# Spanish Civil Protection System as a Part of European Union Emergency Response

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**Abstract.** European Union is a union of sovereign democratic countries which commonly agreed to integrate and, depending on the area, cooperate towards achieving better quality of life of European citizens. In the case of safety and security, since it is still national domain mainly, rather cooperation than integration aspect is prevailing. Since threats do not respect administrative borders it is the most important to do as much as possible for the cooperation improvement which, in fundamentals, could be done by knowing and understanding each other's national civil protection and emergency response systems. Things are getting even more complicated if the object of scientific inquires in this respect is a country which is actually a federation of autonomous states as in the case of Spain or Germany. Then the national system as a matter of fact is being composed of a few or even several autonomous regional systems which are constituted and regulated on the regional level of the federation. This type of situation results from the historical, political, geographical backgrounds and due to many more reasons, however, it is always good to put a question how such systems operate in case of emergency? In order to present a synthetic description of the Spanish civil protection and emergency response system scientific methods of cognition such as the critical analysis of legal acts and normative documents as well as synthesis were used in the research. The study concluded with the future challenges for the system which should be undertaken to improve its efficiency.

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# Introduction

The European Union, being an international governmental organization, has a natural tendency to institutionalize different dimensions of its member states activities. Its being done through EU regulations which could have different impact and bounding strengths on the states performance.

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) regulates division of competences between the EU and member states. These competences are defined through division of areas in which the EU has exclusive or shared competences with its member states. Moreover, there is also another third set of areas which is only coordinated or supplemented by EU actions. The exclusive competences of the EU concern following areas:

- customs;
- establishing competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market;
- monetary policy for the member states whose currency is euro;
- conservation of marine biological resources under common fishery policy;

- common commercial policy;
- conclusion of an international agreement when its conclusion is provided for in a legislative act of the EU or is necessary to enable the Union to exercise its internal competence, or insofar as its conclusion may affect common rules or alter their scope.<sup>1</sup>

Shared competences between the EU and member states applies in the following principal areas:

- internal market;
- social policy;
- economic, social and territorial cohesion;
- agriculture and fisheries, excluding the conservation of marine biological resources;
- environment;
- consumer protection;
- transport;
- trans-European networks;
- energy;
- area of freedom, security and justice;
- common safety concerning public health matters in aspects defined in the treaty.<sup>2</sup>

The third and the last regulated by the EU set of areas in which the EU has competence only to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the member states includes:

- protection and improvement of human health;
- industry;
- culture;
- tourism;
- education, youth, sport and vocational training;
- civil protection;
- administrative cooperation.<sup>3</sup>

Division of the competences clearly shows that the member states are still holding the primary responsibility for providing acceptable level of internal security.<sup>4</sup> The EU has at most the right to share this competence if agreed with the member states as it is for the area of freedom, security and justice or support, coordinate, supplement member states actions in the area of civil protection. The areas of freedom, security and justice as well as civil protection seem to be the key domains contributing to the internal security of each member state.

In a globalised world the process of integration and cooperation between states ensures better quality of life trough economic integration, however, it can also generate new threats. In order to fight these threats there is a strong need for cooperation over the administrative borders of the states. Therefore the EU has an important role to manage this type of cooperation in security domain. Moreover,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), art. 3.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> *Ibid.,* art. 4.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Ibid.,* art. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Treaty on European Union (TEU), art. 4.2.

the integration processes enable to be better prepared for other emergencies like natural or man-made disasters which also do not respect administrative borders of countries. It is being done by pooling and sharing civil protection and security assets in frames of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.<sup>5</sup>

Since the crisis and disaster management in the European states, with no distinctions, necessarily includes risk assessment process, it was clear for the EU that this area should also be somehow harmonized among the countries. Since this is area of civil protection as a support action, the EU issued Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management which is not a binding document for the member states, however, it supports their obligations to provide acceptable level of internal security.<sup>6</sup>

All the above mentioned EU actions contribute to the internal security of the member states by international involvement of the EU and the member states in case of an emergency, however, it is necessary among the states to understand each other crisis management and security national systems in order to cooperate in this framework effectively. As a consequence of historical, cultural, economic, political and other differences between the states, the national systems in many cases significantly differ one from another. The solidarity clause obliges the member states and the EU to assist each other in case of major emergencies.<sup>7</sup> It can only be done if we know and understand how the other member states have organised their internal security systems since it is an individual right of each state. Simply, you can offer or provide a support only if you know how your partner is functioning.<sup>8</sup>

