



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS  
SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJA

# Health Emergency Preparedness in Lithuania

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# LITHUANIA



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Population	2 944 459
Territory, km <sup>2</sup>	65 300
Population density	45,1

# Legal regulation of the National Health System

- Related with legal regulation of the National Health System (NHS) and general health policies, *and at the same time*
- Related with legal regulation of the Civil Protection System, *as NHS is an integral part of Civil Protection System*



# Legal acts that regulate work of NHS in case of emergency

- Law on Civil Protection
- Law on Health System
- Law on Health Care Institutions
- Law on Public Health Care
- Law on State Reserve
- Law on Radiation Protection
- Decisions of the Government
- Orders of the Minister of Health
- Other legal acts



# Law on Civil Protection

15 December 1998 No VIII-971

(As last amended on 22 December 2009 – No XI-635)

## Article 13. Ministries, and Other State Institutions and Agencies:

- Operations centres shall be set up at ministries and other state institutions and agencies whose list shall be approved by the Government.
- In accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government, plan and ensure the implementation of civil protection preventive measures.
- Draw up and approve an emergency management plan and implement it.
- Perform other functions as prescribed in this Law and other legal acts and relating to implementation of the tasks of the civil protection system.

# Law on Civil Protection (2)

## Article 19, part 2. The Forces of the Civil Protection System consist of:

- the fire and rescue forces;
- the forces of the police;
- the forces of personal and public health care agencies of the Lithuanian national health care system providing health care services in the event of an incident, emergency event and emergency; ...
- 6. The forces of the institutions of personal and public healthcare of the Lithuanian National Health System shall comprise ambulance bodies, other institutions of personal and public healthcare of the Lithuanian National Health System.

# Law on Civil Protection (3)

## **Article 28, part 1. Command of Rescue, Search Operations, Incident, Emergency Event and Emergency Response and Mitigation of Consequences and Urgent Works and Organisation Thereof:**

The functions of the commander of rescue operations in responding to an incident or emergency event and mitigating their consequences shall be performed by the civil servant or employee of the forces of the civil protection system who is the first to arrive to the spot of the incident or emergency event, taking into consideration the nature of the incident or emergency event; ...



## Law on Civil Protection (4)

### **Article 28, part 11. Command of Rescue, Search Operations, Incident, Emergency Event and Emergency Response and Mitigation of Consequences and Urgent Works and Organisation Thereof:**

Personal and public healthcare institutions shall be prepared to organise their activities under the conditions of an emergency in compliance with the institution's emergency management plan drawn up according to the recommendations approved by the Minister of Health and the methodological recommendations for the drawing up of emergency management plans approved by the director of the Fire and Rescue Department; ...

