Meeting, which was attended by approximately 110 members. In 2018, the Military Affairs Division and the MoD MPD organized training for new leaders/promoters of intergenerational programmes. Training under the programme Domoljublje (Patriotism) was attended and completed by ten new leaders.

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE STATE'S PHYSICAL ASSETS

3.1 Real Estate

A public procurement procedure was carried out for the construction, completion and installation works for the energy rehabilitation of buildings in the Baron Andrej Čehovin Military Post in Postojna. An operating permit was obtained at Cerklje ob Krki Airfield for a fuel depot with a transfer area; detailed design projects were developed for the runway overlay, and arresting gear was installed. After acquiring ownership of a plot which was still required for the construction of a section of the Drnovo-Črešnjice bypass, a building permit for the missing section was obtained, and construction work was completed. An application was submitted for the issuing of an operating permit for the said section of the road. Windows, doors, and asbestos roofing were replaced in a number of MoD and SAF facilities. For the purpose of establishing central archives of the MoD at the facility Trojica in Vrhnika, the windows, doors, and roof of the facility were replaced, the facade and the gas boiler room in the thermal station were renovated, and technical documents were prepared for the renovation of the interior. The rehabilitation of the technical depot at Šentviška Gora was completed. In 2018, a contract for the upgrading and updating of the technical security systems at SAF locations was carried out. This was necessary to ensure the protection of weapons and the establishment of security areas in accordance with the Classified Information Act. A contract was also necessary for investment maintenance and the replacement of used and obsolete items. Telecommunication ducts and an optical link between the motorway and the Air Base in Brnik were laid. A contractor was selected for the construction, completion and installation works for the Air Command and Control System Software Based Extension (ASBE). The hot water boiler at Škrilj Military Post near Kočevska Reka was replaced; the first phase of the renovation of the water supply network at Pokljuka was completed; and the rehabilitation of the boiler room in Postojna is underway, replacing heating oil with wood chips. The renovation of sanitary facilities commenced in two facilities of the Murska Sobota Military Post. A worn-out cable conduit and the Vojna pošta Grosuplje transformer station were replaced. The Real Estate Management Division participated in the preparation of project documentation for an alternative garage facility with the possibility of installing offices on the floor of the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Sežana (project assignment, and coordination with the building designers and the Municipality of Sežana). The project was prepared by the ACPDR in cooperation with the Municipality of Sežana. Investment and project documentation are being prepared for the landscaping of the Apače shooting range. Conceptual designs were prepared for the arrangement of the accommodation facility in Izola and of Building 3 at the Postojna Military Post. Also, implementation documentation was prepared for the renovation of Building 14 at the Postojna Military Post. The construction of two above-ground car parks for 193 vehicles is planned next to the MoD administrative building in the official vehicle parking area. A preliminary design was prepared in several versions. Three procedures were carried out for the selection of a contractor for the construction of club premises at the Edvard Peperko Military Post in Ljubljana, and a helicopter parking platform was constructed at Ajdovščina Airfield. Project documentation was prepared for the construction of a business facility above the car park at the MoD headquarters.

3.2 Procurement

In 2018, 285 orders were made, on the basis of which 443 contracts and framework agreements were concluded. The MoD continued to carry out public procurement contracts for the purchase of military equipment, and concluded framework agreements to ensure the security of supply within a period of at least three years. The MoD thus followed the guidelines outlined in the Medium-Term Defence Programme, which, in addition to security of supply, ensures the economic management of financial resources and the unification and standardization of weapons and military equipment in operational use. This results in a more economical implementation of logistics processes. New multi-year framework agreements were concluded for the purchase of military all-terrain vehicles and special vehicles for the needs of the SAF and the protection and rescue system. Also, agreements were concluded for the purchase of technological equipment for the Bač shooting range, and agreements for the destruction and purchase of mortar mines and items of combat, sports and service uniforms.

In 2018, the MoD carried out the following large orders and supplies of goods and services, including those based on prior framework agreements: supply of military combat and service uniforms; protective tactical vests; all-terrain, personal and multi-purpose vehicles; ammunition of various calibres; various pieces of computer hardware and software; aviation equipment; engineer company equipment; technological equipment for the shooting range; and airport maintenance equipment. A contract was concluded for the maintenance and supply of spare parts for various military vehicles. Contracts were also concluded for the maintenance of the facilities and installed infrastructure of the SAF, and several other construction contracts. New contracts were concluded for the maintenance of the infrastructure of the communication and warning system in the field of protection and rescue. Personal accident insurance contracts were concluded. On the basis of joint public procurements carried out by the Ministry of Public Administration, direct contracts were concluded for the supply of electricity and airline tickets for the needs of the MoD.

3.3 Acquisitions

In 2018, 720 qualitative and quantitative acquisitions in the total amount of EUR 50.5 million were made. The focus was on the acquisition of engineering equipment, equipment for the maintenance of Cerklje ob Krki Airfield, equipment for JTACs, anti-armour weapons, various vehicles (all-terrain vehicles for the SAF and logistics vehicles for the ACPDR), and combat uniforms. In comparison to 2017, the number of acquisitions increased by 32%, and by 43.45% in value. Ten government quality assurances were carried out for Spain and Germany.