# **Material and methods**

The research is mainly based on the analysis of key Spanish national regulations dedicated to the crisis management system of the country. To understand the crisis management system it is required to describe the country and its political system shortly. The article analyses Spanish internal security system through major risks assessment and emergency planning processes, crisis management and civil protection system, law enforcement institutions and civil military cooperation aspects. It searches for an answer to a question of how the system and its institutions work together? Moreover, the article seeks for similarities between Polish and Spanish systems. Finally, it predicts the main challenges for the Spanish crisis management and civil protection system in the nearest future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Decision No. 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Commission Staff Working Paper — Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management, 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), art. 222.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Zwęgliński T, Morgado C, Analytical Approach to Cooperation Between Fire Brigade and the Police — Comparison Study on Base of Polish and Portuguese Experiences. *Internal Security*, 18, Vol. 10 Issue 1, pp. 161–181.

## Results

#### **Characteristic of the country**

The Kingdom of Spain is geographically located in Southwestern Europe. It occupies most of the Iberian Peninsula and also the archipelagos of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla in North Africa. It has an area of 505,370 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 46,815,916 inhabitants<sup>9</sup> with a density of 91.95 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The capital is the city of Madrid.

The political form of government is Parliamentary Monarchy, established by the 1978 Constitution. The head of state is the King, who has no initiative of his own in his political acts, and must always be endorsed by the competent political authority. The legislative power is exercised by the Parliament whose members are elected in general elections by universal suffrage every four years. The executive power is exercised by the Government, whose president is elected by the Parliament. The judicial power is exercised by the courts and tribunals, which are formed by independent judges and magistrates.

In terms of territorial organization, there are mainly three levels. At the local level there are Town Councils whose members are elected in municipal elections by universal suffrage every four years. The Town Councils by majority of its members appoint the Mayor who is the highest political representative at the local level. At the regional level, there are Autonomous Communities whose representative institution is the Autonomous Parliament which is elected every four years in regional elections by universal suffrage. The Autonomous Parliaments appoint the President of the Autonomous Community who is the highest political representative at the regional level. There are 17 Autonomous Communities. In turn, the Autonomous Communities are subdivided territorially into Provinces, with a total of 50 Provinces in Spain. At the national level the highest political leader is the President of the Government elected by the Parliament. In addition, the national government designates a representative called Delegate of the Government of the State for each of the Autonomous Communities.

#### **Risks and civil emergency planning**

The basic Spanish civil protection regulations oblige the government to develop a General State Civil Protection Plan that defines the organization and procedures for action. Likewise, it also obliges the Autonomous Communities to develop Regional Civil Protection Plans, also developing their organization and procedures of action in their territorial scope. Likewise, Special Plans must be developed to face the following risks:

- forest fires,
- flood risk,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Spanish Statistics National Institute. *Electronic source*: https://www.ine.es, *accessed*: 7.06. 2019.

- adverse weather phenomena,
- seismic risk,
- tsunami risk,
- volcanic risk,
- nuclear risk,
- radiological risk,
- chemical risk,
- transport of hazardous materials,
- accidents in facilities or processes in which biological substances are used or stored,
- civil aviation accidents,
- protection of the population in case of armed conflict.

These Special Plans may be National or Regional, depending on their territorial scope of application, except for those of nuclear risk and war that in any case will be National. In the case of Special Plans at the National level, the Government will be obliged to carry them out, and the Special Plans of the Autonomous Community will be carried out by the respective Autonomous Communities.

Preceeded by risk analysis, each of these Special Plans will describe civil protection in its risk area. The mentioned risk analysis will be carried out with the combination of an analysis of the hazard (possibility of the occurrence of the loss) and of an analysis of the vulnerability (degree of losses or damages that may be suffered by the population, goods and the environment). Once this is done, the territory will be zoned according to the risk, making vulnerability and risk maps that will determine the means and resources that must be available for emergencies, as well as their territorial distribution. The Plans will also define different periods of danger throughout the year.

