



HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

In 2023, there were 14 850 hazardous events (disasters, accidents and crises), representing a 1.0% increase compared to the previous year. The highest relative share is occupied by fires resulting in material damage¹ - 50.4%, followed by road traffic accidents with casualties² - 47.2%.

Fig. 1. Number of hazardous events by districts in 2023

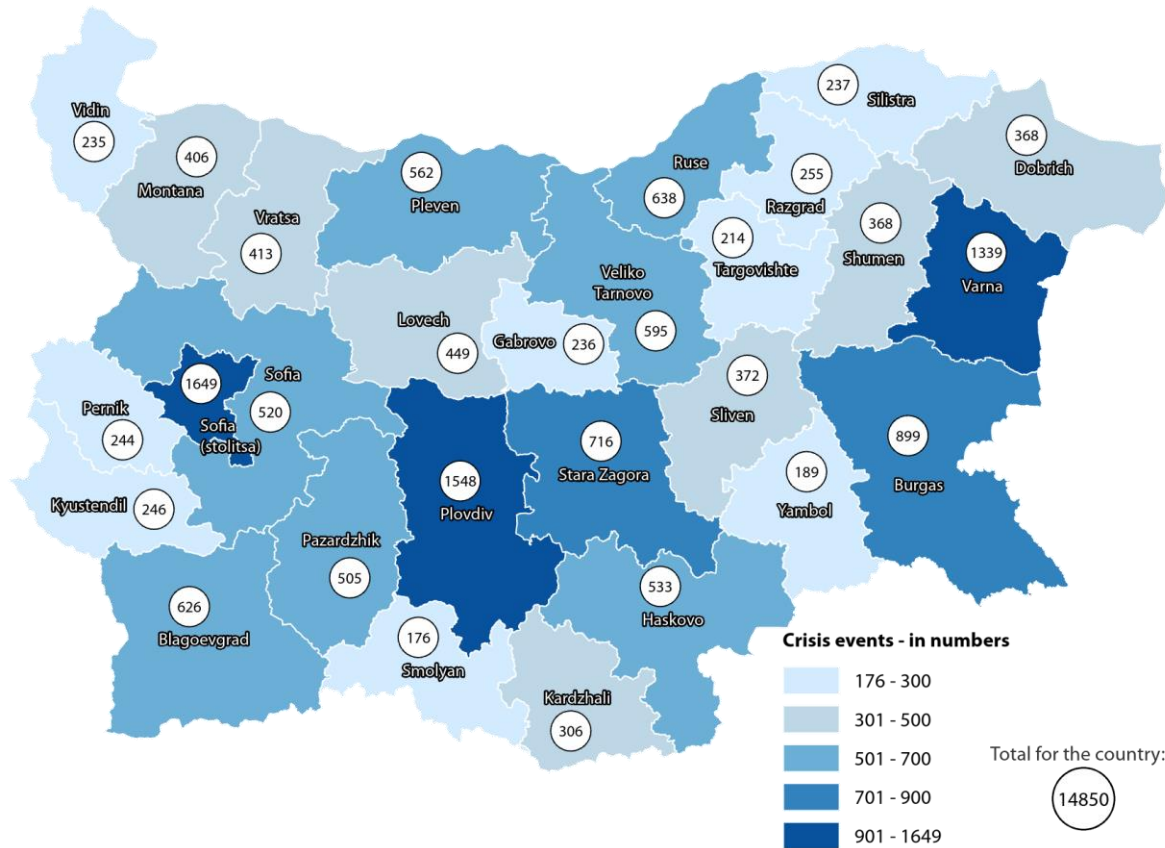
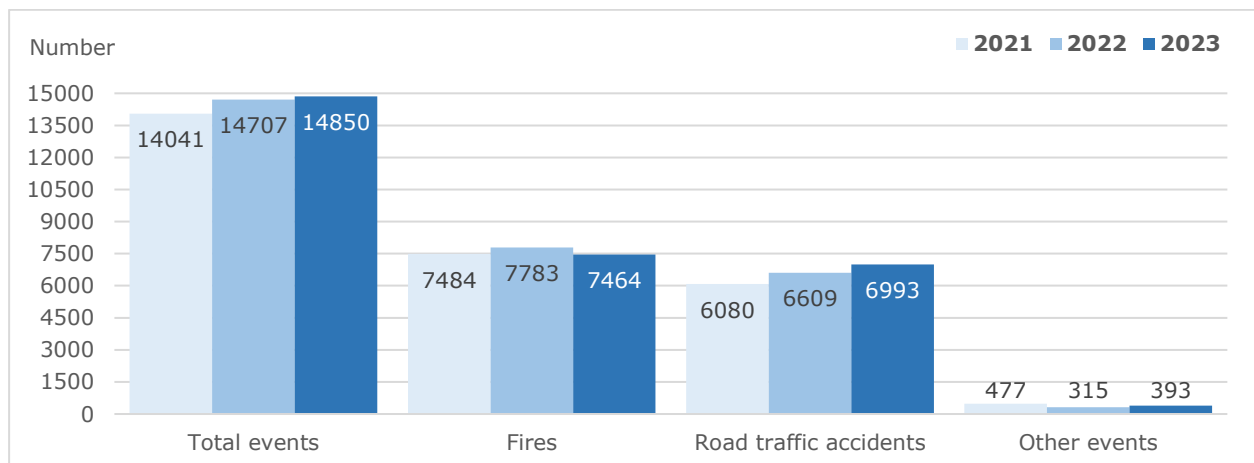


Fig. 2. Total events, fires, road traffic accidents and other events for the period 2021 - 2023



¹ Fires - the survey includes fires resulting in casualties or material damage.

