

**Case Study Report Summary: Germany**  
(Prepared conducted by the German Red Cross, March 2003)

The report examines national legislation, international laws, treaties and agreements and other legal documents relevant to disaster preparedness and disaster response in Germany.

**Key findings**

**International legal framework relevant to disaster preparedness and disaster response**

- § Germany has entered into several bilateral agreements on disaster response, in particular, on mutual assistance in the case of a disaster or a severe accident.<sup>i</sup> In broad terms, these agreements seek to facilitate and reduce procedural, factual and financial aspects of mutual assistance, as well as reducing technical obstacles.
- § Moreover, Germany has entered into friendly cooperation and partnership agreements containing, *inter alia*, rules on mutual assistance in case of disasters or severe accidents with a number of other states.<sup>ii</sup>
- § On disaster prevention, Germany entered into an agreement with France in 1995 to facilitate cooperative measures. This agreement contained, among other provisions, the exchange of teaching personnel or the formation of common expert working groups and bilateral crossing-border training.
- § Germany is also a signatory to relevant multilateral treaties, such as the 1998 Tampere Convention on Emergency Telecommunications in Disaster Operations, which seeks to ensure the reliable, rapid availability of telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations, and to facilitate international co-operation to mitigate the impact of disasters.

**European framework relevant to disaster preparedness and disaster response applicable to Germany**

- § There are several resolutions of the EU Council on mutual cooperation and assistance between EU Member States in the event of natural and technological disasters<sup>iii</sup>; as well, on enforcement of mutual co-operation for civil protection<sup>iv</sup>; on partnerships for cooperation and coordination in emergencies between EU Member States, Middle Eastern and East European countries<sup>v</sup>.
- § There is also an EU Council decision<sup>vi</sup> on the implementation of a board on non-military issues. The board is a working group of the Council which provides information and counselling to committees.
- § Finally, there is an European Framework Agreement (dated 21 May 1980) on cross border cooperation between authorities, which seeks to increase mutual assistance in the case of emergencies and disasters.

**National framework relevant to disaster preparedness and disaster response**

- § As of 2003, there were sixteen disaster preparedness acts, containing similar regulations concerning emergency medical services, fire-fighting and procedures for technical assistance.

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<sup>i</sup> Examples are: the 1977 Agreement between France and Germany; the 1978 Agreement between Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Germany; the 1992 Agreement between Russia and Germany; the 1997 Agreement between Hungary and Germany; the 2000 Agreement between Czech Republic and Germany.

<sup>ii</sup> For instance: the 1992 Agreement between Hungary and Germany and the 1992 Agreement between Romania and Germany.

<sup>iii</sup> EU Council resolution (Abl. Nr. C198 vom 27.7.1991), S.1, which includes a list of focal point authorities who can directly contact each other or through the EU Commission. Another example is the EU Council decision (Abl. Nr. L 297 vom 15.11.2001, S. 7-11) providing for emergency rescue units, training programmes, creation of a monitoring and information system, etc.

<sup>iv</sup> ABL Nr. C 313 vom 10.11.1994, S.1-3, which provides for the supply of staff.

<sup>v</sup> One example is the 1995 Partnership Agreement on Cooperation between EU Member States and Ukraine for mutual assistance in prevention of disasters / emergencies. These agreements usually include training programmes, constitution of coordination-teams and of communication systems.

<sup>vi</sup> Abl. Nr. L 127 vom 27. Mai 2000, S.1.