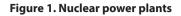
In general, due to its dry and sunny climate forest areas of the country are fireprone especially during summer season.

On the other hand, the area of the Mediterranean coast, due to the meteorological phenomenon called 'cold drop', is prone to flooding. This phenomenon consists of torrential rains that occur between the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

In the Autonomous Community of Murcia (southeast of the country), there is an area with seismic activity mainly due to the existence of three seismic faults (Alhama de Murcia, Cadiz-Bullas-Alicante and Vega Media del Segura) within the scope of the Betic Mountains. The last major earthquake in Spain, with a magnitude of 5.1 at the time, took place in the city of Lorca (Murcia) in 2011, resulting in 9 deaths and 80% of damaged buildings and homes.

The volcanic risk is centred in the Canary Islands, off the coast of Mauritania. They are of volcanic origin and have several volcanoes, among them the Teide on the island of Tenerife whose last eruption was in 1798, or the Timanfaya on the island of Lanzarote, whose eruption of 1730 transformed the island by burying 9 villages and covering a quarter of the island with lava. The last eruption of the Timanfaya was in 1824.

Regarding the nuclear energy related risk, in Spain there are 5 active nuclear power plants with 7 operating reactors. There are 2 more (Madrid and Garona) which are now in the process of shutting down (Figure 1).





Source: World Nuclear Association

These are 'Almaraz' with two reactors in the Autonomous Community of Extremadura (in the central-southwest area of the Iberian Peninsula), 'Trillo' in the Autonomous Community of Castilla la Mancha (in the central-southeast area of the peninsula), 'Cofrentes' in the Valencian Community (on the east coast), and 'Vandellós' and 'Ascó' (both in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia on the northeast coast of the peninsula), counting 'Ascó' with two reactors (Figure 2).

Reactor	Туре	Net MWe	First power	Commercial operation	Owner (%); operator	Licenced to
Almaraz 1	PWR	101 <b>1</b>	1981	1 <b>981</b>	Iberdrola 53%, Endesa 36%, Gas Natural Fenosa 11%; CNAT	6/2020
Almaraz 2	PWR	1006	1983	1984		6/2020
Asco 1	PWR	995	1983	1984	Endesa (100%); ANAV	09/2021
Asco 2	PWR	997	1985	1986	Endesa (85%), Iberdrola (15%); ANAV	09/2021
Cofrentes	BWR	1064	1984	1985	Iberdrola (100%); Iberdrola	3/2021
Trillo 1	PWR	1003	1988	1988	lberdrola (48%), Gas Natural Fenosa (34.5%), EDP (15.5%); CNAT	11/2024
Vandellos 2	PWR	1045	1987	1988	Endesa (72%), Iberdrola (28%); ANAV	7/2020
Total (7)		7121 MWe				

#### Figure 2. Reactors operating in Spain

*Electronic source*: https://www.world-nuclear.org, accessed: 07.07.2019.

In order to control and monitor the functioning of all of them in real time, the Nuclear Safety Council has its headquarters in Madrid which, in addition to being the highest advisory body in case of a nuclear emergency, is also the highest authority in this matter.

#### **Crisis management system**

In all Emergency Plans (both Special and Territorial) it is established who will be the Director of the Plan in charge of all the actions carried out under the Plan, under unique command criteria. Depending on the severity and territorial scope of the situation, incident management will be performed by the person designated by the authorities of the respective Autonomous Community, or by the Delegate of the Government of the State in the mentioned Autonomous Community.

The establishment of an Operational Coordination Centre (CECOP) will be also considered. All the operations will be directed and coordinated there. The Centre is usually established depending on the Autonomous Community in which there is permanent communication with the Advanced Command Post (PMA) of the first responders at the place of the incident.

The Advanced Command Post (PMA) will be located at the place of emergency, and its function is, on the one hand, to coordinate the performance of the first responders and, on the other hand, to channel the information transmitted to the Director of the Emergency, which is in the CECOP or Integrated Operative Coordination Centre (CECOPI).

The PMA is formed by a representative of each of the services involved in the incident: firefighters and rescue services, paramedics, social services, security services and technical services; all subordinated to the Emergency Coordinator. In addition, a communications system will be established to ensure communications between services and authorities.