² Road traffic accidents - includes road accidents with casualties.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Fig. 3. Number of road traffic accidents with casualties by regions in 2023

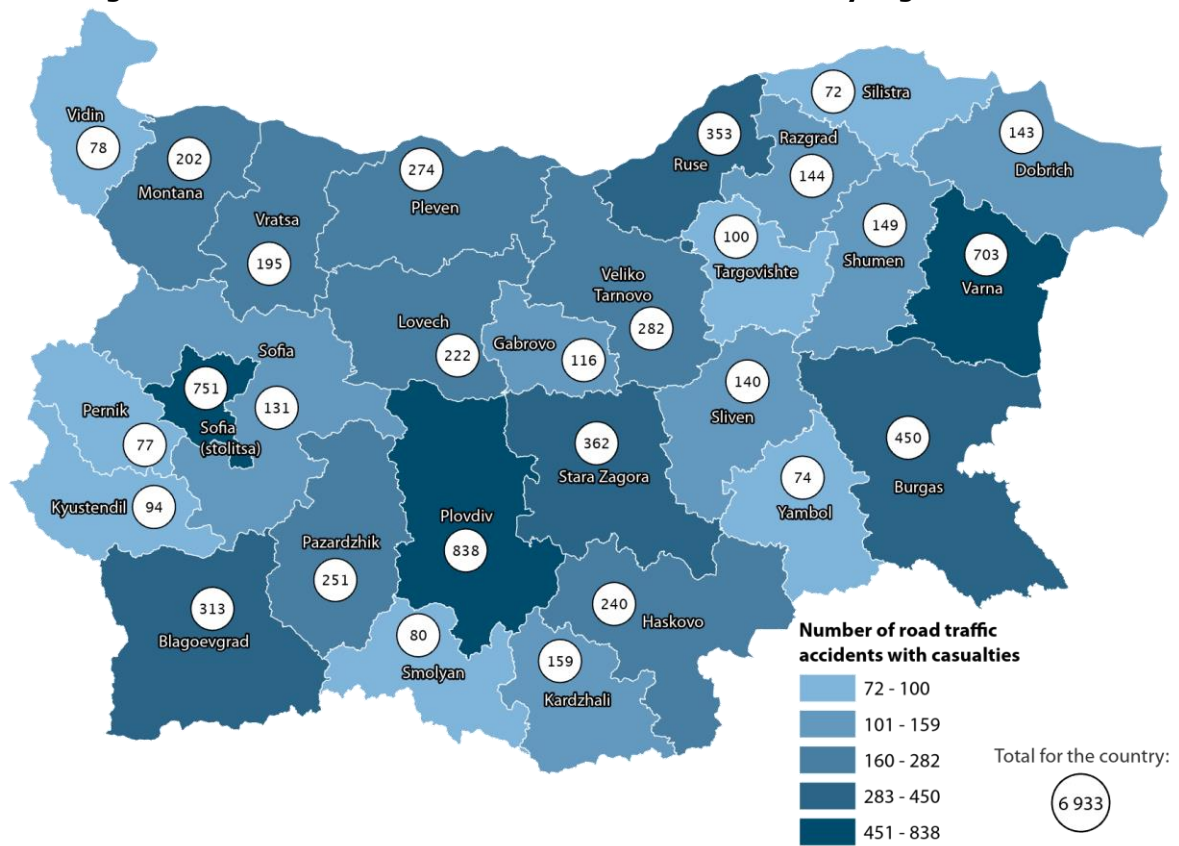
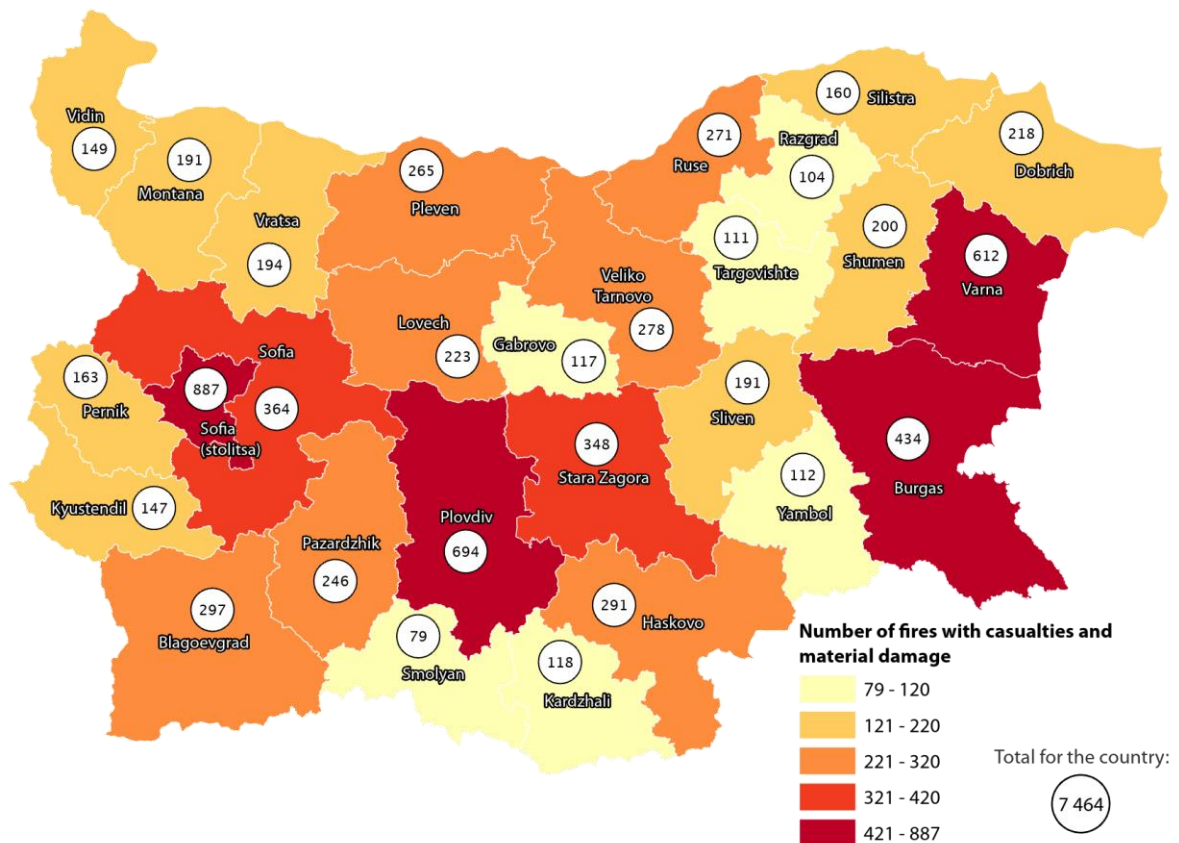


