19. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
CRISIS MANAGEMENT DAYS

KEY CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

The discussions at DKU 2026 showed that crisis management continues to evolve in response to increasingly complex security, technological, and environmental challenges. Despite the diversity of topics presented during the conference, the sessions shared a common perspective: resilience depends on preparedness, interdisciplinary cooperation, innovation, and the effective transfer of knowledge into practice. The following conclusions reflect the key findings and recommendations from the conference:

Security and Defence

- Crisis management exercises are essential for strengthening preparedness, coordination, and resilience. Their effectiveness depends on clear objectives, realistic scenarios, stakeholder involvement, and a structured lessons-learned process. Standardised planning, cross-sector cooperation, modern technologies, and continuous evaluation significantly enhance operational capacity and crisis response readiness.

- Active military service is a cornerstone of the Croatian Armed Forces, ensuring operational readiness and national defence capabilities. Despite challenges related to recruitment, training, and motivation, continuous education, professional development, and career opportunities remain essential for attracting and retaining qualified personnel in an increasingly complex security environment.

- Small EU and NATO member states remain particularly exposed to geostrategic uncertainty, yet continue to strengthen their security through alliance participation, defence investment, and diplomacy. Their experience demonstrates that collective security enhances resilience while reinforcing the importance of credible commitments, solidarity, and adaptability within the evolving security architecture.

- AMOK violence in hybrid public spaces is a complex and multidimensional security challenge shaped by the interaction of spatial, operational, and sociological factors. Effective prevention requires interdisciplinary approaches, early recognition of structural risk indicators, and improved coordination among security institutions to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities.

- The introduction of CSRD and ESRS has strengthened the role of sustainability risk reporting by integrating double materiality and improving transparency. Continued progress depends on consistent methodologies, stronger internal controls, and closer alignment between sustainability reporting and overall corporate risk management.

Artificial Intelligence, Digital Technologies, and Innovation

- Regional cooperation between neighbouring countries plays an important role in strengthening civil protection capacities. Joint projects, knowledge exchange, and coordinated preparedness activities contribute to more effective responses to cross-border emergencies and enhance regional resilience.

- Continuous professional education, including specialised IT network certification programmes, strengthens the cybersecurity resilience of critical institutions. Developing digital competencies is essential for protecting healthcare information systems against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

- Emerging digital technologies, including the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and digital twin systems, are becoming valuable tools for crisis management. Their application improves situational awareness, supports risk assessment and forecasting, enhances decision-making, and contributes to more efficient emergency responses.

- Artificial intelligence is increasingly recognised as an important driver of innovation in education and entrepreneurship. Its application creates new opportunities for improving productivity, supporting innovation, and developing new approaches to learning and business.

- As artificial intelligence becomes part of everyday professional practice, education systems need to place greater emphasis on developing competencies that cannot be replaced by technology. Critical thinking, creativity, sound judgement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and responsible decision-making remain fundamental skills for future professionals.

- Artificial intelligence should be regarded as a tool that complements human knowledge and expertise rather than replacing them. Responsible governance, ethical principles, and human oversight remain essential for its successful and sustainable application.

- The integration of artificial intelligence into education, research, and business requires continuous dialogue between academia, industry, and public institutions. Such cooperation supports the responsible development of AI while ensuring that technological progress remains centred on human needs and societal benefit.

Climate Change and Sustainability

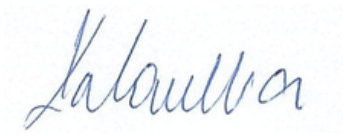
- Climate change and sustainability remain among the most significant challenges for contemporary crisis management. Addressing these challenges requires interdisciplinary research, long-term planning, and close cooperation among public authorities, academia, industry, and local communities.

- Sustainable approaches to transport, tourism, natural resource management, and ecosystem restoration help reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards. Active participation by citizens and local communities is also crucial for achieving long-term sustainability goals.

- Protecting cultural heritage, promoting sustainability awareness, and strengthening food security are recognised as important elements of resilient communities, particularly in the context of increasingly frequent extreme weather events.

- Ongoing research, stronger interdisciplinary cooperation, and broader implementation of sustainable solutions are essential for improving preparedness, reducing climate-related risks, and enhancing the long-term resilience of communities and ecosystems.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee



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