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Young People's Perception of Terrorist Attacks as Part of the Quality of Life in the Slovak Republic

Vnímanie teroristických útokov mladými ľuďmi ako súčasť kvality života na Slovensku

Abstract

Manifestations of violence have occurred in society since time immemorial. They differ in the degree of aggression, the method of execution, and especially the goals of the aggressors. Terrorist organizations and terrorist attacks are one of the biggest risks of today's society. Terrorism is currently one of the biggest threats to society. Its violent manifestations often claim many human lives as well as the fear of the inhabitants. Therefore, in addition to the security forces, the civilian population should also be prepared for a terrorist attack. The aim of the paper is to propose a way to improve their preparedness for dealing with this type of emergency based on a pilot survey of the opinions of young people living in Slovakia. The results are also to be used to assess the suitability of the survey questions and to correct the questionnaire. The questionnaire survey was focused on the subjective feelings of the respondents, which affect their subjective sense of security and thus also their very quality of life.

Keywords: Civil protection, quality of life, safety, citizens, crisis management.

Abstrakt

Prejavy násillia sa v spoločnosti vyskytujú od nepamäti. Líšia sa mierou agresivity, spôsobom vykonania a najmä cieľmi agresorov. Teroristické organizácie a teroristické útoky sú v súčasnosti jednou z najväčších hrozieb pre spoločnosť. Ich násilné prejavy si často vyžadujú množstvo ľudských životov a tiež strach obyvateľov. Preto je potrebné, aby sa na teroristický útok okrem bezpečnostných zložiek pripravilo aj civilné obyvateľstvo. Cieľom príspevku je na základe pilotného prieskumu názorov mladých ľudí žijúcich na Slovensku navrhnúť spôsob, ako zlepšiť ich pripravenosť na riešenie tohto typu mimoriadnej udalosti. Výsledky sa majú použiť aj na posúdenie vhodnosti otázok prieskumu a na opravu dotazníka. Dotazníkový prieskum bol zameraný na

subjektívne pocity respondentov, ktoré ovplyvňujú ich subjektívny pocit bezpečnosti a tým aj samotnú kvalitu života.

Kľúčové slová: Civilná ochrana, kvalita života, bezpečnosť, občania, krízové riadenie.

Introduction

As the methods of violent acts evolved, so did the means of combating them. In addition to the preparedness of individual organizations and states in the fight against terrorism, it is necessary that those who are most at risk also be prepared. Terrorist attacks, by their nature, are mostly intended to intimidate the wider population, they are mostly aimed at an unprepared population. Therefore, it is necessary for the population to be prepared for a terrorist attack. This preparation is a complex process and consists of many parts. Among the basic ones, it is possible to include the current state of awareness of the issue among residents. This state reflects the opinion of the residents, which must be obtained and further used. That is why we conducted a pilot survey in 2021 to gather baseline data on young people's awareness of the issue of terrorist attacks. The aim of the survey was primarily to test the appropriateness of the questions asked and the structure of the questionnaire for further exploration of the issue. Quality of life has many components. A large part is the standard of living and people's access to goods and services. These indicators can be measured relatively well. Other components of quality of life, such as freedom, happiness, art, environmental quality and innovation, are much more difficult to measure. In the same way, safety is one of the main indicators of the quality of life. It can be characterized using the subjective perception of residents, or using objective statistical indicators. Safety has long been one of the most strongly felt human needs.^{1,2}

Safety consists of many components. It can also be divided into subjective and objective. It is necessary to pay due attention to the subjective. In order to be able to improve its condition, it is necessary to know the opinion of the residents and propose measures accordingly. These measures should be in accordance with the risks that occur in the given environment.³

Terrorism as a global problem

At the outset, it is necessary to define the concept of terrorism. Many scholarly articles are devoted to the problem of defining terrorism. Different states and international organizations have different definitions of the term. This article is devoted to the preparedness of the citizens of the Slovak Republic, and therefore we will be based on the following definitions. The Slovak Republic, by reason of its membership in the European Union, has accepted a definition of terrorism that is based on the

¹ BALÁŽOVÁ, J. 2011. Quality of life in a dynamic world. *Progressletter*.

² STOFKOVA, Z., STOFKO, S. 2016. Some indicators of quality of life in a globalized world. *16th International Scientific Conference Globalization and its socio-economic consequences*. Rajecké Teplice, Slovak Republic, pp. 2127-2134.

³ SVENTEKOVÁ, E., MAKOVICKÁ OSVALDOVÁ, L., DLUGOŠ, I., MALÝ, S. Psychological workload as a risk factor of the work environment In: *Crisis management - scientific and professional journal of the Faculty of Safety Engineering of the University of Žilina in Žilina*. Year 20, no. 2/2021. ISSN 1336-0019.

Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism. According to it, terrorism is understood as acts committed with the aim of:

- “seriously intimidating a population, or
- unduly compelling a Government or international organisation to perform or abstain from performing any act, or
- seriously destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an international organisation.”⁴

Terrorist attacks are also defined in the Decree of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 523/2006 on the details of rescue work and organization of civil protection units. Here, these attacks are defined as: “attacks on objects concentrating, as a rule, a large number of persons with the aim of causing loss of life, health and property, causing fear and panic of the population. Conventional weapons and means containing chemical, biological and radioactive substances and materials may be used for terrorist attacks.”⁵

Terrorism and terror is not only a modern manifestation of violence. It appeared in various forms already in the ancient past. It mostly did not act alone, but was associated with other types of violence, such as revolutions, uprisings, wars, and others. Its manifestations, goals, and means changed in individual historical epochs. We have known terror as a manifestation of violence since ancient times.⁶ In the 11th to 13th centuries AD, a Muslim sect of murderers called the Assassins existed in the territory of the then Seljuk Empire in Persia and Syria. They wanted to achieve their political goals by assassinating prominent leaders. These assassinations were carried out in royal courts or places of worship so as to have the largest possible audience. Therefore, these assassinations often took place on sacred days. In doing so, the Assassins did not assume that they would be able to escape and survive after murdering their victim.⁷ Violence that bears the hallmarks of terrorism also emerged during the American War of Independence. Secret and organized groups emerged, the most famous of which are the Sons of Liberty. During the American War of Independence, they used various forms of violence, such as tarring and feathering, lynching, intimidation, imprisonment, or murder. These practices were carried out on so-called Loyalists in addition to members of the British Crown. Loyalists were all civilians who supported the British Crown and disagreed with the Revolution. Therebels succeeded in creating an atmosphere of fear, suspicion, and terror, which can be considered modern manifestations of terrorism.⁸

⁴ Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on combating terrorism (2002/475/JHA).

⁵ Decree of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 523/2006 Coll. of 14 August 2006 on details for ensuring rescue work and organising civil protection units.

⁶ KAVICKÝ, V., JANGL, Š. and GAŠPIERIK, L. 2015. *Terrorism is the threat of our time*. First edition. Bratislava: Citadella. ISBN 978-80-89628-84-1.

⁷ RAPOPORT, D. C., 1983. Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in Three Religious Traditions. *American Political Science Review* [online]. 1983, vol. 78, no. 3, pp. 658–677. Available from: doi:10.2307/1961835.

⁸ KOTLIK, G., 2022. The Terrorism of the Imperial Crisis and American War of Independence [online]. *KAIROS LITERARY MAGAZINE* [cit. 2023-02-28]. Available from: <https://kairoslit.com>

Terror and terrorism continued to evolve thanks to technological progress. In Russia, a bomb assassination was carried out against the tsar with the aim of overthrowing the ruling regime. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the secret Black Hand organization assassinated the crown prince of Austria-Hungary with the aim of expelling the Austrians from the country. In Ireland, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was formed, which used terrorist practices against the British government and thereby forced the creation of an independent Irish state in 1921. Currently, terrorism has various forms and manifestations. These can be carried out by execution, targeted either by terrorist groups or individuals. The currently known types of terrorism include:

- religious terrorism;
- leftist and anarchist terrorism;
- right-wing terrorism;
- ethno-nationalist and separatist terrorism;
- bioterrorism - superterrorism;
- ecoterrorism;
- cyber terrorism;
- one-time cases of terrorism - Lone wolf.⁹

In 2019, according to the 2020 TE-SAT report, 119 terrorist attacks were carried out in the member states of the European Union. These attacks were of various kinds. According to this report, as many as 57 attacks were ethno-nationalist and separatist in nature. The second in order in the number of attacks was the left-wing and anarchist type of terrorism with 26 attacks. The third place, with the number of 21 attacks, was occupied by religious terrorism. However, this number also includes attacks that were unsuccessful or thwarted. In 2019, only 3 attacks were successful, while in 2017 there were 10.¹⁰

The most publicized type of terrorism is currently religious terrorism. This kind of terrorism has two basic directions, namely fundamentalist and eschatological. The first of the mentioned directions tries to assert its true faith against other types of the same religion. An example can be the conflict in Islam between Shiites and Sunnis. In addition to conflicts between representatives of the same faith, disputes between different faiths also belong here. The second line of religious terrorism, eschatological religious terrorism, is directed against the whole society. This kind is practiced by various sects who believe that today's world is corrupt and must be completely destroyed. Another type of terrorism is the so-called leftist and anarchist terrorism. The goal of this kind is to remove differences from society, monopolies, and multinational companies. Conversely, right-wing terrorism is mainly aimed at ethnic and racial minorities, but also against liberals and liberal parties.¹

The creation of an independent state for a certain group of people, based on their own ethnicity, culture, and other connections, unites ethno-nationalist and separatist

⁹ KAVICKÝ, V., JANGL, Š., and GAŠPIERIK, L. 2015. *Terrorism is the threat of our time. First edition*. Bratislava: Citadella. ISBN 978-80-89628-84-1.

¹⁰ European union Terrorism Situation and Trend report, 2020 [online]. EUROPOL [cit. 2022-07-15]. Available from: https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/european_union_terrorism_situation_and_trend_report_te-sat_2020_0.pdf

terrorist groups. We can use the IRA organization as an example of such groups. Another type of terrorism is the so-called bioterrorism or superterrorism. This type is characterized mainly by the use of weapons of mass destruction. An example of an organization that used weapons of mass destruction is Om Shinrikyo. The types of terrorism also include groups that fight against the pollution of the planet or for the freedom of animals. The most famous terrorist organizations of this kind are the Animal Liberation Front, the National Vivisection Alliance, and others. One of the types of terrorism in which the attacker does not have to use any weapons is cyber terrorism. Protection against it is being increasingly emphasized in individual states, because such an attack could significantly disrupt the functioning of the state, as happened in Estonia in 2007. The last and most dangerous type of terrorism is the so-called lone wolf. These are individuals who may have different motives that characterize other types of terrorism.¹¹