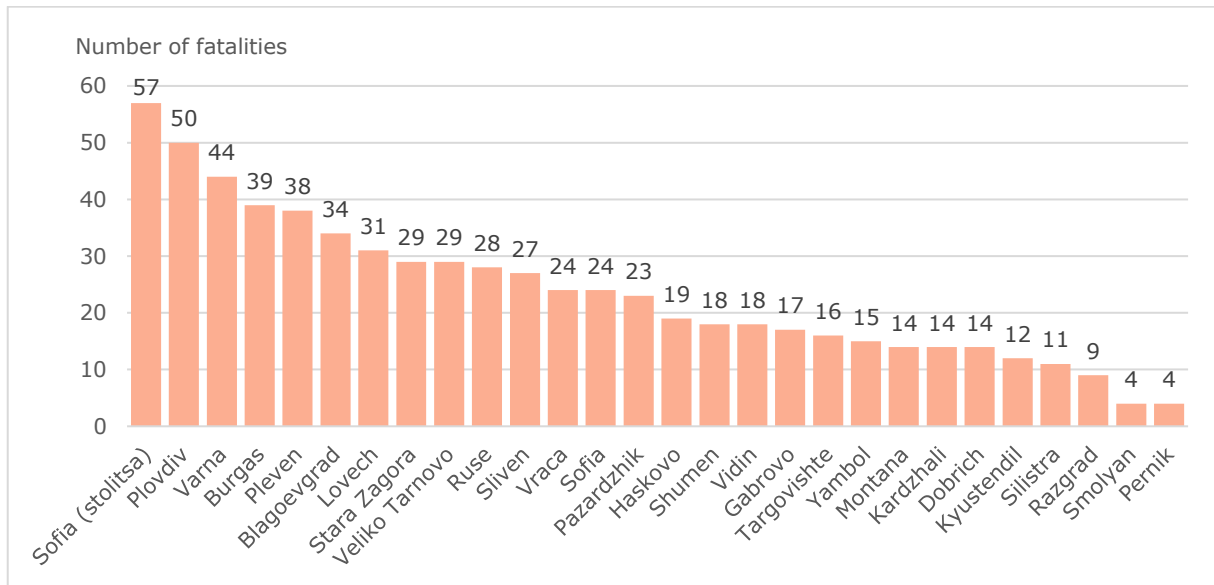
Fig. 4. Number of fires with casualties or material damage by regions in 2023



HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

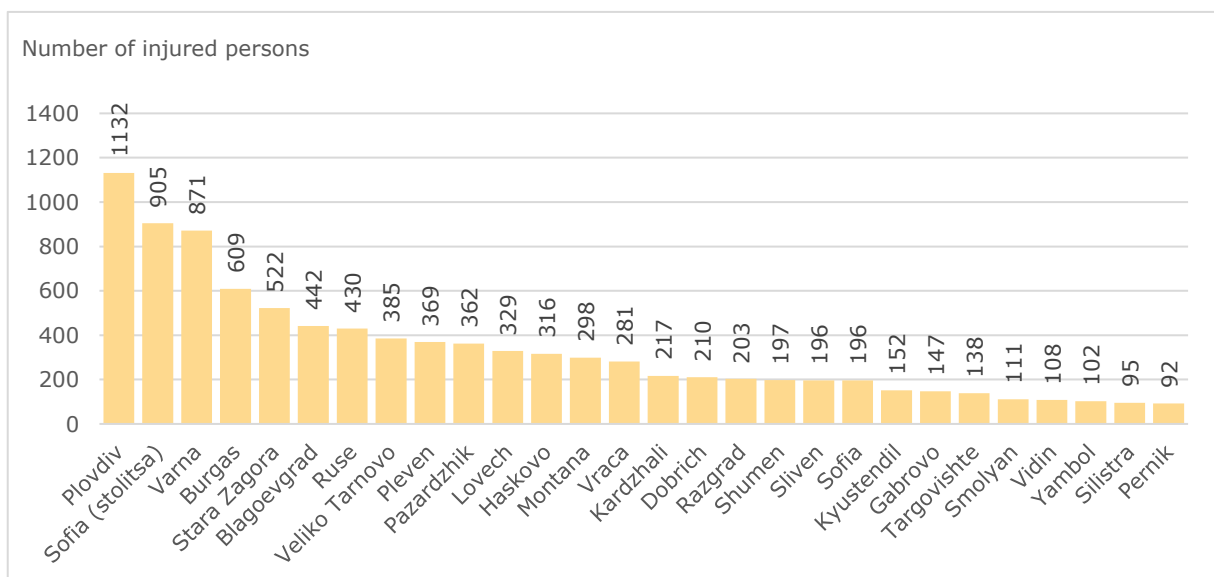
In 2023, the number of human fatalities resulting from disasters, accidents and crises was 667, or 10 per 100 000 people of the country's population. The highest share of them is occupied by those who died in transport accidents - 546 persons, followed by those who died in fires - 113 persons. The districts with the most deaths were Sofia (stolitsa) with 57 people and Plovdiv with 50 people, and those with the least - Pernik and Smolyan with 4 each.

Fig. 5. Number of human fatalities attributed to hazardous events by districts in 2023



The total number of injured individuals for the year was 9 415, or 146 persons per 100 000 people of the country's population. The highest number of injuries was recorded in transport accidents - 9 125 individuals, followed by fires with 289 individuals injured. Regionally, the highest numbers of injured were reported in the districts of Plovdiv (1 132 individuals), Sofia (stolitsa) (905) and Varna (871).