In the PMA, a command or a decision-maker will be integrated in each of the first responders services. The representative of the firefighters and rescue service will also be the head of the intervention in the hot zone of the emergency. Also, there will be a representative of the paramedics and one from the law enforcement, and all the requirements for these services in the intervention must be processed through them. In addition, there will be Civil Protection Technicians of the Autonomous Community specialized in the type of emergency (fire, chemical, flood, etc.) that advise on safety matters. Above all of them there is an Emergency Coordinator, to whom all the members of the PMA will report about all the actions that are carried out, channel all the information that is transmitted and all the requests of resources that are made to the CECOP / CECOPI.

Depending on their severity and territorial scope, emergency situations are classified as:

- Situation 0: Emergency situation in which the risks are limited to the installation itself and can be controlled by the resources available in the corresponding internal emergency plan or self-protection plan. In this case, the Civil Protection Plans are not activated;
- Situation 1: Emergency situation in which it is foreseen that the risks may affect people inside the facility, while the repercussions abroad, although

very improbable, can not be controlled only with the resources of the plan itself, or internal emergency or self-protection plan, rendering the intervention of services of the Regional Plan necessary. In these cases the Regional Plans are activated and the CECOP is constituted;

- Situation 2: Emergency situation in which it is foreseen that risks may affect people both inside and outside the facility and, consequently, the support of state-owned resources is foreseen. In these situations the CECOPI is constituted integrating the Delegate of the Government of the State, so that he coordinates the state resources, being the Director of the Plan in the authority of the Autonomous Community;
- Situation 3: Emergency situation in which the nature, severity and extent of the risks require the declaration of national interest by the Minister of the Interior. The CECOPI constitution will be mandatory, and the Delegate of the State Government will become the Director.

The CECOP may function as an Integrated Operative Coordination Centre (CECOPI), when the Delegate of the State Government is integrated or acts as the Plan Director when *national interest* has been declared, or when no such situation has been declared but can be foreseen to happen. An emergency will always trigger a declaration of a *national interest* in the following cases:

- when the protection of persons and goods is required in states of alarm, exception and site;
- when it is necessary to coordinate situations that affect several Autonomous Communities and require the provision of resources at a supra-autonomous level;
- when, due to their effective or foreseeable dimensions, they require a national command.

Once an emergency situation of *national interest* has been declared, a National Centre for Emergency Monitoring and Coordination will be established by the State Government, the Emergency Director (who will be the Minister of the Interior, or the person designated by him), the representatives of the authorities of the Autonomous Communities involved in the Emergency, as well as the top political leaders of each of the emergency services that intervene.

## **Civil protection system**

The National System of Civil Protection in Spain is regulated by law no. 17/2015. This law includes civil protection institutions. To determine risks on a territory based on the conditions of vulnerability and possible threats, as well as to perform the analysis and study to obtain information and predictions about dangerous situations, the National Information Network on Civil Protection is created. This Network allows the collection, storage and quick access to information about known emergency risks, as well as about protection measures and the resources available for this, at the same time ensuring the exchange of information.

The National Information Network on Civil Protection will contain:

 the National Map of Civil Protection Risks, as an instrument that allows identifying geographic areas susceptible to suffering damages due to emergencies or catastrophes;

- official catalogues of activities that may originate a civil protection emergency, including information about the centres, establishments and dependencies in which they are carried out;
- computerized registry of civil protection plans, which will integrate them all under the terms established by regulations;
- catalogues of available resources (human and material resources, managed by Public Administrations or by entities of a private nature, that can be used by the National Civil Protection System in case of emergency);
- the National Registry of Data on Emergencies and Catastrophes, which includes information on those that occur, the consequences and losses caused, as well as on the means and procedures used to alleviate them.

The service of communication of notices to the authorities competent in civil protection will be made by the National Civil Protection Alert Network, so that essential public services and citizens are informed of any emergency threat.

The National Centre for Monitoring and Coordination of Civil Protection Emergencies is in charge of managing both the National Civil Protection Alert Network and the National Information Network on Civil Protection. In addition, the National Centre for Monitoring and Coordination of Civil Protection Emergencies has the following functions:

- acts as an Operational Coordination Centre (CECO) in emergencies of national interest, integrating the competent emergency coordination services of the Autonomous Communities, as well as the information networks for the management and coordination of the emergency services involved;
- acts as a point of contact for communication and exchange of information with European Union bodies and other international organizations;
- periodically disseminates data and statistics on emergencies and evaluates the convenience and way of using social networks in a civil protection emergency;
- channels the information that must be provided to citizens and public and private entities.