Recently, there have been more and more terrorist attacks on the territory of the European Union, carried out by citizens living in its member states. One of the main reasons for this is radicalization. According to the European Commission, radicalization is the adoption of different opinions and ideas that can lead to committing a terrorist attack.¹² According to the Concept of Combating Extremism for 2020-2024, radicalization is a process in which individual persons or groups of persons are separated from the country's value system. This can happen under the influence of political or religious extremism. Based on the new ideology, they adopt values that are not in accordance with the principles of a democratic society. Based on this, the determination of these persons to carry out radical ideology through violent practices increases.¹³

In many cases, a major part of radicalization is religious fundamentalism. However, religion or ideology alone is not the only factor when a person becomes radicalized. Mostly, people who are influenced by religion or ideology are people who are disgusted with the functioning of the world, society or the political system of the given state. The most accessible environment where these persons accept views leading to terrorism is the Internet, specifically social networks. Based on the European Union report on situations and trends in the field of terrorism from 2020, social networks Telegram and WhatsApp were most used for radicalization and preparation of attacks. The main entities against radicalization are mainly the individual member states of the Union, but the European Union additionally supports them in this. For example, it has created a network that includes various academics and politicians who work with radicalized persons or with persons who are susceptible to radicalization.²

Among the current terrorist organizations in the member states of the European Union, two international Islamic organizations represent the greatest threat. They are

¹¹ KAVICKÝ, V., JANGL, Š., and GAŠPIERIK, L. 2015. *Terrorism is the threat of our time*. First edition. Bratislava: Citadella. ISBN 978-80-89628-84-1.

¹² What is radicalization and how to prevent it, 2022 [online]. News European Parliament [cit. 2022-07-09]. Available from: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/sk/headlines/security/20210121STO96105/co-je-to-radikalizacia-a-ako-sa-jej-da-predchadzat>

¹³ Concept of the fight against extremism for the years 2020-2024, 2022 [online]. Bratislava: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2022-07-22]. Available from: <https://www.minv.sk/?zakladne-dokumenty-3>

Da'ish, better known as the Islamic State and the core of al-Qaeda (AK).¹⁴ These organizations, especially the Islamic State, have carried out many attacks on the territory of the European Union in recent years. According to Europol, there were 89 such religiously motivated attacks from 2014 to 2018. 364 people lost their lives in these attacks. Especially since 2015, lone wolves have been responsible for these attacks.¹⁵

Despite the fact that the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq lost its territories and many fighters in the war, its influence and activities are not completely eliminated. Only its arrangement has changed from a centralized organization to a decentralized one. The older international organization AK is trying to take advantage of his defeat, which attracts Da'ish members to its ranks. The threat consisting of the activities of these two organizations is also multiplied by their mutual rivalry. Both movements still have a great influence on their members and through the constant media propaganda of jihad in the virtual world, they recruit and incite new and old members to terrorist attacks on the soil of the European Union. In addition to these terrorist organizations, we must also take into account individuals who are either dissatisfied with the politics the country they live in or for various other reasons that may be motivated to commit some kind of terrorist attack. At present, it can be, for example, the policy of states regarding the migration of people to European states.¹⁶

The recent terrorist attack in the capital of Austria creates a direct need to address the issue of terrorism in the Slovak Republic. On 2 November 2020, an Islamic State sympathiser attacked civilians in the centre of Vienna. This attack resulted in 4 deaths and several injuries.¹⁷ Only one terrorist attack has taken place directly on the territory of the Slovak Republic since its establishment in 1993. Some databases, such as the Global Terrorism Database, list more terrorist attacks on the territory of the Slovak Republic. Officially, however, the terrorist attack is considered to be the one that took place on 12 October 2022. Two people of the LGBTI+ community were shot dead in the centre of Bratislava in front of their meeting venue.¹⁸

¹⁴ Slovakia in the fight against terrorism, 2022 [online]. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2022-07-17]. Available from: https://www.mzv.sk/zahranicna_politika/bezpecnostna_politika-slovensko_v_ramci_boja_proti_terorizmu

¹⁵ Terrorism in the EU since 2015, [online]. News European Parliament [cit. 2022-7-15]. Available from: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/sk/headlines/security/20180703STO07127/terorizmu-s-v-eu-od-roku-2015>

¹⁶ Slovakia in the fight against terrorism, 2022 [online]. Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2022-07-17]. Available from: https://www.mzv.sk/zahranicna_politika/bezpecnostna_politika-slovensko_v_ramci_boja_proti_terorizmu

¹⁷ The attack in Vienna took place just 7 hours before the planned anti-terrorist Operation Ramses, 2020 [online]. Plus 7 dní [cit. 2021-03-08]. Available from: <https://plus7dni.pluska.sk/zahranicie/utok-viedni-odohral-len-7-hodin-pred-planovanou-protiteroristickou-operaciou-ramsesozy>

¹⁸ Tragic shooting in Bratislava reclassified as terrorist attack, 2022 [online]. Teraz.sk [cit. 2023-03-02]. Available from: <https://www.teraz.sk/slovensko/tragicku-strelbu-v-bratislave-prekvali/667778-clanok.html>