The following items were purchased in 2018: a total of 160,064 different combat uniform items (anoraks, gloves, polo necks, undersuits, balaclavas, fireproof underwear, functional and thermal underwear, socks, shirts, hats, trousers, waterproof trousers, jackets, berets, and boots); 9146 service uniform items (blouses, hats, shoes, trousers, skirts, socks, pullovers, gloves, shirts, jackets); 20,500 items of sports equipment (gloves, socks, hats, sports jackets, trousers); and 1900 protective tactical vests.

The following items were purchased for operational functioning: personal protective equipment; cooking apparel; protective clothing for members of the Military Medical Unit; 1000 active earmuffs; fire protection and environmental protection equipment; military topographic maps; 20 shooting

simulators; gas boilers; convection ovens; refrigerator and freezer units; tables and chairs for military kitchens; maintenance tools for helicopters and aeroplanes; firefighting equipment and radios for the multi-purpose boat Triglav; an outboard motor and life jackets; a chainsaw and a sand loader; autoinjectors; a contamination meter and CBR defence suits; ropes; climbing helmets; skis and mountaineering equipment for the operation of the mountaineering unit; sports team equipment; laboratory furniture; school desks and an ECG apparatus; a CPR dummy; dog handling equipment and equipment for disinfection, disinsection and deratization for the veterinary unit; a urine analyzer; medical kit bags for nurses and combat paramedics; a treadmill with cycle ergometry and ECG, and a blood collection chair for the operation of the Military Medical Unit; furniture for the accommodation facility of the Air Ground Operations School (AGOS); operator and office chairs; wardrobes; a multi-calorimeter for the testing of explosives; temperature and humidity meters; workshop tools for the maintenance of material resources; landscaping tools and lawn mowers; musical instruments; an air conditioner; paper shredders; televisions; and personal vehicles and food delivery vehicles.

4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE SALE OF STATE-OWNED TANGIBLE ASSETS

4.1 Real Estate

The explanation of the purchase of real estate due to the smooth functioning of the system, which was planned for 2018, is provided in the table below.

In 2018, energy performance certificates for all MoD apartments were completed and finalized. Inspections of the correct use of two thirds of the apartments were carried out. For the purposes of entry in the Real Estate Register, the MoD submitted the required data on buildings managed by the MoD to the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the RS.

A public procurement procedure was carried out for the construction, completion and installation works for the energy rehabilitation of buildings at the military post in Postojna. Windows, doors, and asbestos roofing were replaced in a number of MoD and SAF facilities. For the purpose of establishing central archives of the MoD at the facility Trojica in Vrhnika, the windows, doors, and roof of the facility were replaced, the facade and the gas boiler room in the thermal station were renovated, and technical documents were prepared for the renovation of the interior. The rehabilitation of the technical depot at Šentviška Gora was completed. In 2018, a contract for the upgrading and updating of the technical security systems at SAF locations was carried out. This was necessary to ensure the protection of weapons and the establishment of security areas in accordance with the Classified Information Act. The contract was also necessary for investment maintenance and the replacement of used and obsolete items. The first phase of the renovation of the water supply network at Pokljuka was completed. The Real Estate Management Division participated in the preparation of project documentation for an alternative garage facility with the possibility of arranging offices on the floor of the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Sežana (project assignment, and coordination with the building designers and the Municipality of Sežana). The project is being prepared by the ACPDR in cooperation with the Municipality of Sežana. Investment and project documentation are being prepared for the arrangement of the Apače shooting range. Conceptual designs were prepared for the arrangement of the accommodation facility in Izola and of Building 3 at the Postojna Military Post. Also, implementation documentation was prepared for the renovation of Building 14 at the Postojna Military Post. The construction of two above-ground car parks for 193 vehicles is planned next to the MoD administrative building in the official vehicle parking area. A preliminary design was prepared in several versions. Three procedures were carried out for the selection of a contractor for the construction of club premises at the Edvard Peperko Military Post in Ljubljana, and a helicopter parking platform was constructed at Ajdovščina Airfield. Project documentation was prepared for the construction of a business facility above the car park at the MoD headquarters.

The renovation of apartments is starting to require increasingly greater financial resources due to their wear, so problems with the provision of resources have begun to occur, as the renovation of the apartments is funded exclusively from rents. Regular maintenance work was carried out in the apartments under multi-annual maintenance contracts for the maintenance of MoD and SAF facilities and installed infrastructure. Technical documents were prepared for the awarding of public contracts

for the regular monthly service and repair of lifts in MoD and SAF facilities, for regular monthly service and repair of air-conditioning appliances, and for statutory inspections of lightning and electrical wiring.

4.2. Movable Property

A vehicle for the defence attaché in Turkey and a vehicle for the needs of the Intelligence and Security Service were purchased from the administrative part of the MoD.

1912 – ACPDR
Of the major purchases in 2018, ten all-terrain vehicles for the needs of the National Unit for Protection from UXO, and five vehicles for the Mountain Rescue Service were bought.

1913 – IRSPANOD
With the purchase of six vehicles, the vehicle fleet was restored to ensure a satisfactory fleet of vehicles in the long term. The new vehicles helped reduce maintenance costs and fuel consumption. Given that inspectors use the vehicles daily, their safety in the performance of their tasks has also improved.