At the highest level of civil protection institutions there is the National Council for Civil Protection, whose objective is coordination and cooperation between all territorial administrations that have competences in civil protection emergencies. It is formed by the Minister of the Interior (who chairs it), the ministers determined by the government, the representatives of the Autonomous Communities and a representative of the Spanish Federation of Town Councils. Its basic mission is to approve the basic lines of the Strategy of the National Civil Protection System. In addition, it will have the character of the Spanish Committee of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of the United Nations.<sup>10</sup>

# Security and law enforcement institutions in civil protection operations

The Security Forces have a legal obligation to collaborate in civil protection actions. The Civil Protection Plans allow assigning functions to the Security Forces, but without attributing them to the specific units, and they will always act under the direction of their natural commanders. The main functions that must be performed are:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Electronic source*: https://www.unisdr.org/partners/countries/esp, *accessed*: 07.07.2019.

- closing of the damaged area;
- control and arrangement of accesses and exits;
- maintenance of order and internal security;
- monitoring and directing road traffic in the nearby streets to facilitate the accessibility of the intervention and rescue resources;
- evacuation of people, property in danger or victims;
- in addition, they may have specialized intervention and rescue units in CBRN incidents.

When participating in civil protection emergencies, the local heads of the security forces will be integrated into the emergency command centres (CEPOC or CECOPI as appropriate), and in the field, they will have a representative in the Advanced Command Post (PMA). In addition, when the emergency is declared of *national interest*, the chief political officer of the security forces involved will be a part of the CECO, the National Emergency Coordination Centre.

In Spain there are two State Police Forces (National Police and Civil Guard) and in two Autonomous Communities (Catalonia and the Basque Country) there are two Regional Police Forces. In addition, all towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants will have a Local Police Force. The Local Police where they exist, only have competences in road traffic regulation in the towns and administrative police.

Although each of the State Police has a few specific competences (e.g. National Police, documentation or control of games of chance, and Civil Guard control of firearms and explosives or road traffic regulation), the division of competences meets a territorial criterion. The National Police have jurisdiction in all the provincial capitals and in cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, and the Civil Guard in the rest of the Spanish territory.

There are two Autonomous Communities with a special regime for historical reasons, in which there are Regional Police Forces (Mossos de Esquadra in Catalonia and Ertzaintza in the Basque Country) that assume almost all the functions of both the National Police and the Civil Guard in all its territory, regardless of whether it is a rural or urban area.

The Security Forces have specialized groups in rescue and aquatic rescue, mountain rescue, tracking and rescue dogs and helicopter air service, which collaborate when there are civil protection emergencies.

In addition they also have specialized groups in explosives and CBRN, which will intervene in case the emergency has a criminal or terrorist origin. In these cases, the Security Forces are the only ones that legally have the capacity to collect evidence in a judicial proceeding. In these cases the direction of the emergency happens to be exercised by the commanders of the Security Forces, although they will be supported by the civil protection structure.

#### **Civil military cooperation**

One of the fundamental pieces of the Civil Protection System in Spain is the Military Emergency Unit (UME). It is a military unit that integrates soldiers from the three types of military forces (Army, Navy and Air Force), which specialize in intervention and rescue in forest fires, floods, earthquakes, etc., as well as a specific group for technological and environmental emergencies (CBRN). They have

battalions of intervention, helicopters, communications and logistics. It is also the only military unit that has the legal authorization to intervene in Spanish territory as Civil Protection team.

When the emergency situation is declared of *national interest* (Situation 3), the General Head of the UME launches the Operational Direction in the National Centre for Emergency Monitoring and Coordination. When the emergency situation is declared as Situation 2, the UME can be activated to collaborate in the emergency in question.