Results of the pilot survey on young people's perceptions of terrorism

In 2021, we conducted a survey to find out young people's views on terrorism and received a total of 88 responses. Of this number, 55.7 % were female and 44.3 % were male. According to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the population in 2021 was 51.09 % female and 48.91 % male. The respondents were aged between 17 and 25 years. According to the data from 2021, this age category had a 14.10 % representation in the population of the Slovak Republic.¹⁹

The survey was carried out for the need to obtain baseline data regarding young people's awareness of terrorist attacks. A similar survey focusing on public safety was also conducted in the article "Citizens' Preparedness to Deal with Emergencies as an Important Component of Civil Protection". One of the questions was specifically related to terrorist attacks.²⁰ Responses were collected randomly from respondents using an internet questionnaire. The sample of respondents is neither large enough nor representative enough to be able to relate the above results to all young people in the Slovak Republic in that age range. The aim was to obtain basic data on young people's awareness of terrorism, which was to be used to modify the questionnaire and correct the questions. The following results can therefore serve as an introduction to the issue of young people's preparedness for terrorist attacks for the reader or the competent authorities. At the same time, this information can serve as a basis for designing the next questionnaire and conducting research that will yield more representative results.

As part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked various questions. The Slovak Republic is a member of various organizations that participate in the fight against terrorism. These are, for example, the European Union or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Citizens of the Slovak Republic answered questions about whether they felt safe based on the Slovak Republic's membership in such organizations.

¹⁹ Population and migration - age pyramids of the population of the Slovak Republic, 2022 [online]. Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2023-02-06]. Available from: <https://slovak.statistics.sk>

²⁰ KUBÁS, J., BUGÁNOVÁ, K., POLORECKÁ, M., PETRLOVÁ K., and STOLÍNOVÁ, A. 2022. Citizens' Preparedness to Deal with Emergencies as an Important Component of Civil Protection. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* [online]. 19(2), 830. ISSN 1660-4601. Available from: doi:10.3390/ijerph19020830.

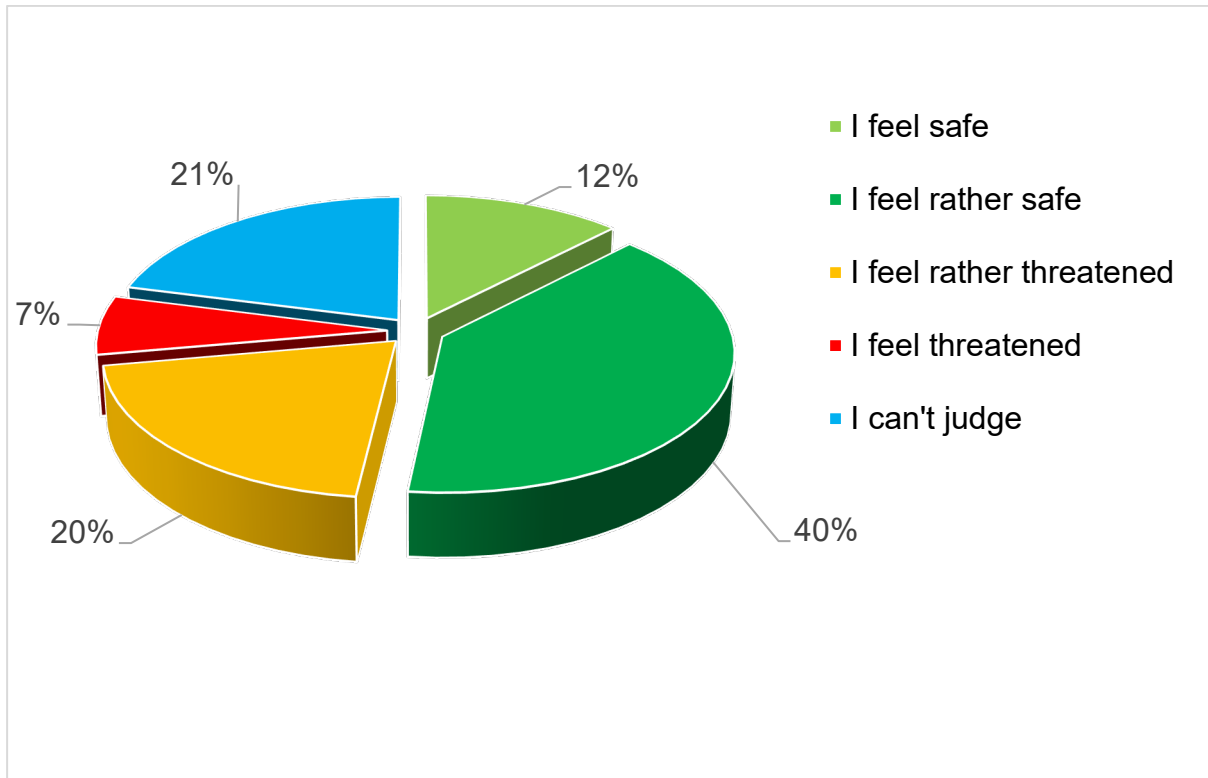


Figure 1 Showing the percentage distribution of respondents' responses to feeling safe based on membership in international organizations

Figure 1 shows that more than half of the respondents feel safe and rather safe. 18% were unable to assess this feeling. 26% of respondents feel threatened or rather threatened. The results can be compared, for example, with one of the NATO surveys from 2021, where citizens of member states were asked whether they felt safer or less safe as a result of the cooperation between the United States and the European Union states within NATO. The largest number of respondents who said they felt more threatened were in the Slovak Republic and Turkey. Overall, 21% of respondents feel this way.²¹ The Focus Agency conducts a public opinion poll every year since the Slovak Republic joined NATO. Citizens are asked whether they agree with NATO membership. In 2020, a total of 35% of respondents disagreed with this membership.²²

There was another similar question in the questionnaire. We asked respondents if they thought there was a threat of a terrorist attack on the territory of Slovakia.