1915 – Defence Inspectorate of the RS
The purchased vehicle is intended for the implementation of regular and extraordinary tasks of the Inspectorate.

Other Movable Property

1911– Ministry of Defence
In accordance with the plan, the MoD continued to renovate the kitchen, which operates within the Catering and Protocol Section, and replaced worn-out electric boilers with new ones.
In the management of accommodation facilities, the MoD purchased three large mobile units for the Debeli rtič location (instead of two small units and one large unit). The purchase of small units was rescheduled to 2019.

Unplanned purchases of a set of stainless steel equipment and a dishwasher were carried out during the complete renovation of the kitchen at Debeli rtič.

All purchases were made through the conclusion of direct contracts with the contractors who submitted the most favourable offers in the public tendering process.

1912 – ACPDR
Forty-five chemical detectors with biological readers were purchased for the firefighting units of general importance; a boiler container and a goods vehicle were purchased for the Medium Urban Search and Rescue (MUSAR) units; a satellite communicator was purchased and upgraded for the communications vehicle of the Civil Protection; and dishwashers were purchased for the kitchen at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Ig.

1914 – Slovenian Armed Forces
By purchasing equipment for regular SAF activity, the SAF kitchen was equipped with a steam-convection oven; the Military Medical Unit was provided with equipment for the periodic and preventive medical examinations of SAF members; the spent engine of the rescue boat was replaced; and devices were purchased for measuring the pressure of artillery weapons and for measuring gunpowder stability.

In the area of telecommunications, the SAF purchased equipment to expand the Command and Control capabilities in Slovenia's airspace, to arrange server infrastructure, and to ensure partial interoperability of SAF units at the tactical level.

As part of the modernization of SAF units, the SAF purchased equipment for the engineering unit (a multi-purpose engineering vehicle – mobile crane; a cargo vehicle – dumper; a trailer for the transport of construction machinery; and a grader). It completed the purchase of an explosives detector for the EOD unit; purchased new hand-held anti-armour weapons; special reconnaissance equipment (binoculars, night vision goggles, laser range-finders) for the eFP unit in Latvia; and new simulators for training the crews of armoured vehicles, anti-tank weapons and JTACs. Equipment for the manipulation and maintenance of airport and other areas was purchased for Cerklje ob Krki Airfield: an aircraft towing vehicle, tractors with trailers, mulchers, a snow cutter, and a forklift.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ADVANCED TRAINING PLAN

The Education, Training and Advanced Training Plan for 2018 in the administrative part of the MoD was implemented as follows:

Functional Internal Training

Budget User	Planned Participants	Number of Participants	Realization %
1911	260	210	81
1912	9	164	
1913	34	9	26
1915	33	37	112
Total:	**336**	**420**	**125**

The implementation of the Education, Training and Advanced Training Plan for 2018 in functional internal training was 125% (1912 – unplanned internal training carried out at the Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief in Ig is also included (1911 and 1913); reason: some training courses were not carried out due to work obligations).

E-training

– E-training in 2018 in the administrative part of the MoD (1911, 1912, 1913, 1915);
– Handling of Classified Information, extra (676 participants – 612 from the administrative part of the MoD, 55 from the ACPDR, 6 from the IRSPANOD, 3 from the Defence Inspectorate of the RS (DIRS));
– Social Engineering (492 participants – 414 from the administrative part of the MoD, 32 from the ACPDR, 37 from the IRSPANOD, 9 from the DIRS);
– Fundamentals of Information Security (234 participants – 197 from the administrative part of the MoD, 28 from the ACPDR, 7 from the IRSPANOD, 2 from the DIRS);
– E-commerce in Financial Accounting (1 participant from the administrative part of the MoD);
– Unified Accounting, Finance, Personnel and Labour Costs System (MFERAC) – official vehicles (3 participants – 1 from the administrative part of the MoD, 2 from the DIRS).

Functional External Training

Budget User	Planned Number of	Number of Participants	Realization (in %)
1911	616	341	55
1912	324	69	21
1913	208	38	18
1915	21	23	110
Total:	**1169**	**471**	**40**

The implementation of the Education, Training and Advanced Training Plan in functional external training was 40%. The reasons for the low participation were the cancellation of certain forms of training, work obligations, and personal reasons.

Language Training

Budget User	Planned Number of	Number of Participants	Realization (in %)
1911	15	16	107
1912	9	3	33
1913	0	11	
1915	0	0	0
Total:	**24**	**30**	**125**

The implementation of the Education, Training and Advanced Training Plan in language training was 125%. The reason for this higher participation was the unplanned participation of the IRSPANOD inspectors in the English Terminology course in the System of Protection against Natural and Other Disasters.

Training Abroad

Budget User	Planned Number of Participants	Number of Participants	Realization (in %)
1911	61	57	93
1912	20	9	45
1913	0	2	
1915	0	3	
Total:	**281**	**71**	**88**

The implementation of the Education, Training and Advanced Training Plan in the area of training abroad was 88%.

SAF members attended numerous military education and training courses in 2018. The education took place within the Military Schools Centre, in comparable military education and training courses abroad, and in institutions outside the MoD. The training contributed to an increase in the military professional qualifications of SAF members, and to the maintenance and development of capabilities.

