

**The readiness  
is all.** (W. Shakespeare)

**Belgian National Defence Plan:  
tasks and responsibilities of the STR**



Gouverneur  
Provincie  
Antwerpen



# How to build resilience?

## Prevention plans + redundancy

*Crisis management structures*

*+ operational continuity measures*

**Despite a strong tradition of resilience, mutual coordination is often lacking.**

! Excellent contingency plans ≠ effective business continuity

! Enhanced prevention measures ≠ robust crisis management



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Vulnerability Dashboard:  
Strengthening Disaster Resilience  
across the European Union**



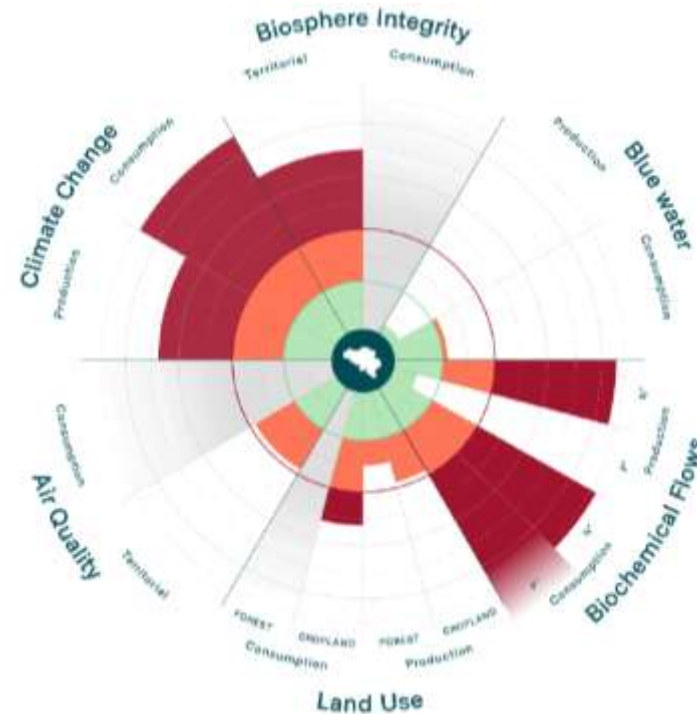
# Risk analysis

## Belgian National Risk Assessment (BNRA)



118 defined risks (NCCN)

## Belgian Climate Risk Assessment (BCRA)

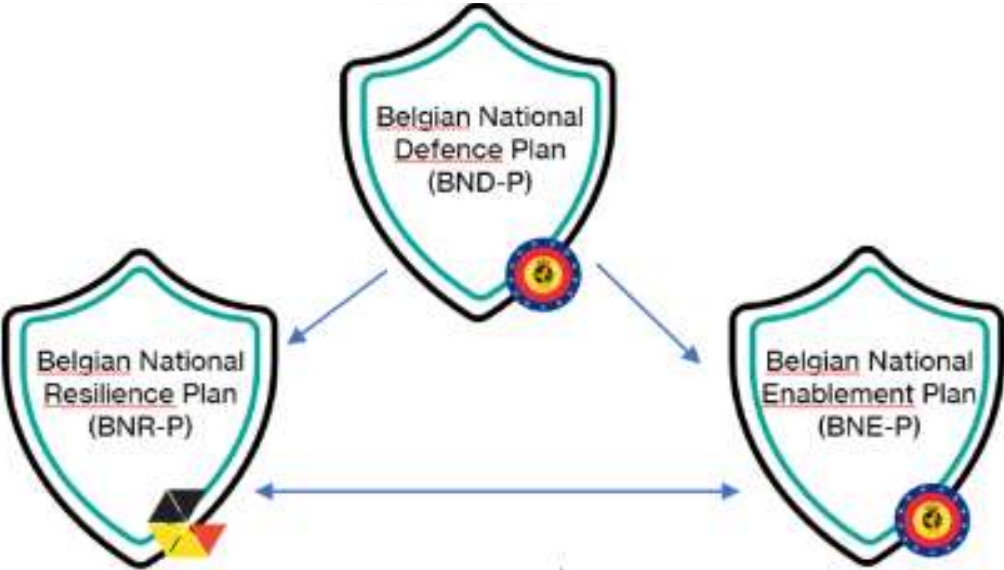


Distribution of risks per domain (CERAC)