²¹ NATO Audience Research: pre-Summit polling results, 2021 [online]. NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION: Public Diplomacy Division [cit. 2023-03-02]. Available from: https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2021/6/pdf/210611-pre-summit-research-2021.pdf

²² Police of Slovak Republic, 2023 [online]. Facebook: Official profile of the Police of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2023-03-02]. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/policiaslovakia>

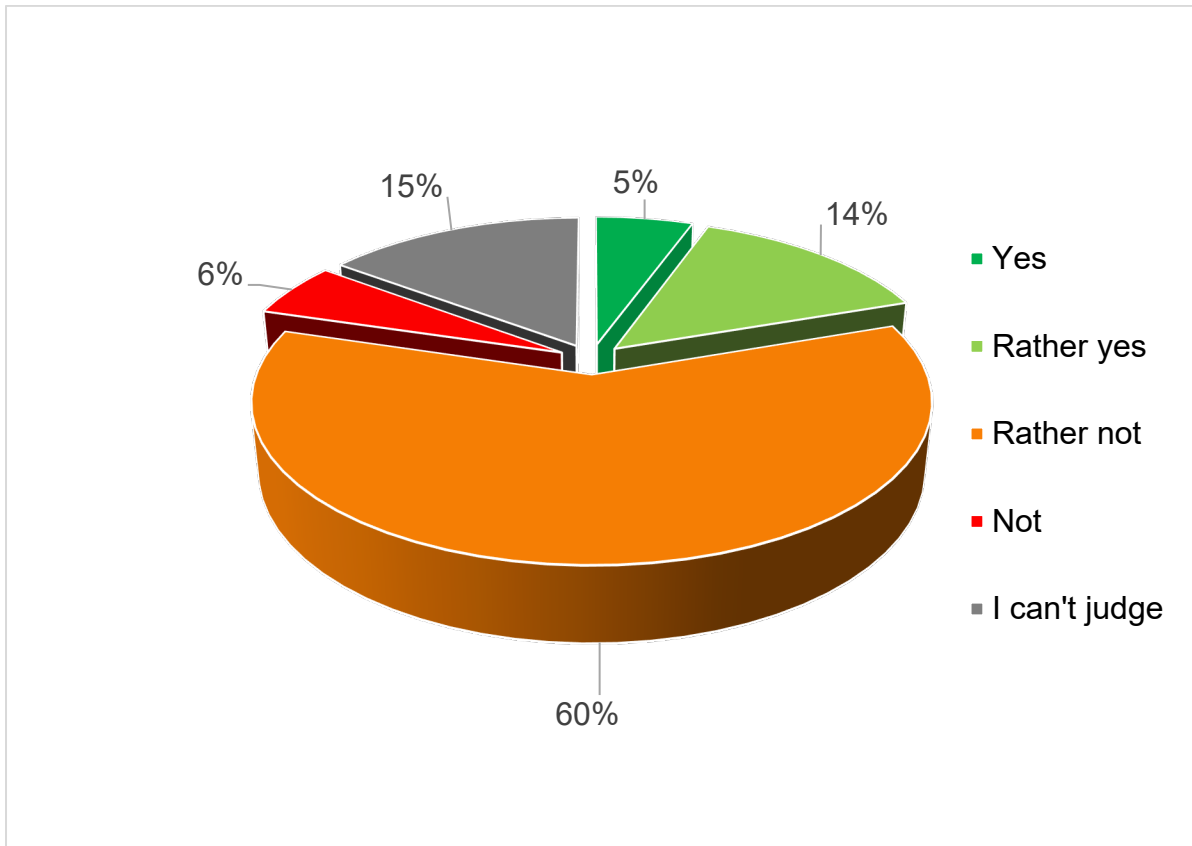


Figure 2 Graphic presentation of the distribution of responses to the possible threat of a terrorist attack on the territory of the Slovak Republic

The results on this question are understandable, as the prevailing opinion is that the Slovak Republic is not interesting for terrorist organizations. As can be seen from Figure 2, as many as 63% of people have stated that they think that there is no threat or rather no threat of a terrorist attack on our territory. Out of a total of 88 people, 22 people, i.e. 25%, think that Slovakia is at risk of a terrorist attack. The remaining 12 % could not assess this threat. The fact that no terrorist attack had been committed on the territory of the independent Slovak Republic at the time of the survey may have influenced the results. The increased media interest in the terrorist attack in Vienna, which took place during the data collection period, may also have influenced the answers of the respondents.

We also asked the respondents for their opinion, whether they thought they would know how to react if they were involved in a terrorist attack. Their subjective feeling about the given situation is important mainly because they have to realize the seriousness of the issue themselves, and thus be more interested in the topic of preparedness for a terrorist attack. Figure 3 showed that over 51% of respondents could not judge their own response and 34% thought they did not know how they would respond.