In 2018, 15 SAF members finished their education at the Higher Vocational College with the military module training to obtain the 1st level of Bologna cycle education. Fifteen SAF members continued their education (to be finished in 2019) to obtain higher vocational education at the Higher Vocational College. Seventeen SAF members were referred to the Non-Commissioned Officer School; all of them successfully completed the Primary Military Professional Education and Training Programme for Non-Commissioned Officers in the SAF.

Twenty-one SAF members completed their education and training under the General Military Education and Training Programme for Officer Candidates. In 2018, 23 SAF members were referred to the officers' staff training (to be completed in 2019). Forty-two SAF members completed the Supplementary Military Professional Education and Training in the context of the Higher Officer Course; there were just as many members in the next generation which began the course in 2018. Eleven SAF members completed the Supplementary Military Professional Education and Training – General Staff Training for Officers.

A total of 335 SAF members were referred to various forms of education and training abroad: 186 officers, 89 NCOs, 27 soldiers, 31 military specialists, and 2 civilians. Members were referred to career education (26), functional education and training (169), a renewal of licences (66), and other military education and training courses. In 2018, the number of referrals to education and training courses abroad (335) increased by 10.56% in comparison to 2017 (303), and was 2.45% above the eight-year average (2010-2017).

6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PLAN

The SAF's international military cooperation is based on guidelines from the MoD's Defence Policy Directorate and the Chief of General Staff of the SAF. The SAF Business Plan for 2018-19 focused on activity in accordance with the foreign policy and strategic interests of the RS, and in accordance with the financial, human and material resources.

A significant focus of international military cooperation in 2018 was on NATO. A strategic interest of the RS remained the stabilization of the Western Balkans and its integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures.

The International Military Cooperation Plan (IMC Plan) for 2018 covered 558 events. Of the planned events, 225 were carried out. In addition, 228 unplanned events were carried out, so a total of 453 events were held. This was almost 8% more than in 2017. The realization of the planned events from the Annual Plan of International Military Cooperation was 45.69%. The funds available through the Financial Plan, in a total amount of EUR 880,000, were all spent.

The SAF wanted its planned (proposed) activities to directly support the implementation of its missions and tasks, with an emphasis on the tasks performed in the context of the collective defence system (capacity building, preparedness), in support of IOM-related tasks, and in support of the countries in the region in their accession to and integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures.

6.1 International Cooperation within NATO

A significant focus of international military cooperation within NATO in 2018 was on supporting the SAF Peacetime Structure Abroad. The aim was to use military representatives (MILREP) to achieve a unified and effective representation of the interests of the RS and the SAF in both international command bodies (international duties) and national duties. The SAF's contribution to the Alliance's successful long-term political and military adaptation to the changed security situation was notable and well received, particularly in the activities of the Enhanced Forward Presence and the SAF's active involvement in IOM, especially its contribution in support of Operation KFOR.

The Alliance continued to intensively adapt to the changing security conditions by modernizing and enhancing its capabilities to respond to any threats and challenges from any direction. It was emphasized that an increase in defence spending was an essential condition for the development of the necessary capabilities, in accordance with the Wales Defence Spending Commitment adopted in 2014.

The focus was on the preparation of the July meeting of the NATO Heads of State and Government in Brussels, and on the implementation of its conclusions. The decisions made at the July Summit helped the Alliance to move to the final stage of aligning its allied posture. This concerns decisions related to reinforcing the preparedness of forces; to increasing the responsiveness in political decision-making; to providing further reinforcement, operational support, maritime security, and cyber defence; to ensuring preparedness to face the challenges coming from the south; and to adapting the NATO Command Structure. Member states are committed to further implementing the adopted decisions in

a spirit of allied unity and solidarity. The leaders reaffirmed the Wales Commitment, recognizing that in the future it will become even more important that the commitments made on defence spending be fully realized before the end of 2024. Awareness was strengthened of the importance of the full implementation of the Wales Commitment for the unity and solidarity of the Alliance.

Slovenia was active in shaping the Alliance's efforts to stabilize the situation in the south, since the events in this area have direct security implications on the Western Balkans and, consequently, Slovenia's security. Accordingly, an officer was seconded to NATO's Regional Command South in Naples earlier in 2018. Slovenia continued its active support to the Alliance's open door policy, and underlined the need for a clear Euro-Atlantic perspective for the Western Balkan countries. The name agreement between Greece and Macedonia made it possible to begin the process of Macedonia's accession to NATO under the name North Macedonia. Slovenia supported the efforts of North Macedonia by sharing its experience of the accession process, through public diplomacy events, and through the defence advisor at the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, which is led by a Slovenian officer.

As part of NATO's Framework Nation Concept for Capability Development, Slovenia joined the German-led group in July and hosted an Italian-led group meeting in September.

6.2 International Cooperation within the European Union

In 2018, Slovenia continued to participate in further strengthening and deepening EU cooperation in the field of security and defence. It participated in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy initiatives arising from the European Defence Action Plan. Implementation of the EU Global Strategy is one of the three main areas which, together with the EU-NATO cooperation and the European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) prepared by the European Commission, constitute the EU Defence Package. The MoD directed most of its activities to the establishment and operation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the field of defence, and to PESCO projects. At the same time, activities were carried out relating to the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the European Defence Fund (EDF), and the Capability Development Plan (CDP).