Fig. 6. Number of injured individuals attributed to hazardous events by district in 2023



HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Fig. 7. Number of human fatalities attributed to hazardous events per 100 000 people by district in 2023

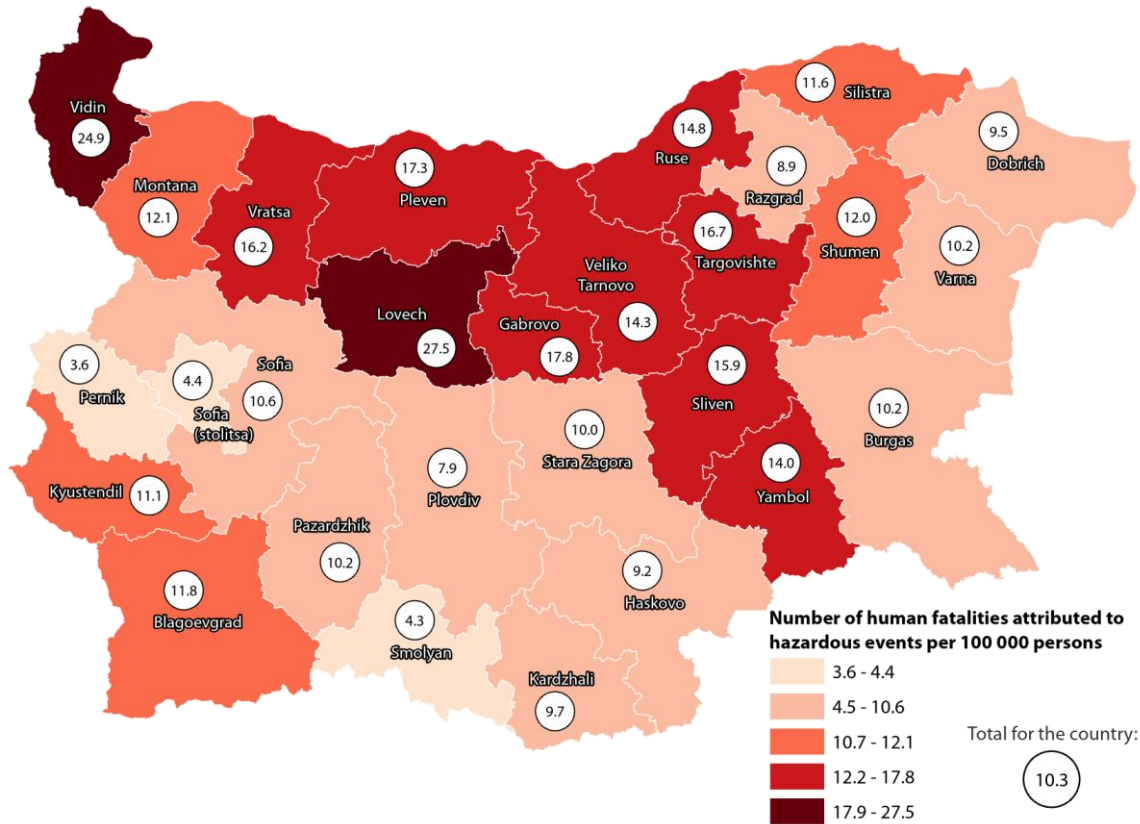
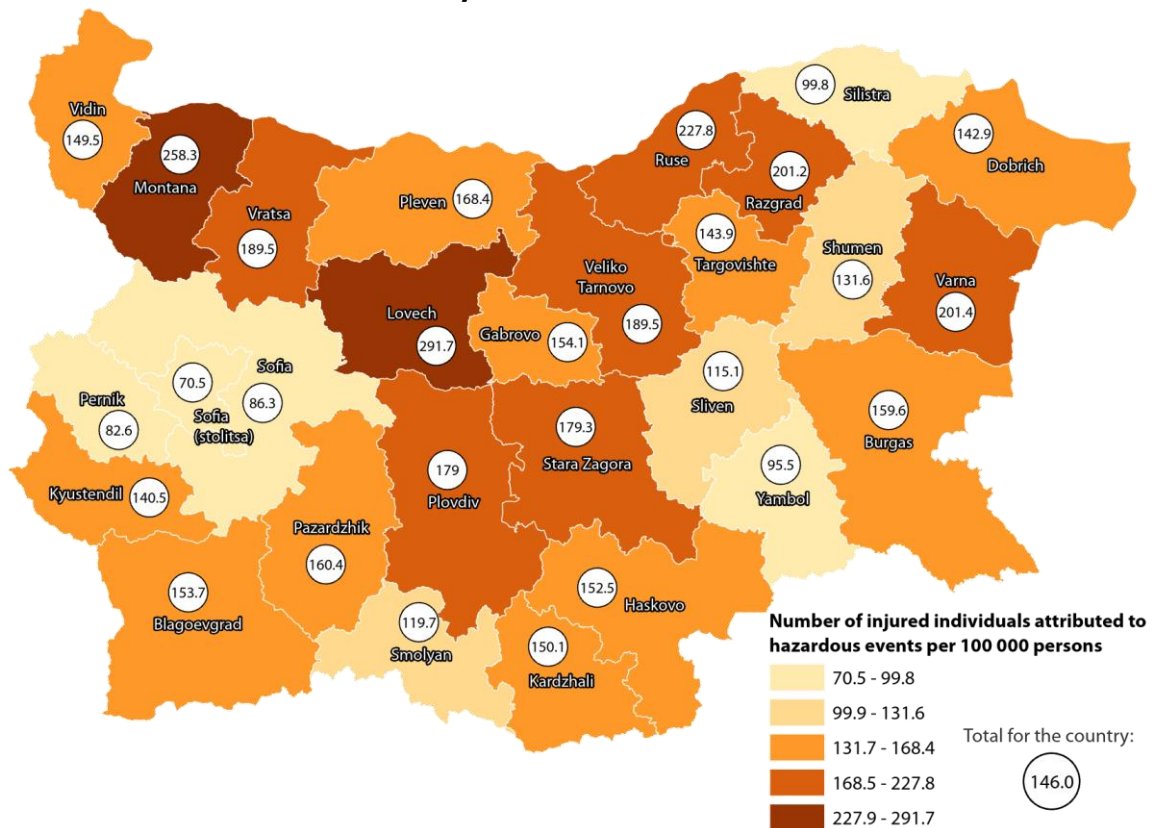