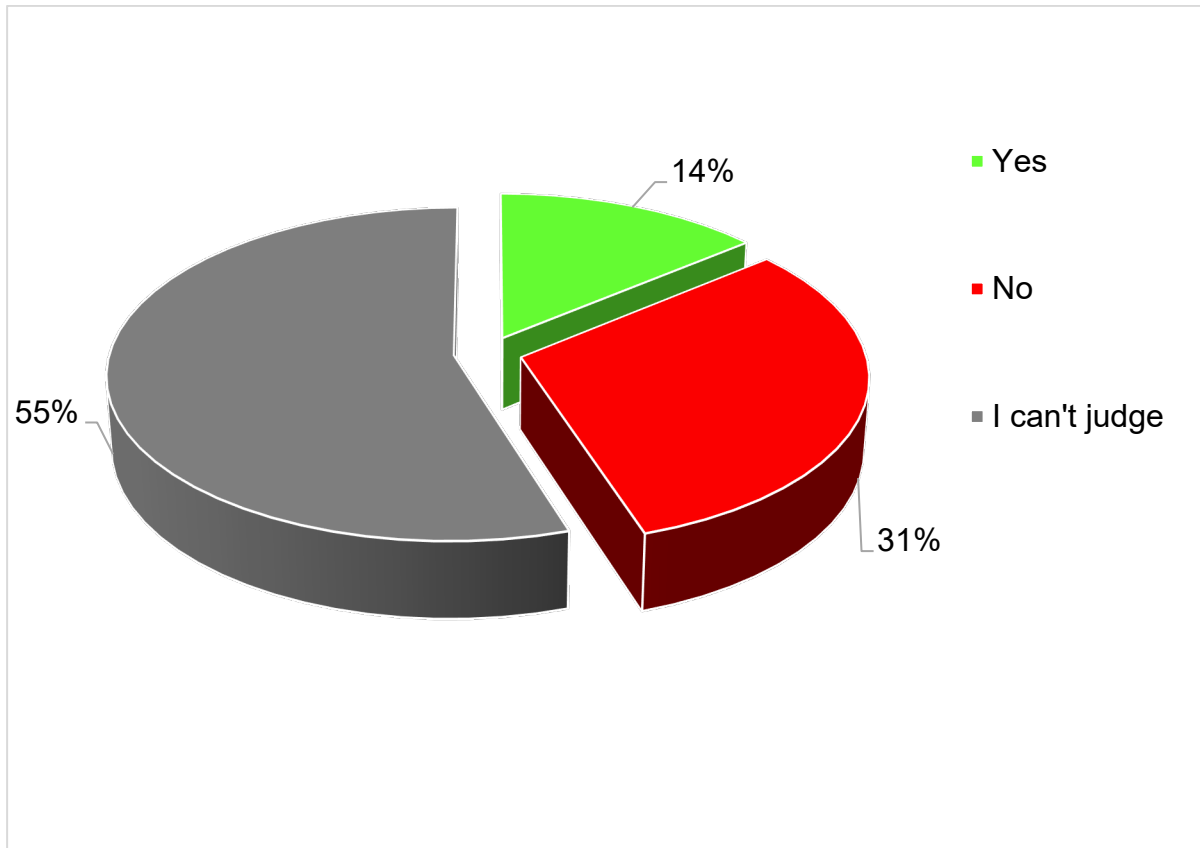


Figure 3 Percentage display of respondents' responses to the ability to respond during a terrorist attack

The results show that only 15 % of respondents think they know how to react in the event of a terrorist attack. The survey also asked respondents to answer a question on general principles of behaviour during an attack. These were also published on the Slovak Police's social network profile. The correct option "run, hide, call" was given by only 4.5 %, which is only 4 persons out of 88 respondents. A similar question was also answered by respondents in a survey published in the article "Citizens' Preparedness to Deal with Emergencies as an Important Component of Civil Protection". This survey was carried out on the residents of the city of Žilina. Overall, out of 340 relevant responses, 21 % of respondents indicated that they knew or rather knew how to react in the event of a terrorist attack. The largest number of all respondents stated that they did not know or rather did not know how to react. Overall, this was 54 % of responses.²³ In our survey, this was 34 % of responses.

Another question asked whether they thought there was enough information about how to behave during a terrorist attack. The results are shown in the following Figure 4.

²³ KUBÁS, J., BUGÁNOVÁ, K., POLORECKÁ, M., PETRLOVÁ K. and A. STOLÍNOVÁ. 2022. Citizens' Preparedness to Deal with Emergencies as an Important Component of Civil Protection. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* [online]. 19(2), 830. ISSN 1660-4601. Available from: doi:10.3390/ijerph19020830.