# National Security Strategy



International treaties and obligations



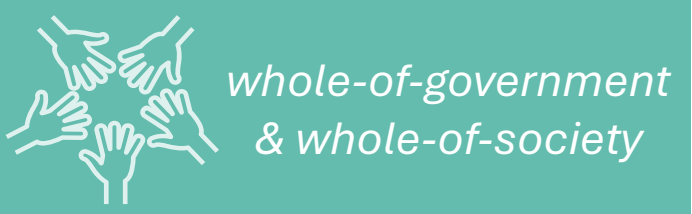
Federal and federated entities

Civil society

Academia

Private sector

Population



Federal government

Communities & Regions

Municipalities

# Belgian National Defence Plan

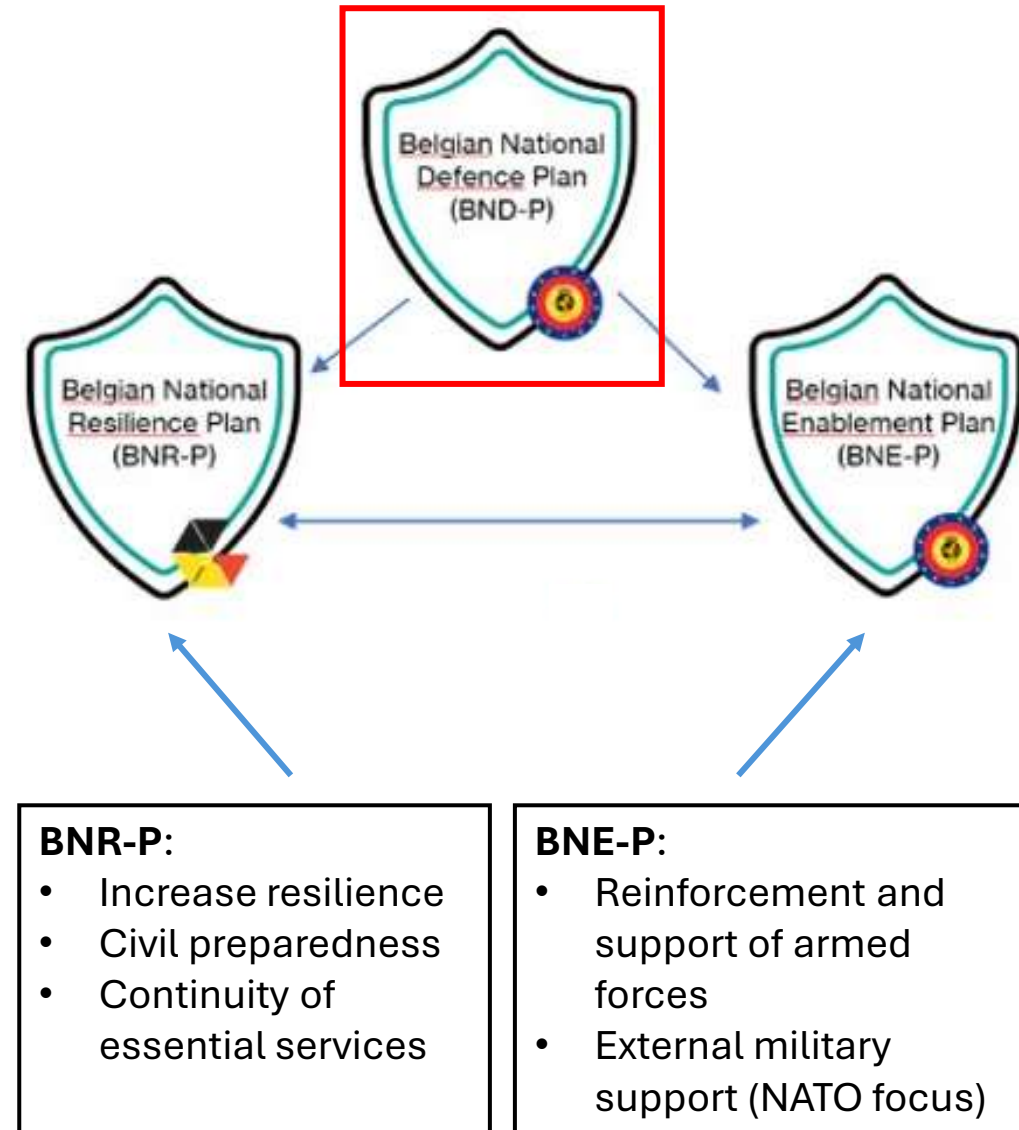
(BND-P Shield)

## Framework and principles:

- Civil-military crisis plan for Belgium
- Part of the National Security Strategy
- Coordinated by Defence & NCCN

## Objectives:

- Protect population and national territory
- Strengthen national resilience
- Ensure continuity of essential services
- Enable rapid response and recovery

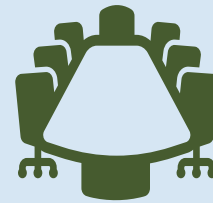


# Governance of the BND-P Shield

How to tackle a multi-layered action plan?