# Strategic management of emergencies

## GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

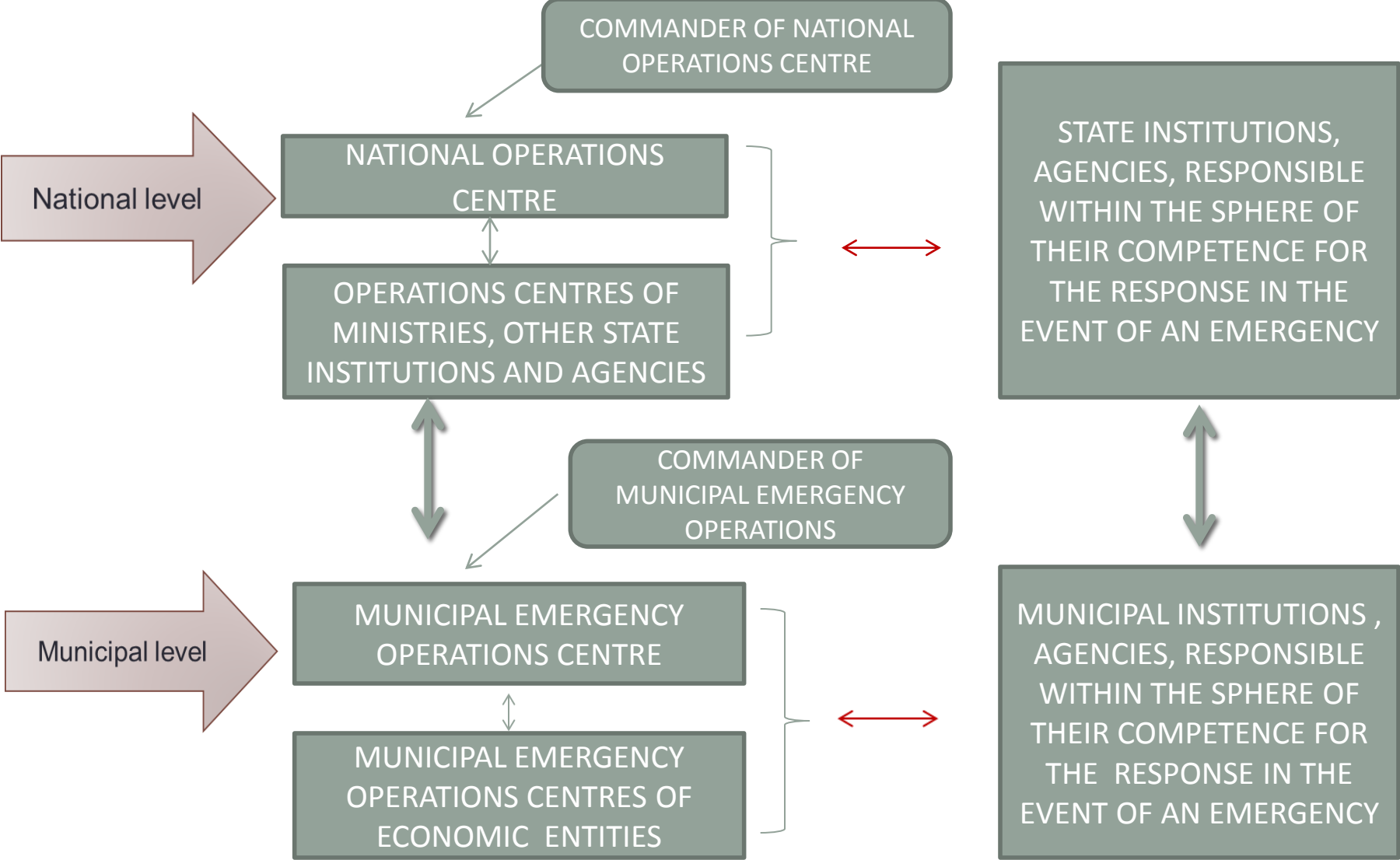
National level

Minister of the Interior (Chair of the Commission)  
Vice-Minister of the Interior (Vice- President of the Commission)  
Vice-Minister of Environment or Chancellor of the Ministry of Environment  
Vice-Minister of Energy or Chancellor of the Ministry of Energy  
Vice-Minister of Finance or Chancellor of the Ministry of Finance  
Vice-Minister of Culture or Chancellor of the Ministry of Culture  
Vice-Minister of Social Security and Labour or Chancellor of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour  
Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications or Chancellor of the Ministry of Transport and Communications  
*Vice-Minister of Health or Chancellor of the Ministry of Health*  
Vice-Minister of Education and Science or Chancellor of the Ministry of Education and Science  
Vice-Minister of Justice or Chancellor of the Ministry of Justice  
Vice-Minister of Economy or Chancellor of the Ministry of Economy  
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs or Chancellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Vice-Minister of Agriculture or Chancellor of the Ministry of Agriculture