Fig. 8. Number of injured individuals attributed to hazardous events per 100 000 people by district in 2023



HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Disasters

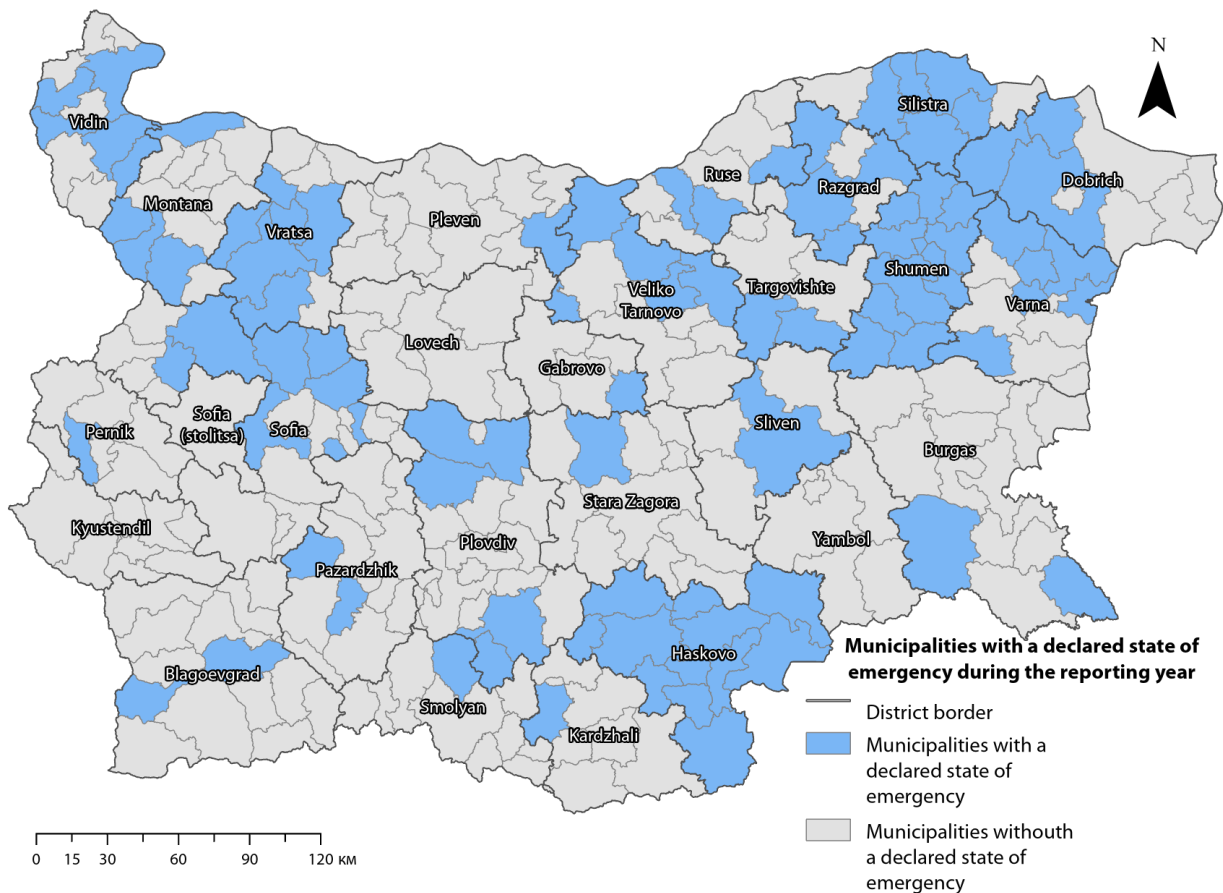
In 2023, the country experienced a total of 104 hazardous events for which a state of emergency was declared, marking an increase of 55 events compared to the previous year, or a rise of over 112%. The largest share of these disasters were related to floods, storms, severe winter conditions, and forest fires. Compared to 2022, the declared states of emergency due to floods rose by 62.5%, while those linked to forest fires increased by 85.7%.

In 2023, disasters partially or fully affected the territory of 88 municipalities in the country. The municipalities in the districts of Varna, Sofia, and Vratsa were most frequently affected. Conversely, no states of emergency were declared in the districts of Kyustendil, Lovech, Sofia (stolitsa) and Yambol.

As a result of the occurred disasters, five individuals lost their lives.

In 2023, the total population in areas affected by disasters was 1 321 253 people, or 20.5% of the country's population.

Fig. 9. Municipalities with a declared full or partial state of emergency in 2023



HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Public expenditures for hazardous events

According to NSI estimates, in 2023, expenditures for preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery from hazardous events in the 'General Government' sector were BGN 850 977 thousand, or 0.46% of the country's GDP.

The expenditures for **hazardous events** in 2023 decreased significantly when compared to 2021 and 2022, during which funds were allocated for managing the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis resulting from the military conflict in Ukraine in 2022.

In 2023, the majority of reported expenditures were allocated to preparedness (78.6%) and prevention (12.7%). In contrast, for the years 2021 and 2022, the largest share of funds was spent on recovery and response, as a consequence of the two large-scale crises - the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Table 1. Expenditures for hazardous events by use for the period 2021 - 2023¹

| Use | Year | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
| | Thousand BGN | % | Thousand BGN | % | Thousand BGN | % |
| Total | 7345395 | 100.0 | 3081222 | 100.0 | 850977 | 100.0 |
| Prevention | 349455 | 4.8 | 361672 | 11.7 | 107713 | 12.7 |
| Preparedness | 599656 | 8.2 | 679947 | 22.1 | 669083 | 78.6 |
| Response | 888632 | 12.1 | 866888 | 28.1 | 971 | 0.1 |
| Recovery | 5507652 | 75.0 | 1172715 | 38.1 | 73210 | 8.6 |

¹ Estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.