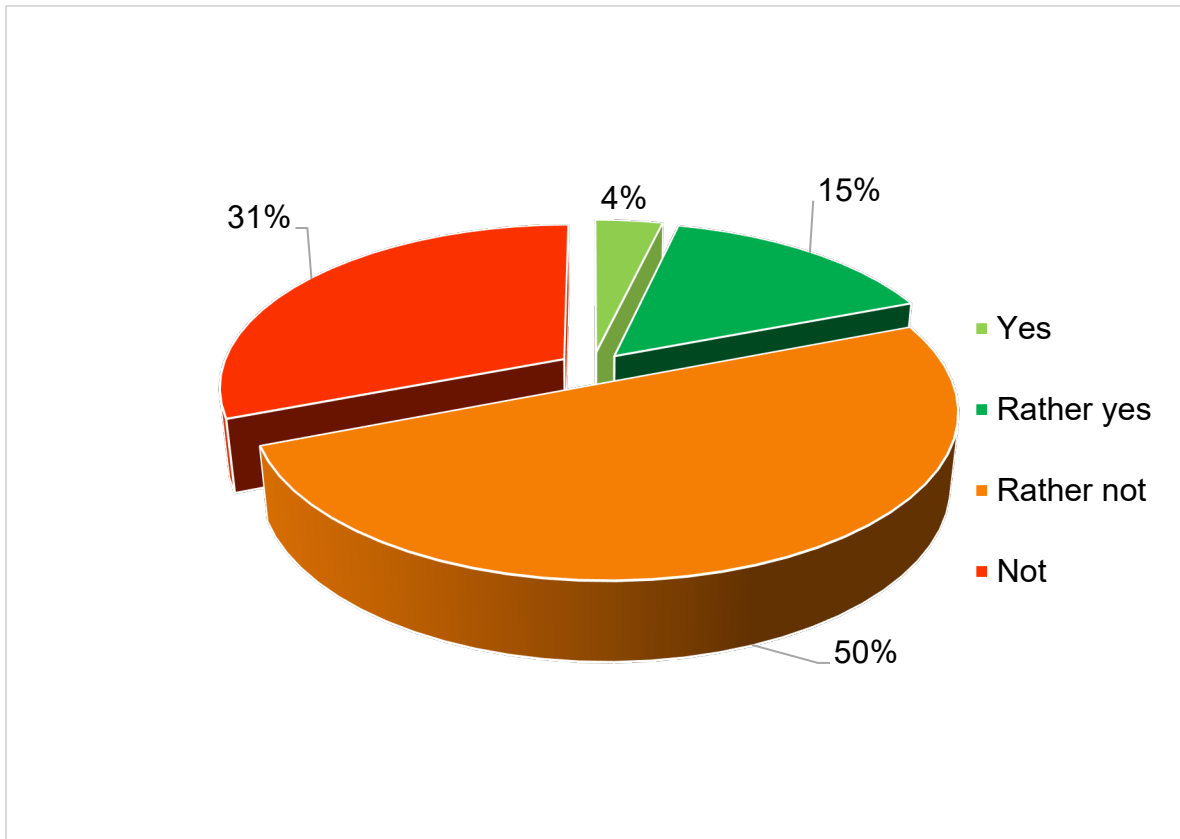


Figure 4 Graphic representation of the percentage distribution of respondents according to the opinion on the availability of information about behaviour during a terrorist attack

Figure 4 shows the distribution of the respondents' answers. Parts with negative answers are shown in red and orange. They are the ones where citizens have answered that they think there is a lack of information about how to behave during a terrorist attack. This may also mean that 80% of respondents do not know how to behave during an attack or do not know how to access this information. There are a few manuals on the Internet, as well as in book form. They are, for example, those that were used in this work. However, given the seriousness of this issue, it is necessary that such information be more accessible and clearer for all citizens of the Slovak Republic.

In the questionnaire, people also had the opportunity to express their opinion on where they would like to have such information available. At the same time, this option provides some help in designing possible measures.