In 2018, the Minister of Defence regularly attended meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and informal meetings of the EU Defence Ministers.

Slovenia participates in three projects in the context of PESCO: Military Mobility; the Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations; and CBRN Surveillance as a Service (CBRN SaaS). Particular attention is devoted to military mobility.

The MoD has already begun preparations for Slovenia's Presidency of the EU Council, which will take place in the second half of 2021, in terms of personnel and financial plans, event definitions, and indicative programme frameworks.

As part of the EU operations and missions, the SAF participated in the EUFOR ALTHEA Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the EUTM. The SAF participated in the naval operation EUNAVFOR MED Sophia with the military multi-purpose boat Triglav (for four months, from April to August 2018, with 41 members) and four members in staff structures.

Within the framework of military cooperation with the EU, the SAF carried out 26 events in 2018, of which 19 were unplanned. The increase in activity was mainly due to the launch of PESCO projects. PESCO is a tool for EU Member States' cooperation in the field of security and defence, which can be activated with the aim of filling capacity deficits and achieving a new level of ambition stemming from the EU Global Strategy. At the same time, PESCO is a capability development tool defined by the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD). The development of these capabilities will be partly financed by the European Defence Agency (EDA). Capacity sharing is planned for the EU and EUBG operations.

Slovenia actively participated in two projects:
- Military Mobility;
- The Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations.

6.3 Bilateral Cooperation

The SAF carried out 95 events in the context of bilateral cooperation (35 planned and 57 unplanned). Bilateral meetings were held with 27 countries. Important activities were related in particular to Italy, the USA (US commands and units in Europe and NG Colorado), Croatia, and Germany. In the Western Balkan region, significant activity was related to supporting Montenegro's integration into NATO as quickly as possible, through support in important exercises and training (active support in the TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2018 exercise), and in IOM (joint operation in the eFP contingent in Latvia). Activities continued for the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with important strategic partners of the RS and the SAF.

6.4 Multilateral Cooperation

SAF members carried out a total of 108 events in the context of multilateral cooperation, of which 58 were planned and 50 were unplanned.

The SAF participated in the regional initiatives of the Western Balkans (A-5), the SEDM (South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process), and the DECI (Defence Cooperation Initiative). Expert meetings were held for the further development of the Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF); a Permanent Military Representative from the SAF is actively deployed in the Skopje Command.

In 2018, activities continued at the NATO Centre of Excellence for Mountain Warfare in Poljče near Bled. The armed forces of Romania and Poland became actively involved in the Centre's operation, while Montenegro monitors activities as an observer.

The SAF's Verification Centre carried out a total of 21 activities in the area of arms control, related to the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 (VD11), the international Treaty on Open Skies, and the Dayton Agreement.

On the basis of international treaties and agreements, the Verification Centre of the RS carried out three active inspections and one active evaluation in 2018, and participated in four active inspections and one evaluation of partner countries according to the VD11 with guest inspectors from the Verification Centre. Two representatives (from the Verification Centre and the 107th Air Base) attended a tour of the air base in Italy and the presentation of the air base's new capabilities. Representatives from the

Verification Centre and SAF commands and units participated in two military exercises: the Anaconda 2018 exercise in Poland and the Century of Victors 1918-2018 exercise in Serbia. In 2018, the Verification Centre hosted one inspection team and one evaluation team, both from the Russian Federation.

6.5 Cooperation in Military Technology

The SAF carried out 11 events in the context of cooperation in military technology (5 planned and 6 unplanned). Important activities were related to the efforts for the upgrade of Cougar helicopters in self-protection against threatening missiles.

6.6 Sports – CISM

The SAF was actively engaged in the activities of the International Military Sports Council (CISM), which is the leading world organization in the area of military sports. In 2018, attendance at 16 events was planned.

The SAF organized three international CISM events in Slovenia:
- The CISM Mountain Bike Military World Championship from 11th to 14th May 2018 in Kamnik (race) and Bohinjska Bela (accommodation);
- The CISM regional preparations for a marathon together with the Serbian National Military Team in Ajševica from 1st to 9th March 2018;
- The CISM regional orienteering preparations in Ajševica and Vipava, together with the national teams of the armed forces of Croatia, the Netherlands, Poland and Latvia, from 8th to 15th March 2018.

Other important activities in the area of participation in CISM:

- Participation in the World Military Ski Championship in Hochfilzen, Austria, from 3rd to 8th April 2018;
- Participation in the World Military Shooting Championship in Thun, Switzerland, from 29th May to 6th June 2018;
- Participation in the World Military Triathlon Championship in Lidkoping, Sweden, from 13th to 18th June 2018;
- Participation in the World Military Parachuting Championship in Szolnok, Hungary, from 10th do 21st August 2018;

– Participation in the World Military Taekwondo Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 27th November to 3rd December 2018;
– Participation in the World Military Judo Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 6th to 12th November 2018.