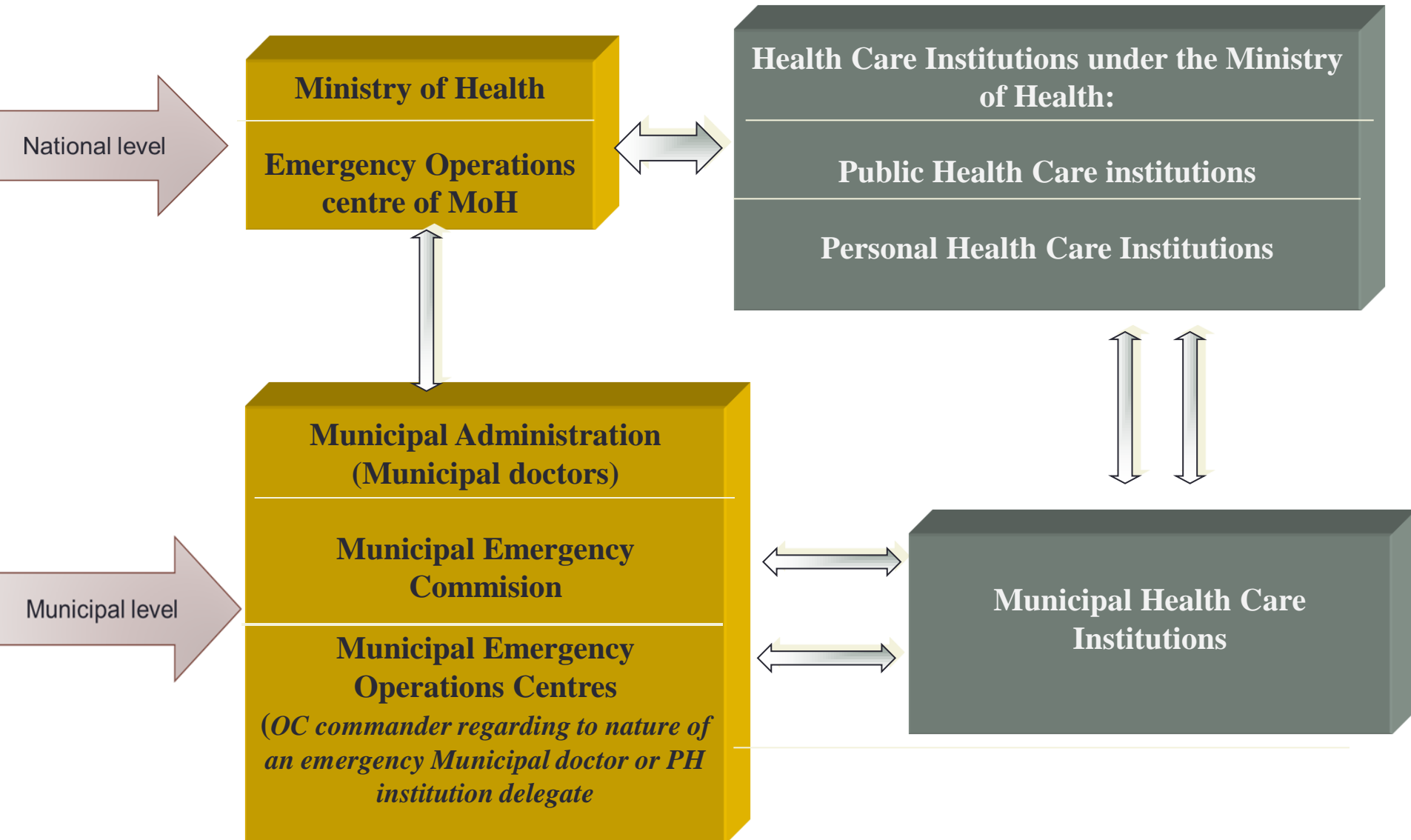
Municipal level

Members of municipal Council, civil servants and/or employees of state and/or municipal institutions and agencies, responsible within the sphere of their competence for the organisation of preparedness and response in the event of an emergency

# Operational response of emergencies



# NHS management and response



# Principles of organization

- MoH co-ordinates preparedness of NHS for emergencies;
- Municipalities (municipality doctors) organize health care in their territory;
- Personal health care institutions and public health care institutions are responsible for emergency preparedness and providing their services in case of emergency.

# Emergency Operations' Centre of the Ministry of Health (1)

- Conducts communication and information exchange with EOC's (government, other ministries, health care institutions, public);
- In case of large-scale emergency when municipalities have failed to ensure residents health and seeking help, coordinate NHS personal and public health care institutions, regardless of their subordination and forms of ownership;
- Organises prevention of emergency situations, carries out prognoses of their consequences, necessary civil protection measures;

# Emergency Operations' Centre of the Ministry of Health (2)

- Collects and analyses information about emergency events and emergency situations;
- Prepares and offers health care institutions proposals and advices regarding activities in case of emergency;
- Health Emergency Situations Centre will maintain activities of Emergency Situations Operations Centre of the MoH technically.

# Emergency Operations Centre of the Ministry of Health

- Coordinator – Viceminister of the Ministry of Health
- Deputy coordinator – director of the Health Emergency Situations Centre of the Ministry of Health
- MoH representatives:
  - National Health System Coordination Board
  - Health Promotion Board
  - Epidemiology division
  - Economy department
  - Law department
  - Pharmacy department
  - Public relations division
- Communicable diseases and AIDS centre
- Radiation Protection Centre
- State Medicines Control Agency
- National public health laboratory



# Preparedness planning

- Guidelines for preparation of Emergency Management Plans (EMP) were approved by the order of the Minister of Health in 2003.
- Currently guidelines for personal health care institutions are under revision
- EMP guidelines for public health care institutions were approved by the order of the Minister of Health in 2012.
- HESC analyses EMP of health care institutions' and performs state supervision and control of emergency preparedness of mentioned institutions.

# Health care resources (1)

## Personal health care

- 149 hospitals:
  - general – 97
  - nursing – 48
  - rehabilitation – 4
- 27079 hospital beds (91,1 per 10.000 inhabitants);
- 13 552 doctors (45,6)
- 23693 nursing specialists (79,7);
- 53 providers of ambulance services, 247 ambulance brigades.
- 653 out-patient health care institutions

# Health care resources (3)

## Public health care:

- 10 Public Health Centres
- 37 their sections in municipalities
- Public Health Centres are institutions of public administration

# Health Emergency Situations Centre

- State institution, subordinated to the Ministry of Health.
- Performs public administrative functions in the area of health emergency preparedness and management.
- Financed by state budget.

# HEALTH EMERGENCY SITUATIONS CENTRE

## ADMINISTRATION

EMERGENCY  
SITUATIONS  
PREVENTION  
DIVISION

PLANNING  
AND  
CONTROL  
DIVISION

POISONINGS  
CONTROL  
AND  
INFORMATION  
BUREAU

STATE  
MEDICAL  
RESERVE

# HESC Roles

- Co-ordination of preparedness of National Health System institutions in cases of crises and emergencies
- Daily activities of the Emergency Operations Centre of the Ministry of Health
- National Focal Point of International Health Regulations
- Poisonings control and information
- Management and administration of State Medical Reserve

# HESC Roles

- Health emergency contact point 24 h. / 7 d.:
  - in Lithuania
  - EWRS, IHR, RATC
- Preparation of legal acts, plans and guidelines on medical disaster and emergency preparedness and response
- Organization of exercises, conferences and seminars, public information

# HESC Roles

- Representative of HESC is a member of Health Security Committee
- Representative of HESC is a member of NATO CEPC JHAFG (Joint Health, Agriculture and Food Group)



**THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