Table 2. Expenditures for hazardous events as a percentage of the country's GDP for the period 2021 - 2023¹

(% of GDP)

| Use | Year | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Total | 5.27 | 1.82 | 0.46 |
| Prevention | 0.25 | 0.21 | 0.06 |
| Preparedness | 0.43 | 0.40 | 0.36 |
| Response | 0.64 | 0.51 | 0.00 |
| Recovery | 3.95 | 0.70 | 0.04 |

¹ GDP - At current prices.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

The NSI estimates show that in 2023, 695 077 thousand BGN of the total funds for hazardous events were spent by the central executive authorities, while the local authorities reported 155 900 thousand BGN of total expenditures. The high relative share among ministries and agencies is due to funds allocated for 'preparedness' - 627 526 thousand BGN, which includes activities related to fire protection, management of the state reserve, wartime reserves, and others.

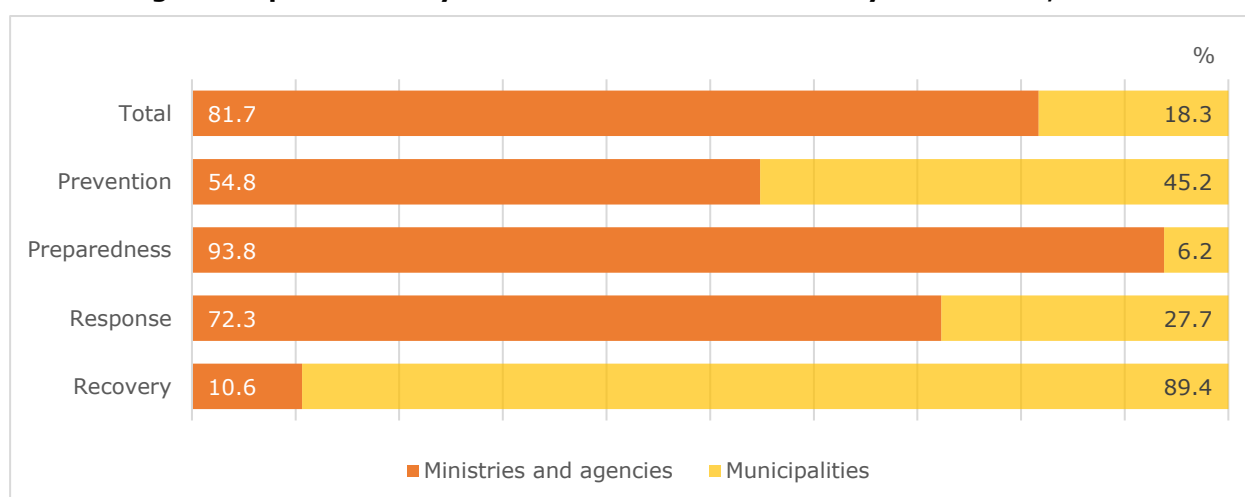
In contrast to ministries and agencies, municipalities allocated the largest share of the expenditures to 'recovery' - 65 420 thousand BGN and 'prevention' - 48 654 thousand BGN.

Table 3. Expenditures by central and local authorities by use in 2023, in thousand BGN¹

| Use | (Thousand BGN) | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | Total | Ministries and agencies | Municipalities |
| Total | 850977 | 695077 | 155900 |
| Prevention | 107713 | 59059 | 48654 |
| Preparedness | 669083 | 627526 | 41557 |
| Response | 971 | 702 | 269 |
| Recovery | 73210 | 7790 | 65420 |

¹ The estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.

Fig. 10. Expenditures by central and local authorities by use in 2023, in %¹

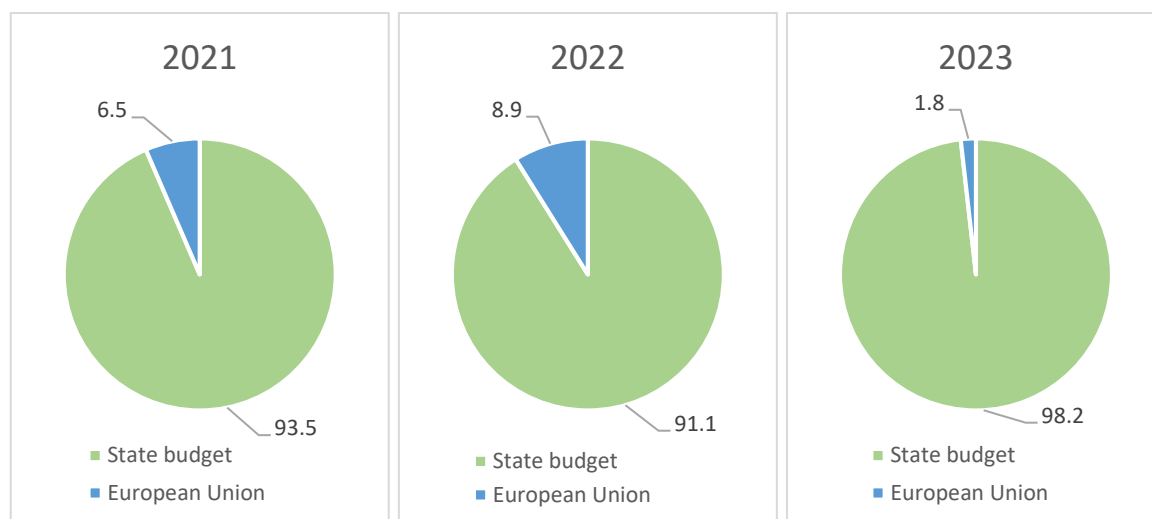


¹ Estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

In 2023, 98.2% of the expenditures for hazardous events were funded by the state budget, while the remaining 1.8% were provided by the EU. The majority of EU-provided funds were allocated to 'preparedness'. Unlike in 2023, in 2022, over half of the EU funds were directed toward 'response', and more than two-thirds went to 'recovery' in 2021.

Fig. 11. Expenditures for hazardous events by funding sources for the period 2021 - 2023, in %¹



¹ Estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.

In 2023, expenditures for civil protection in the event of natural disasters and accidents amounted to 163 591 thousand BGN, or 19.2% of total expenditures for hazardous events (850 977 thousand BGN). Compared to the previous year, expenditures for civil protection in these events increased by 6.3% and by 10.8% compared to 2021.