7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDIZATION PLAN

In 2018, the Minister first adopted the MoD's integrated standardization plan for 2018 and 2019. The plan included priority objectives for generic areas, an annual plan for consideration of Slovenian Military Standards, an annual plan for cooperation with NATO standardization bodies, and a review of standards from pre-2018 plans. The plan gave priority consideration to the standards identified by NATO as critical to joint capabilities, and to the missed and ongoing national endorsements of NATO standards. The plan for adopting and implementing Slovenian Military Standards is based on the development and maintenance of capabilities as a commitment to NATO, and on the remaining standards for operation within the national frameworks.

The implementation of the plan was below expectations: 21% of the planned standards were approved, 54% were implemented, and 48% of national approvals of Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) were carried out. Progress in responding to important NATO STANAGs was also unsatisfactory: 25% of the planned standards were adopted and only 30% were implemented.

The reasons for the poor implementation of the plan are to be found in the lack of experts in the content areas, the constant reorganization and transformation of the SAF, and the low prioritization of standardization activities in the defence system.

7.1 Priority Objectives of Generic Areas

The priority objectives of generic areas were based on Slovenia's commitments in the context of the NATO Capability Targets for 2017, the Medium-Term Defence Programme 2016-2020, the NATO Defence Planning Priorities, and the conclusions of the MoD Standardization and Interoperability Policy Council. The main tasks were the national approvals of STANAGs, the adoption and implementation of the Slovenian Military Standards, and participation in training.

7.2 Annual Plan for the Review of Standards

The annual plan for the review of standards was carried out below expectations, only 40%. Outside the plan, most of the unplanned tasks were carried out; these, together with the planned realization, represent an 86% realization in quantitative terms. The reasons for the non-fulfilment of the annual plan are manifested in the overload of task holders with other tasks pertaining to their sphere of work. The reviews planned for 2018 which were not carried out were prioritized for 2019.

7.3 Unfinished Reviews of Proposals of Slovenian Military Standards and of Pre-2018 Plans

The plan for the review of proposals of Slovenian Military Standards from the pre-2018 plans envisaged the conclusion of 111 open reviews, of which 15% were carried out. This poor performance should be attributed to the change in priorities and thus the increased dynamics of activities in other areas.

	Plan for reviews before 2018	Plan for 2018 -adoption	Addition -adoption	Total adoption in 2018	Plan for 2018 implemen-tations	Addition -implemen tations	Total -implemen tations in 2018
Planned	111	77		111+77 +13 = 201	69		69+29 = 98
	16 completed reviews – 6 adopted Slovenian Military Standards – 10 withdrawals of proposals	23	6+13 = 19 – 6 adoptions from the unfinished reviews before 2018 – 13 new proposals	23+19=42	24	29	24+29 = 53
69	**69+29 = 98**	**32%**		**21%**	**25%**		**54%**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RISK REGISTER

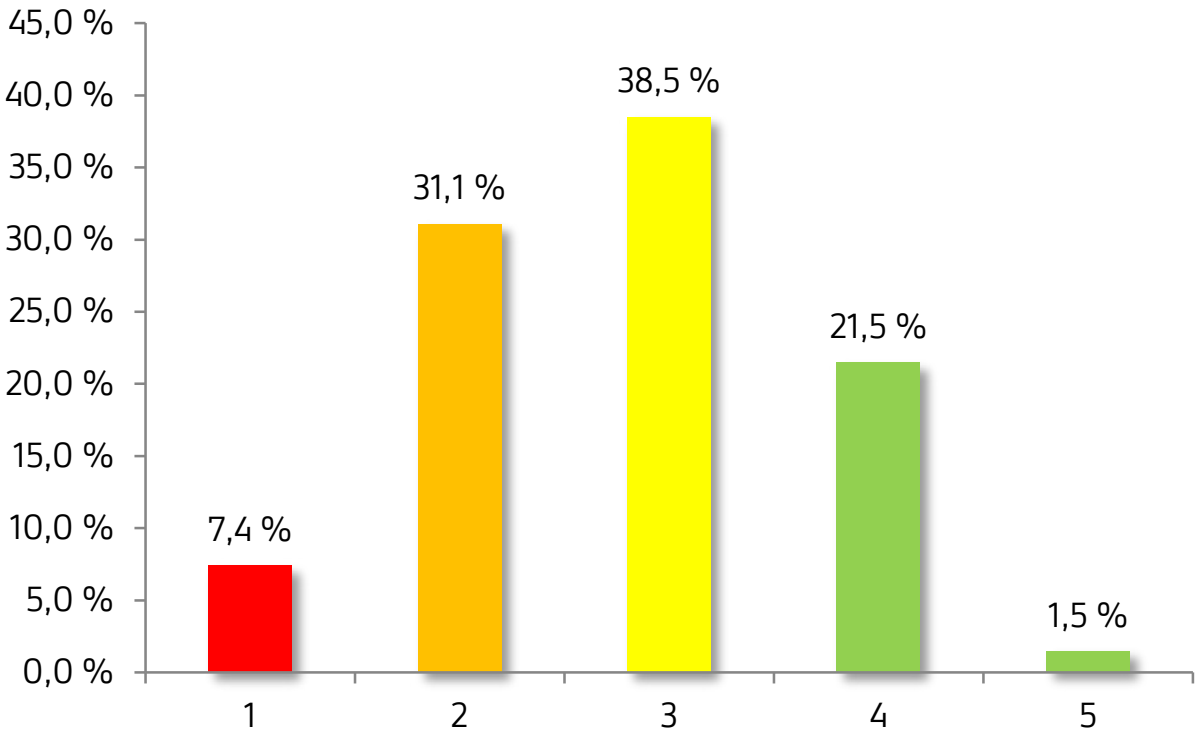
The Risk Register is a set of anticipated risks that could have a negative influence on the economical use of the fiscal resources and the attainment of the MoD's goals, and the set of all measures prepared in advance and applied to the preventive and timely reduction of the negative consequences of risks.

