

Centre of expertise in
civilian crisis management

CMCFinland

Kriisinhallintakeskus
Crisis Management Centre

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PELASTUSOPISTO
EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLEGE

Crisis Management Centre Finland (CMC Finland) was founded in 2007 in Kuopio, central Finland, to provide training and conduct research in crisis management. Its activities derive from the provisions of the Act on the Participation of Civilian Personnel in Crisis Management (1287/2004) and the Act on the Emergency Services College (607/2006).

Crisis Management Centre Finland trains **experts** for **international** crisis management missions

CMC Finland is responsible for organising training in civilian crisis management. In its research, it collaborates with universities and research centres in Finland and abroad.

Activities in the field of civilian crisis management are divided between two ministries in Finland. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is in charge of the political aspects of civilian crisis management and decides which operations Finnish experts take part in. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for maintaining national readiness for civilian crisis management. CMC Finland, under the Ministry of the Interior, organises training for international crisis management missions.

CMC Finland's purpose is to provide high-standard expert training, especially to meet the needs of European Union (EU) crisis management missions, and to pursue research on civilian crisis management. CMC Finland will become the Finnish centre of expertise in civilian crisis management.

What is civilian crisis management?

In the EU, civilian crisis management is defined as intervention, from outside the country, area or community concerned, in an existing or imminent humanitarian crisis caused by conflict, a major disaster or a natural catastrophe. Action classified as civilian crisis management is not always prompted by crisis or conflict, however; sometimes it can take place in relatively stable conditions.

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The main objective of civilian crisis management is to create stability and to promote transition to democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law, good governance and a functioning civil society in conflict areas. As well as national governments and international organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play an important role in civilian crisis management. Crisis management should be seen as a whole in which various phases of crises and conflicts

call for cooperation between military and civilian crisis management.

The EU is Finland's most important framework in civilian crisis management. In recent years the EU has greatly expanded its activities in the field of civilian crisis management, for instance by launching many new missions and increasing its capabilities, including its readiness for rapid deployment.

Jointly managed missions

The main priorities of EU civilian crisis management are policing (including border and customs control), strengthening the rule of law and civil governance, civil protection, monitoring, and support for EU Special Representatives. Work in the field of civilian crisis management is undertaken by the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and various NGOs in addition to the European Union.

Diverse training

CMC Finland runs core, specialisation and mission-specific courses in civilian crisis management. These prepare people for missions

in the framework of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), while also providing the skills needed for UN and OSCE missions. CMC Finland is a member of the European Group on Training (EGT) consortium of training institutions, which has a vital role in planning and carrying out civilian crisis management training in the EU.

Collaborating with various national and international organisations, CMC Finland also trains experts for international civil protection tasks. Finnish experts in this field are sent abroad for additional training and exercises.

Extensive research

In 2007, CMC Finland started its own research, focusing particularly on civilian crisis management, missions and their impact, on technological and material expertise and requirements for crisis management, and on coordination between civilian and military crisis management. Such research is an important part of the overall development of civilian crisis management, and generates recommendations for improvements in missions. The focus is on field research for ongoing ESDP missions.

CMC Finland's, research activity is currently financed through a regional development project on security and civilian crisis management. In 2007, several research papers will be published, together with the Centre's Research Programme for 2008–2012. Research helps to consolidate the standing of CMC Finland as a national centre of expertise in civilian crisis management in line with the objectives of the Finnish Ministry

*Research contributes
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of the Interior. The aim is to work closely with universities, research centres and NGOs in Finland and abroad, partly through joint research projects.

Projects to promote collaboration

As part of the above mentioned project, and in addition to the research, several training events and seminars related to civilian crisis management, societal and human security and the technology of crisis management are being organised. The project is funded by the State Provincial Office of Eastern Finland, the European Social Fund and the City of Kuopio. The University of Kuopio, Savonia Polytechnic, the Finnish Geological Research Centre and the Crisis Management Initiative are partners in the project.

Another example of broad collaboration is the Barents Rescue 2007 project, which is managed by CMC Finland. The project's aim is to facilitate communications, coordination and cooperation between countries and civil-military services that may become involved in an emergency in the Barents Region. The main event of this project is the Barents Rescue 2007 exercise.



How to apply for civilian crisis management missions and training

Finnish nationals interested in taking part in civilian crisis management missions must enter their details in the register of experts maintained by the Finnish Ministry of the Interior, which can be found on the Internet at www.intermin.fi.

CMC Finland's training is open to national and international participants. Information about training courses and how to apply can be found on the CMC Finland website at www.cmcfinland.fi.

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