Table 4. Expenditures for civil protection, management and activities in the event of natural disasters and accidents for the period 2021 - 2023¹

| Use | Year | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | 2021 | | 2022 | | 2023 | |
| | Thousand BGN | % | Thousand BGN | % | Thousand BGN | % |
| Total | 147580 | 100.0 | 153867 | 100.0 | 163591 | 100.0 |
| Prevention | 40405 | 27.4 | 50805 | 33.0 | 42023 | 25.7 |
| Preparedness | 39490 | 26.8 | 44491 | 28.9 | 48089 | 29.4 |
| Response | 324 | 0.2 | 385 | 0.3 | 269 | 0.2 |
| Recovery | 67361 | 45.6 | 58186 | 37.8 | 73210 | 44.8 |

¹ Estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Methodological notes

The data in the survey 'Hazardous events occurred in 2023' are based on annual reports submitted to the NSI by municipal administrations and are supplemented with information from other NSI surveys and administrative sources.

Definitions

Disaster - a significant disruption of the normal functioning of society, caused by natural phenomena and/or by human activity and leading to negative consequences for the life or health of the population, property, the economy and the environment, the prevention, control and overcoming of which exceeds the capacity of the service system for the usual public protection activities.

State of emergency is a regime implemented in the zone of the disaster by legally designated authorities, related to the implementation of measures for a set period of time, with the aim of controlling the disaster and conducting rescue and urgent recovery operations.

Accident is an unpredictable or difficult to predict, limited in time and space action, with a high intensity of forces or as a result of human activity, endangering the life or health of people, property or the environment.

Accident of a large scale involving roads, highways and air traffic, fire, destruction of hydro-technical facilities, accidents caused by activities at sea, nuclear accidents and other environmental and industrial accidents caused by human activities or actions.

Hazard - a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that can cause loss of human life, injury or other health effects, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption or environmental damage.

Crisis - any situation in which a harmful event occurs, one that clearly exceeds the scale of everyday adverse events, posing a significant threat to human life and health, causing substantial property damage, or necessitating measures to supply essential goods to the population. A crisis is considered to be present when such a harmful event is deemed imminent. Armed conflicts and wars are also classified as crises.

Response - the actions taken immediately before, during or immediately after the disaster in order to save human life, reduce health impacts and ensure public safety and the basic needs of affected people.

Recovery - the restoration or improvement of the livelihoods, health, economic, physical, social, cultural and natural assets, systems and activities of the population affected by the disaster in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better' to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Prevention - organizational and physical activities (measures) aimed at avoiding or reducing the negative consequences of disasters, for example, building protective facilities, cleaning river beds and others.

Preparedness - activities (measures) to increase the knowledge and capabilities of government structures, organizations, communities and people, which help to anticipate, respond and eliminate the consequences of probable, inevitable, occurring or already happened disasters, achieved as a result of actions taken in advance - e.g. conducting trainings, exercises, purchasing equipment and personal protective equipment and others.

Calculation Methods

Human fatalities from hazardous events per 100 000 people - The number of human fatalities is divided by the average annual population of the respective territorial unit and multiplied by 100 000.

Injured individuals from hazardous events per 100 000 people - The number of injured individuals is divided by the average annual population of the respective territorial unit and multiplied by 100 000.

Expenditures for hazardous events as a percentage of GDP - Expenditures by use are divided by the country's total GDP in thousand BGN (at current prices) and multiplied by 100. GDP data is based on the revision as of October 18, 2024.

The NSI's assessment of expenditures for hazardous events in the 'General Government' sector for the reference year includes the following activities from Section VI of the Unified Budget Classification (UBC):

- Management of state and wartime reserves;
- Fire protection;
- Urgent activity to protect the population and the national economy;
- Defense-mobilization preparation, stockpile maintenance and capacities;
- Preventive activities to reduce the harmful consequences of disasters and accidents;
- Elimination of consequences from natural disasters and industrial accidents;
- Volunteer formations for disaster protection;
- International programs and agreements, donations, and foreign aid;
- Other activities for civil protection in the event of natural disasters and accidents;
- Geo-protection;
- Safety and storage of radioactive waste;
- Decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

In the event of an extraordinary crisis during the year, additional expenditures for these events are assessed separately, beyond the activities listed above in the UBC.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Additional Information Sources:

- For road accidents - Ministry of Interior;
- For railway accidents - National Railway Infrastructure Company;
- For aviation and maritime accidents - National Board for aircraft, maritime and railway accident investigation;
- For fires - AIS 'Accidents - fire safety and civil protection' of the Ministry of the Interior;
- For landslides - Register of landslide areas, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- For infectious diseases (for 2021 and 2022) - survey 'Deaths and mortality by causes' of NSI;
- For extreme temperatures – estimates by NSI, based on data from the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology;
- For hazardous events with a declared state of emergency - General Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior;
- Financial data on public expenditures - NSI's 'Public sector expenditures' study, based on data from the Ministry of Finance;
- Annual report on the implementation of the state budget, Ministry of Finance;
- Law on the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Statistical data and additional information on this topic can be found in the 'Crisis Events' section on the NSI website: <https://nsi.bg/en/content/2891/crisis-events>.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