Based on the MoD's risk register, 135 risks were anticipated in 2018. The level of risk is determined based on the estimate of the risk probability and the estimate of the consequences, graded by numbers from one to three; a higher value means a greater probability of occurrence or greater consequences should the risk occur. The product of both estimates signifies the level of risk. Depending on the value of the product, four levels of risk are determined:

- Level 9 – very high probability of the occurrence of the risk and its consequences (red);
- Level 6 – high probability of the occurrence of the risk and its consequences (orange);
- Levels 3, 4 – medium probability of the occurrence of the risk and its consequences (yellow);
- Levels 1, 2 – low probability of the occurrence of the risk and its consequences (green).

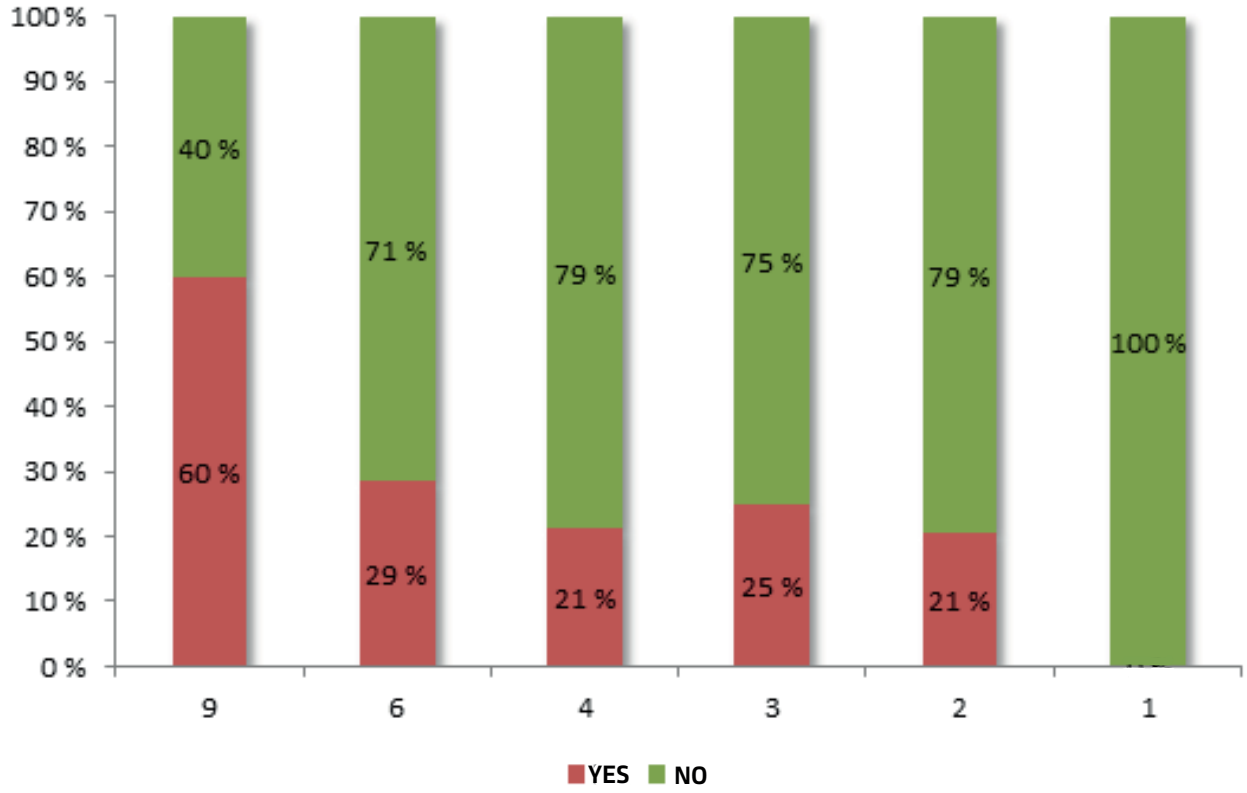
Of all the risks, 10 or 7.4% were assessed at the highest level of risk; 42 or 31.1% at a high level of risk; 52 or 38.5% at a medium level of risk; and 31 or 23% at a low level of risk, as depicted in the figure below.

Structure of Risks with Reference to the Levels of Risk



The figure below depicts the realization of risks with reference to individual levels of risk. With very high and high probability risks, namely levels 9 and 6, the realization was 60% and 29%. This means that with very high risks, the assessment of the level of probability was correct, and that consequently, measures in response to the incurred risks were prepared and implemented on time. The level of realization of medium level risks was 21%, and of low level risks (1-3) 0%, 21% and 25%.