## Steering group

- Lead: Civ-Mil (NCCN & Defence)
- Federal and regional actors
- Representatives of emergency services
- STR as territorial connectors



# Technical intermezzo

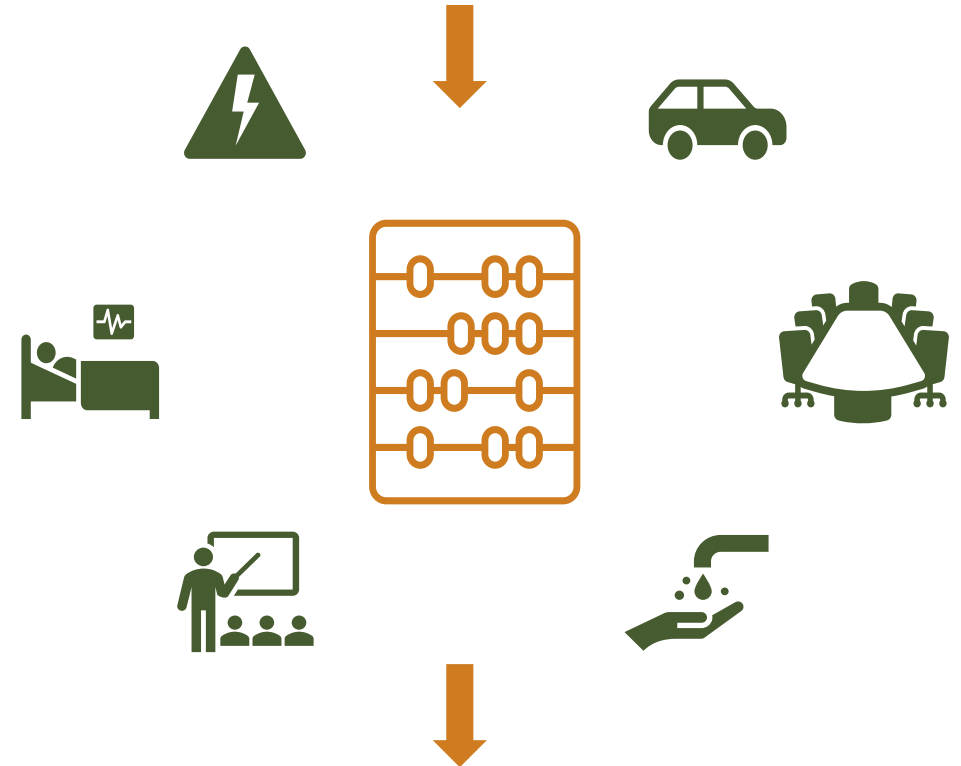
## COUNCIL OF STATE

The Communities and Regions take emergency measures within their territory.

These measures are coordinated with the federal government to ensure more effective crisis management.

= multi-level approach

What damage and what impact?



Flemish resilience objectives

# BND-P Shield

## Annex J : Protection of the population and institutions

Focus on the elaboration of the measures that may need to be taken to protect the population and institutions if the situation identified in the threat assessment (most likely course of action/most dangerous course of action) would occur.

Identified measures : warning & information of the population, evacuation, accommodation, shelter, capacities for reparation, **continuity of emergency services and local authorities, volunteers, LO's for local authorities.**

# Annex J: image 'as is'

## Survey 1

20-26.01.2026

454 /565 municipalities

5 categories - BCP:

- Plans and procedures
- Infrastructure and logistics
- Information and cyber resilience
- Staff
- Communication