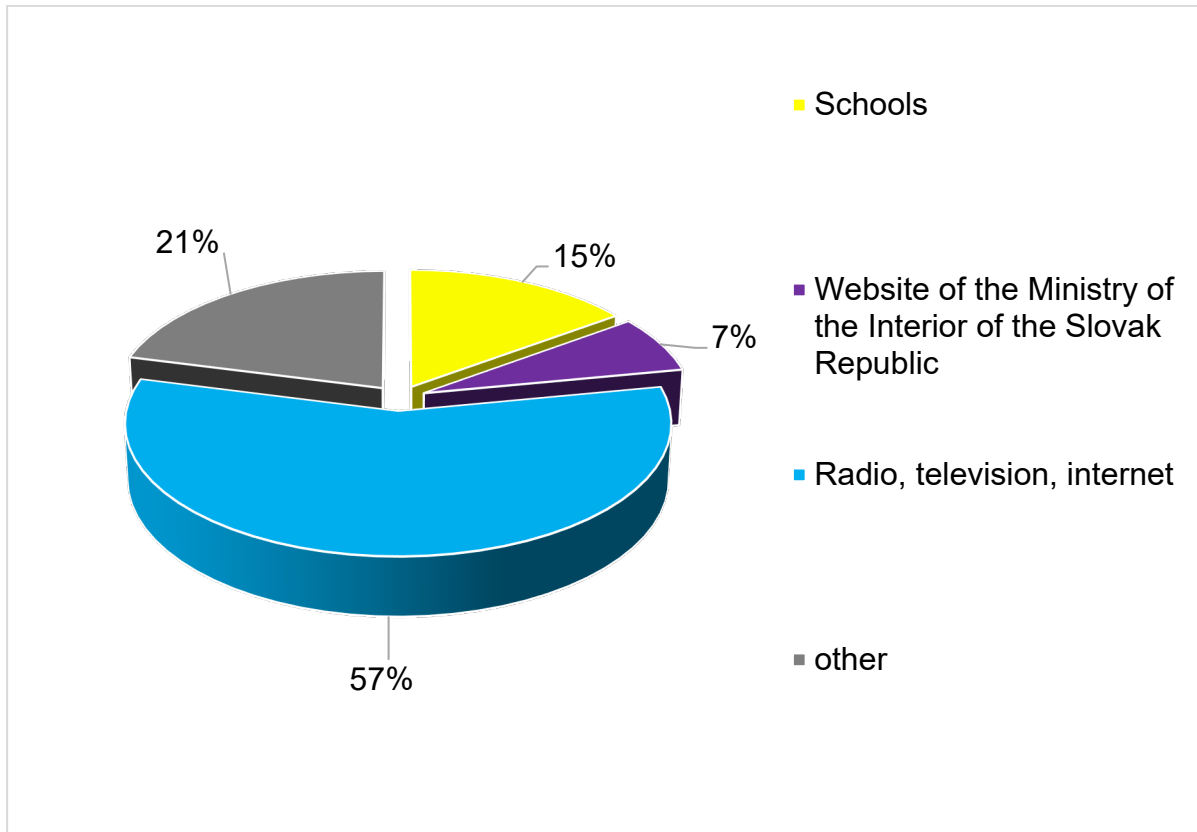


Figure 5 Percentage display of respondents' answers to the question where they would like to have a source of information on how to behave during a terrorist attack

In almost all cases, three to five proposals were repeated. Most respondents, as can be seen in Figure 5, said that they would like to have this information in different media. One way to get this information out to a large number of people is through social networks such as Facebook. On this social network, the profile of the Police of the Slovak Republic has more than 499,000 followers. The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic is followed by almost 80,000 people. Suitably adapted and especially regular information concerning the principles of behaviour during terrorist attacks, but also other emergencies, could attract more people.^{24,25}

The second most common answer was schools. It can be seen that young people themselves would welcome this type of information in the classroom. In addition, there were many other suggestions in the responses, which are included in Figure 14 under "Other". They were answers like various advertisements, either on the Internet or on television. One of the answers was that such information should be published only after a major attack, when it is current and people are interested. In addition, there were also answers such as a separate page for this purpose, on tickets for mass events, or various lectures.

²⁴ Police of Slovak Republic, 2023 [online]. Facebook: Official profile of the Police of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2023-03-02]. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/policiaslovakia>

²⁵ Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, 2023 [online]. Facebook: official profile of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic [cit. 2023-03-02]. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/ministerstvovnutraSR>

Conclusion

The issue of preparedness for a terrorist attack does not only concern entities that fight against it. Since the most frequent targets of terrorist actors are people, it is necessary for them to be equally well prepared for this violence. For ordinary people, preparation for such an event cannot be ensured in ways such as, for example, intervention and anti-terrorist units. The state has to protect the inhabitants from such forms of danger. Preparing people for various threats is also an option to protect people from a terrorist attack. This is all the necessary information that people should know about terrorist organizations and terrorist attacks. Next, there are principles of behaviour during an attack and methods of survival. However, people should be aware of the various specific situations that may arise. Such preparation for crisis phenomena is also covered by civil protection of the population. Terrorist attacks have different forms and different methods of execution. It can be an attack indoors or outdoors, an attack with a firearm or a knife, a bomb attack, or an attack with a chemical substance, and many others.

The survey shows that young people are aware of the issue of terrorist attacks, which directly affects their quality of life. The results also show that the respondents themselves are aware of the lack of preparedness for this danger and would welcome more information on how to behave during an attack. This issue should be dealt with in particular by the public authorities concerned. The protection and information of the population about hazards falls under the civil protection of the population, which is covered by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic. In the case of education, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport also plays an important role. Informing the population about the principles of behaviour during a terrorist attack and other emergencies could therefore start with school establishments. Here, for example, it is possible to make use of persons with expertise in civil protection. In the form of annual specialised lectures, secondary and higher education students could be informed about survival methods during various emergencies. Another option is to include the issue in one of the subjects taught in secondary schools. An example of such a subject might be civics. The staffing of such expert lectures could be provided, for example, by the ever-growing voluntary organizations in civil protection.

Improving preparedness and information could also increase the quality of life of residents. Because of the many ways an attack can be carried out, it is necessary to develop manuals, textbooks, or other forms of information resources that cover all the possibilities. Here, communication between stakeholders and practitioners working on the issue is needed. It is worth mentioning, for example, Andor Šándor's manual "How to survive not only a terrorist attack" or Mark Thelen's manual. Currently, the trend of virtual reality is also developing. With the help of it and new scenarios, residents could be educated and prepared to handle various crisis events and terrorist attacks.²⁶

²⁶ MITAŠOVÁ, V.; HOLLÁ, K.; MAKOVICKÁ OSVALDOVÁ, L.; CIDLINOVA, A. Solving crisis situations in a specific environment [electronic]: collection of contributions from the 25th scientific conference with international participation. 1st ed. Žilina: University of Žilina in Žilina, 2022, pp. 25-35. ISBN 978-80-554-1872-8

Acknowledgment

This article was created as a one of research project Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and port of the Slovak Republic VEGA No. 1/0460/22 Socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of quality of life and VEGA No. 1/0628/22 The Security Research in Municipalities with Emphasis on the Citizens' Quality of Life.

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