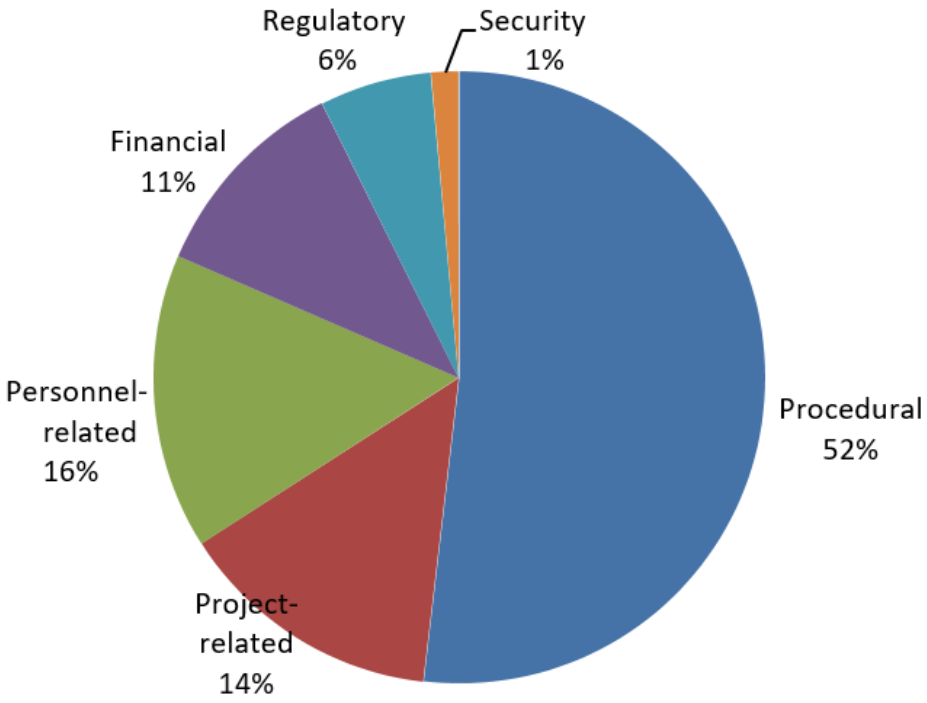
Realization of Risks with Reference to Individual Levels of Risk



The prevailing risks with a very high probability of occurrence are procedural and personnel-related in nature and refer to the management of the main processes, especially the inability to carry out tasks, an inadequate increase in the personnel plan, and the lack of human resources. The prevailing risks with a very high probability of occurrence are also of a project nature and refer to the untimely implementation of orders.

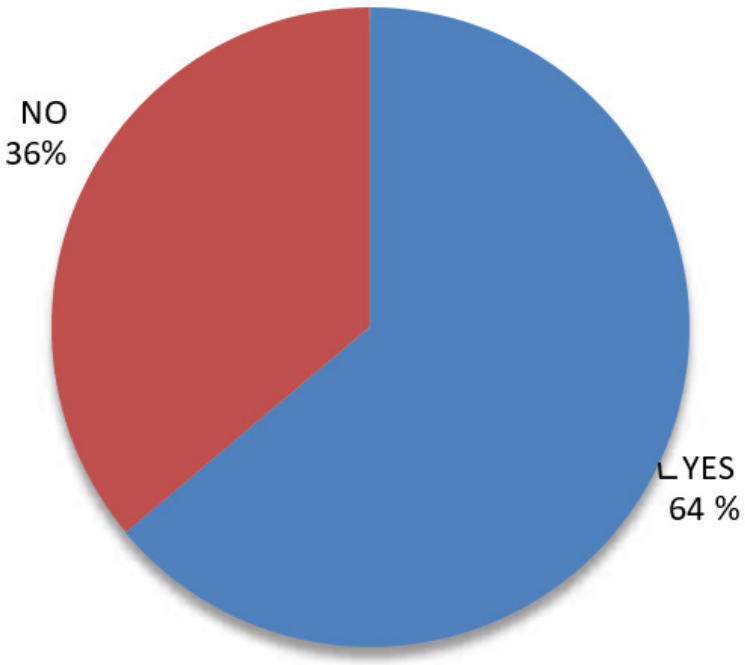
In 2018, 36 anticipated risks or 27% occurred, and appropriate measures were applied to the majority of them. The measures were successfully implemented for 64% of all the risks that occurred.

The Level of Implementation of Measures for Realized Risks



The structure of risks with reference to their type (procedural, project-related, personnel-related, regulatory, financial or security) shows that over half of the risks (52%) are procedural in nature, as depicted in the figure below.

Structure of Risks with Reference to their Type



The predominance of procedural risks is a warning that process management should be given more attention in future, as it directly influences the effectiveness and efficiency of operations. In a metaphorical sense, this means that the MoD's priority in the short-term must be to further strive for the effective use of the limited financial, personnel and material resources, and systematically direct them towards the implementation of the key long- and medium-term objectives.

Effective implementation of measures for the management of risks and the prevention and mitigation of their consequences greatly contributes to the further development of the defence system, which is extremely important in the ever more changing and unpredictable security environment.