# **Discussion and conclusions**

# Future challenges for the Spanish Civil Protection System

The biggest challenge facing the Crisis Management and Civil Protection System in Spain is the coordination of the Civil Protection Systems of the Autonomous Communities. Before the Constitution of 1978, Spain was a strongly centralized state, where regional institutions had very few powers and resources. The 1978 Constitution created a decentralized State, which has been built since then and is still in process today. The Autonomous Communities were created, which were gradually assuming competences that until then had been managed by the State (health, education, civil protection, etc.), although not all the Autonomous Communities did it at the same pace and not all assumed all the competences. This has generated an asymmetric system, which can lead to coordination conflicts, especially when in the same emergency two Autonomous Communities concur with different levels of emergency management.

Each Autonomous Community has its own characteristics of population, extension, climate and circumstances, which make them have different risks of emergencies. In addition, each Autonomous Community also has autonomy to allocate budgetary resources for civil protection.

The state coordinates and supervises that all the Civil Protection Systems of the Autonomous Communities reach minimum levels. However, each Autonomous Community designs its Civil Protection System based on its characteristics, risks and resources.

Therefore, the great challenge for the coming years is to achieve, on the one hand, the development of all the Special Emergency Plans of the Autonomous Communities (not all have drawn up all the plans), and on the other hand, to achieve a perfect coordination of the response to civil protection emergencies at all levels of national, regional and local administrations.

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Streszczenie. Unia Europejska jest unią suwerennych państw demokratycznych, które wspólnie zgodziły się na integrację i, w zależności od obszaru, współpracują ze sobą w celu osiągnięcia lepszej jakości życia obywateli. W przypadku bezpieczeństwa i ochrony, pozostających nadal głównie domeną narodową, dominuje raczej aspekt współpracy niż integracji. Ponieważ zagrożenia nie respektują granic administracyjnych, najważniejsze jest, aby uczynić jak najwięcej dla poprawy współpracy, co w gruncie rzeczy można osiągnąć poprzez wzajemne poznanie i zrozumienie krajowych systemów ochrony ludności i reagowania w sytuacjach kryzysowych. Sprawy komplikują się jeszcze bardziej, jeśli przedmiotem badań naukowych w tym zakresie jest kraj, który w rzeczywistości jest federacją państw autonomicznych, jak w przypadku Hiszpanii czy Niemiec. Wówczas system krajowy w rzeczywistości składa się z kilku lub kilku autonomicznych systemów regionalnych, które są tworzone i nadzorowane na poziomie regionalnym federacji. Tego typu sytuacja wynika z uwarunkowań historycznych, politycznych, geograficznych i z wielu innych powodów, jednak zawsze warto zadać sobie pytanie, jak takie systemy funkcjonują w nagłych przypadkach? W celu przedstawienia syntetycznego opisu hiszpańskiego systemu ochrony ludności i reagowania kryzysowego wykorzystano w badaniach naukowe metody poznawcze, takie jak krytyczna analiza aktów prawnych i dokumentów normatywnych oraz synteza. Opracowanie zakończyło się określeniem przyszłych wyzwań stojących przed systemem, które powinny zostać podjęte w celu poprawy jego efektywności.

**Резюме.** Европейский Союз — это союз суверенных демократических государств, которые совместно договорились об объединении и, в зависимости от сферы деятельности, о совместной работе по достижению более высокого качества жизни граждан. В области безопасности и охраны, которая до сих пор остается в основном национальной сферой, преобладает аспект сотрудничества, а не объединения. Поскольку угрозы не признают административных границ, необходимо сделать как можно больше для развития сотрудничества, которое на самом деле может быть достигнуто благодаря взаимному знанию и пониманию национальных систем гражданской обороны и реагирования в случае возникновения чрезвычайной ситуации. Все становится еще сложнее, если предметом исследований в этой области является страна, которая на самом деле является федерацией автономных государств, например Испания или Германия. Тогда национальная система фактически состоит из нескольких или нескольких автономных региональных систем, которые создаются и контролируются на региональном уровне федерации. Подобная ситуация обусловлена историческими, политическими, географическими и многими другими причинами. Однако всегда следует задать себе вопрос: как работают такие системы в чрезвычайной ситуации? В целях синтетического описания испанской системы гражданской обороны и реагирования на чрезвычайные ситуации в исследованиях использовались такие когнитивные методы, как критический анализ правовых актов и нормативных документов, а также синтез. Исследование завершилось определением дальнейших задач для системы, которые необходимо решить с целью повышения ее эффективности.