

2023», «SICC Series CBRN Conference 2023»in Italy), common projects and experience exchange (“Exchange of Civil Protection Experts – Ukraine and the Netherlands”, etc.)

Any international activity or meeting requires engagement of participants into coworking, socializing and networking, consequently the B2 level of English is compulsory to its participants. While involvement in the international trainings guarantees interoperability between the representatives of different countries, common language provides for better understanding between the participants which makes the English language not just an important element but a key tool for cooperation for the sake of survival.

## **TEACHING PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF CIVIL PROTECTION**

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As a part of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EU-CPM), the personnel of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) have faced new challenges due to the need in cooperation with the other participants of the system. Ukrainian firefighters and rescuers have always been there to assist in case of any disaster but now it comes not only to helping other nations who suffered from various kinds of emergencies but also about experience exchange and conferences as a member of the EU-CPM.

When it comes to any international task either related to rescuing, training or learning, the obstacle is the English language proficiency. The law No. 9432 “On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine” shifted the emphasis from empirical to practical necessity to know professional English to be able to interact with multinational community of rescuers where the lingua franca is obviously the English language. While earlier the certificate of B2 English was enough, nowadays it is the real language proficiency that matters. No certificate can help the SESU personnel interact with colleagues at emergency sites, conferences or during field exercises. They should be prepared to speak fluent English to cooperate with the international team, give and understand commands, participate in meetings, briefings, etc.

The participation of Ukrainian SESU professionals in rescuing the victims of the 2023 earthquake in Turkey can be a vivid example of the need in good command of English. There worked a multinational team from 90 countries, and their activities were coordinated by the INSARAG which means that all the reports and documentation was in English. The rescuers had to coordinate their actions and stay in touch with foreign teams (rescuers, medical and logistics personnel, and representatives of different humanitarian organizations). All safety briefings were held in English. So, English played a key role in understanding the overall situation and coordinating actions with the teams.

Although the facts prove the necessity for the personnel of the SESU, especially for the management and the rescuers, of learning professional English, unfortunately, they have not affected the SESU higher educational establishment curriculum. English is an obligatory subject but the number of classes doesn’t allow learners acquire the level of proficiency needed to interact and co-work with foreign specialists. Thus, the emphasis should be shifted from talking about the importance of English to increasing the number of classes so that graduates of the SESU universities could have a good command of the language and can work with the representatives of other countries of EU-CPM and other international organizations.

The English language curriculum should reflect the needs of the learners and cover the topics related to the civil protection of the population. Taking into consideration real life situations where English can be used in their professional activities, foremost the main

competences (basic writing competence is crucial for writing reports but there's no possibility to teach it in terms of the given number of hours for the subject) should be formed:

1. Listening and speaking (for rescue radio communication, understanding commands, taking part in briefings, discussions and multinational activities);

2. Reading (to read equipment instructions, protocols and safety rules).

Minimum set of professional vocabulary phrases (speech patterns) should be memorized and automatized to be naturally and immediately used in response. Their knowledge can facilitate cooperation of Ukrainian rescuers with their foreign colleagues in the future. The vocabulary can be organized into the following clusters:

- oral communication (commands and radio communication): *Evacuate!*, *Proceed to sector A!*, *Victim located!*, *Requesting medical support!*;

- SAR terminology (tools and equipment, actions, navigation, etc.): *extricate*, *structural damage*, *collapse zone*, *void space*, etc.;

- safety and protocols (warnings, instructions): *wear your respirator and goggles before entering*, *Hazardous materials detected!*;

- medical support and evacuation (describing the state of the injured, asking for help): *The victim is heavy bleeding/unconscious/ needs resuscitation*;

- participating in international meetings, projects, safety briefings, situational reports (SITREP), INSARAG forms, etc.: *victim tracking*, *HQ requests SITREPs from all rescue teams!*; *Proceed as planned*;

- stress-communication (empathy patterns): *You're safe now!*, *Stay safe!*, *Good job!*

Special focus should be on learning professional acronyms/abbreviations that are most frequent in the international environment. It helps international teams facilitate their cooperation, coordinate help speedy and efficiently, and participate in multinational trainings and programs.

The handy abbreviations can be grouped in several categories to be included into the curriculum according to the topic studied. We offer the following categorizations:

1. tactics and commands (*SITREP* – situation report, *ETHANE* – exact location, type, hazard, access, numbers, emergency services);

2. medicine (*EMT* – emergency medical team, *MEDEVAC* – medical evacuation);

3. safety and protection (*PPE* – personal protective equipment, *ES* – emergency shelter, *SCBA* – self-contained breathing apparatus);

4. fire, search and rescue operations: (*RACE* – rescue, alarm, confine, extinguish/evacuate, *LUCAR/MUSAR/HUSAR* – heavy/medium/light/ urban search and rescue).

Professional English for civil protection specialists as an academic discipline in the SESU higher educational establishments is not just theoretical subject for the classroom. It should be treated as a stage for the future civil protection personnel to get prepared to the field training, cooperating and safety briefings with foreign colleagues. So, the main task is to create the learning environment for the learners to role-play different situations they can face in their work to successfully handle them.