## Survey 2

04-27.03.2026

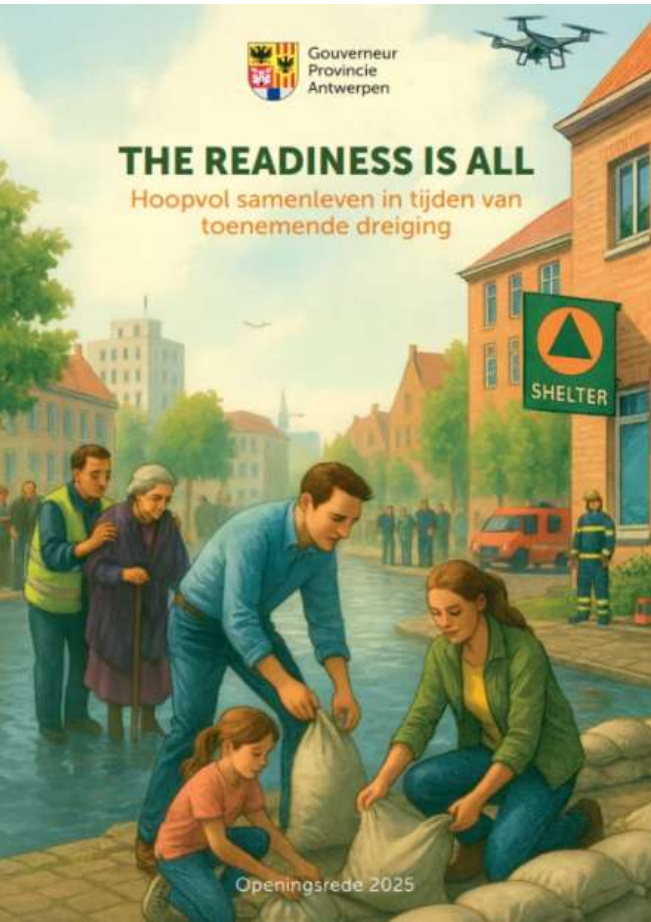
503 /565 municipalities

5 categories:

- Warning and alerting
- Volunteers
- Evacuation
- Shelters
- Repair and recovery

# Other initiatives in Antwerp

Annual speech 2025



Two-day conference on resilience with provincial governors and ambassadors from Finland, Poland and Ukraine.



# Municipal crisis volunteer corps

- Create a crisis volunteer corps in each municipality to strengthen resilience
- Organise tailored training
- Enable emergency services to focus on their core tasks



# Preparedness as structural resilience



### My emergency plan

**Prepare together and make a plan!**

Having your own emergency plan helps you and your family respond quickly and appropriately in the event of an emergency.

- 1 Answer the questions together with your family or housemates.
- 2 Take a picture or make a copy of the completed plan, and share it with your emergency contacts. These are family/friends/people in your neighbourhood or a bit further from home whom you can turn to if something goes wrong.
- 3 Hang or keep the plan in your meter cupboard or electrical box, or somewhere visible in your home.

**This is a plan for :**

Address  Street, Number, Residential Unit  
 Municipality

**This plan was created on:**  
 Date

**Update this plan regularly so that it's always correct.**

#### Basic information

**Who lives here?**

**Number of adults**  **Children**

	Name	Mobile phone	Year of birth
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

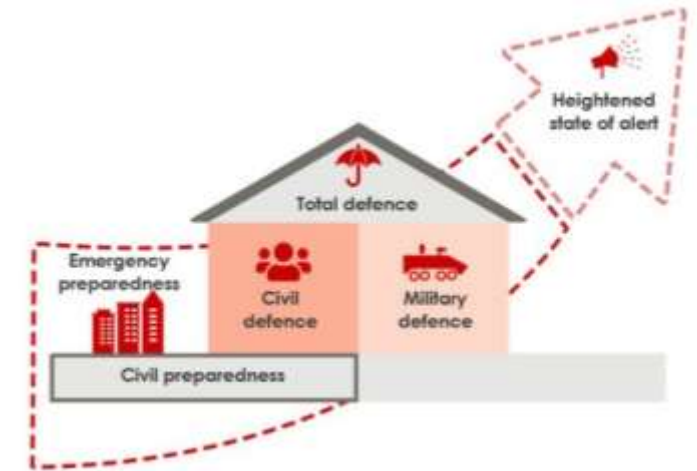
**Number of pets**

	Name	Species/breed	Important info
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Extra help**

Are there people at home who need extra help? Consider, for example, people with disabilities, small children, people taking special medication. If so, who and what kind of help do they need?

Co-funded by the European Union Nationaal Crisis Centrum



# Conclusion

1. The necessary steps are being taken
2. The process matters: improving systematically
3. Alignment with other processes and projects
4. The outcome must remain dynamic
5. Self-reliant and resilient
6. A chain is as strong as its weakest link
7. Qui peut le plus, peut le moins

In preparedness we must accept that disasters will come and still decide to live fully.

– LUCY EASHTOPE

# Thank you for your attention!

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Gouverneur  
Provincie  
Antwerpen