ANNEX

Table 1. Number of events, human fatalities and injured individuals in 2023

(Number)

| Subcategory | Hazardous events | Hazardous events | Human fatalities | Injured individuals |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | Total | 14850 | 667 | 9415 |
| Earthquakes | movement of the earth's surface | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mass movement (dry) | rockfall | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| | landslide | 45 | . | . |
| | subsidence | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Storm | hail | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | convective storm | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | heavy rain | 68 | 1 | 0 |
| | tornado | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | storm | 43 | 1 | 0 |
| | wind | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Extreme temperatures | cold wave | 14 | . | . |
| | heat wave | 17 | . | . |
| Extreme winter conditions | snow/ice | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| | winter storm/blizzard | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Flood | rain flood | 35 | 4 | 0 |
| | flood caused by damaged infrastructure | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| | flood from groundwater | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | riverine flood | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Mudflow | mudflow | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wildfire | forest fire | 190 | 0 | 2 |
| | field fire | 621 | 1 | 7 |
| Industrial disasters | fire (industrial) | 427 | 1 | 5 |
| | gas leak | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | other (industrial) | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Other disasters (non-industrial) | collapse (non-industrial) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | fire (non-industrial) | 6226 | 111 | 275 |
| | other (non-industrial) | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Transport accidents | aviation accidents | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| | road accidents | 6993 | 525 | 9101 |
| | rail accidents | 33 | 16 | 24 |
| | navigation accidents | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Infectious disease in humans | virus diseases | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Environment degradation | soil degradation (soil erosion) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | related to environmental degradation | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Others | riots, terrorist acts, ethnic conflicts, cyber attacks | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | other, not included elsewhere | 17 | 0 | 0 |

¹ "." - not available or missing data.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Table 2. Number of events, human fatalities and injured individuals by districts in 2023¹

| District | (Number) | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 2023 | | |
| | Hazardous events | Human fatalities | Injured individuals |
| Total for the country | 14850 | 667 | 9415 |
| Blagoevgrad | 626 | 34 | 442 |
| Burgas | 899 | 39 | 609 |
| Varna | 1339 | 44 | 871 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 595 | 29 | 385 |
| Vidin | 235 | 18 | 108 |
| Vratsa | 413 | 24 | 281 |
| Gabrovo | 236 | 17 | 147 |
| Dobrich | 368 | 14 | 210 |
| Kardzhali | 306 | 14 | 217 |
| Kyustendil | 246 | 12 | 152 |
| Lovech | 449 | 31 | 329 |
| Montana | 406 | 14 | 298 |
| Pazardzhik | 505 | 23 | 362 |
| Pernik | 244 | 4 | 92 |
| Pleven | 562 | 38 | 369 |
| Plovdiv | 1548 | 50 | 1132 |
| Razgrad | 255 | 9 | 203 |
| Ruse | 638 | 28 | 430 |
| Silistra | 237 | 11 | 95 |
| Sliven | 372 | 27 | 196 |
| Smolyan | 176 | 4 | 111 |
| Sofia | 520 | 24 | 196 |
| Sofia (stolitsa) | 1649 | 57 | 905 |
| Stara Zagora | 716 | 29 | 522 |
| Targovishte | 214 | 16 | 138 |
| Haskovo | 533 | 19 | 316 |
| Shumen | 368 | 18 | 197 |
| Yambol | 189 | 15 | 102 |

¹ The total number of events and human fatalities includes six incidents and five fatalities in air and maritime transport, which cannot be attributed to a specific district.

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

**Table 3. Number of human fatalities and injured individuals per 100 000 people
by districts in 2023**

| District | Human fatalities | Injured individuals |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| (Number per 100 000 people) | | |
| Total for the country | 10.3 | 146.0 |
| Blagoevgrad | 11.8 | 153.7 |
| Burgas | 10.2 | 159.6 |
| Varna | 10.2 | 201.4 |
| Veliko Tarnovo | 14.3 | 189.5 |
| Vidin | 24.9 | 149.5 |
| Vratsa | 16.2 | 189.5 |
| Gabrovo | 17.8 | 154.1 |
| Dobrich | 9.5 | 142.9 |
| Kardzhali | 9.7 | 150.1 |
| Kyustendil | 11.1 | 140.5 |
| Lovech | 27.5 | 291.7 |
| Montana | 12.1 | 258.3 |
| Pazardzhik | 10.2 | 160.4 |
| Pernik | 3.6 | 82.6 |
| Pleven | 17.3 | 168.4 |
| Plovdiv | 7.9 | 179.0 |
| Razgrad | 8.9 | 201.2 |
| Ruse | 14.8 | 227.8 |
| Silistra | 11.6 | 99.8 |
| Sliven | 15.9 | 115.1 |
| Smolyan | 4.3 | 119.7 |
| Sofia | 10.6 | 86.3 |
| Sofia (Stolitsa) | 4.4 | 70.5 |
| Stara Zagora | 10.0 | 179.3 |
| Targovishte | 16.7 | 143.9 |
| Haskovo | 9.2 | 152.5 |
| Shumen | 12.0 | 131.6 |
| Yambol | 14.0 | 95.5 |

HAZARDOUS EVENTS OCCURRED IN 2023

Table 4. Number of events, human fatalities and injured individuals by categories in 2023

(Number)

| Category hazardous events | Hazardous events | Human fatalities | Injured individuals |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Total | 14850 | 667 | 9415 |
| Biological | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Geophysical | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| Other hazardous events and crises | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Climatological | 811 | 1 | 9 |
| Meteorological | 191 | 3 | 1 |
| Technological | 13693 | 659 | 9405 |
| Hydrological | 58 | 4 | 0 |

Table 5. Expenditures for hazardous events by use and sources of funding for the period 2021 - 2023¹

(Thousand BGN)

| Use | Sources of funding | Year | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Total | Total | 7345395 | 3081222 | 850977 |
| | <i>State budget</i> | 6869009 | 2806774 | 835732 |
| | <i>European Union</i> | 476386 | 274448 | 15245 |
| Prevention | Total | 349455 | 361672 | 107713 |
| | <i>State budget</i> | 334595 | 355059 | 104150 |
| | <i>European Union</i> | 14860 | 6613 | 3563 |
| Preparedness | Total | 599656 | 679947 | 669083 |
| | <i>State budget</i> | 513673 | 666716 | 660019 |
| | <i>European Union</i> | 85983 | 13231 | 9064 |
| Response | Total | 888632 | 866888 | 971 |
| | <i>State budget</i> | 888591 | 721888 | 907 |
| | <i>European Union</i> | 41 | 145000 | 64 |
| Recovery | Total | 5507652 | 1172715 | 73210 |
| | <i>State budget</i> | 5132150 | 1063111 | 70656 |
| | <i>European Union</i> | 375502 | 109604 | 2554 |

¹ Estimate by NSI based on data from the Ministry of Finance.