

Inter-Institutional Collaboration in Managing Complex Crises: A Case Study of Lithuania's Response to the Illegal Migrant Crisis

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This research paper explores the significance of inter-institutional collaboration between military and the internal affairs system in effectively managing complex crises, with a specific focus on Lithuania's response to the illegal migrant crisis along the Belarusian border. The study aims to assess and leverage the practices that emerged from inter-institutional collaboration during this crisis.

Adopting a qualitative approach, the research utilizes data collected through interviews and applies the Granåsen et al. (2019) inter-institutional model, which encompasses nine key clusters: interaction, relationships, coordination, system performance, preparedness, situational awareness, resilience, decision-making, and information infrastructure.

The findings shed light on the theoretical foundations of inter-institutional collaboration in crisis management and provide an analysis of the Lithuanian case, identifying exemplary practices of inter-institutional collaboration between military and the internal affairs system (Smaliukiene et al., 2023). The paper underscores the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences gained from managing the illegal migrant crisis to enhance collaboration in other areas. By capitalizing on these successful practices, countries can strengthen their capacity to anticipate, respond to, and mitigate the consequences of future crises, thereby ensuring the security and well-being of their citizens¹.

Keywords: Inter-institutional collaboration, crisis management, illegal migrant crisis, Belarusian border, Granåsen et al. model, military, internal affairs system, Lithuania.

Main sources:

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¹ Data collected and analyzed during the implementation of a scientific research project “Feasibility study on the development of a comprehensive national defence system”.