

“Risk Awareness and Perception”

Results of the international questionnaire



Austria - Slovenia - Italy - Czech Republic - Western Greece

I. INTRODUCTION

Within the INTERREG IIIB Cadres Project MONITOR a questionnaire, dealing with important questions of risk awareness and perception, was conducted in following partner countries: Western Greece, Slovenia, Italy (Autonomous Province of Bolzano and Veneto Region), the Czech Republic and Austria (Styria).

Altogether about 400 people were asked about safety in their home countries, fears concerning disasters and expectations in administrative bodies. Main target group were people aged between 20 and 70 years.

Following questions have been asked:

Q 1. How safe do you feel in general?

- very safe [1] safer [2] less safe [3]
- not safe [4] I do not know [0]

Q 2. How safe do you feel in your community/your personal environment?

- very safe [1] safer [2] less safe [3]
- not safe [4] I do not know [0]

Q 3. Most of all I feel endangered through... *(multiple nominations possible)*

- technical catastrophes and accidents [1]
- natural hazards [2] crime [3] terrorism [4]
- epidemics and infecting diseases [5]
- I do not feel threatened [6]

Q 4. For personal protection I made following safety arrangements: *(multiple nominations possible)*

- safety doors / windows [1] alarm system [2]
- video surveillance [3] stocks of food [4]
- medication [5] assurances [6]
- other _____ [7] no safety arrangements [0]

Q 5. Under a „crisis-proof household“ I imagine:

- a house with shelter / other protection measures [1]
- a safety flat / room [2] stock of food [3]
- knowledge about siren signals [4] education for self-protection / courses [5] other _____ [6]

Q 6. I expect following official civil-protection-measures from administrative bodies: *(multiple nominations possible)*

- public shelters [1] video surveillance [2]
- warning systems (sirens, radio/TV messages) [3]
- stronger police attendance [4]
- constant information [5] information-centres [6]
- other [7] I do not know [0]

Q 7. For effective fire prevention in the private household it is necessary to have:

(multiple nominations possible)

- fire extinguishers [1] smoke alarming systems [2]
- fire-resisting materials and textiles [3] education to quench a fire [4] prevention of open fires [5]
- blanket to extinguish fires [6] other _____ [7]
- I do not know [0]

Q 8. If I have to apply first aid, I can...

(multiple nominations possible)

- immediately call the emergency [1]
- put injured persons into the right position (e.g. lateral recumbent position) [2] attempt at resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage [3] handle a defibrillator [4] I can not do anything [5]

Q 9. Where do you see the major source of danger concerning toxic accidents?

(multiple nominations possible)

- private households [1] traffic & transportation [2]
- industry [3] power plants [4]
- military conflicts or terrorism acts [5] other ____ [6]
- I do not know [0]

Q 10. Most of all I am afraid of following natural hazards: *(multiple nominations possible)*

- floods [1] storms (hail...) [2] earthquakes [3]
- avalanches, debris flow, rock fall [4]
- forest fires [5] other _____ [6]
- I am not afraid of natural hazards [0]

Q 11. Most of all I am afraid of following technical catastrophes: *(multiple nominations possible)*

- accidents in atomic power plants [1]
- chemistry accidents [2] airplane crashes [3]
- train accidents [4] traffic accidents [5]
- lift- and funicular accidents [6] other ____ [7]
- I am not afraid of technical catastrophes [0]

Q 12. I have made following arrangements against nuclear radiation: (multiple nominations possible)

- shelter [1] a safety room with filter [2]
- adequate material to caulk windows [3]
- respirators [4] stock of food and water [5]
- potassium iodide tablets [6] other _____ [7]
- I do not know [0]

Q 13. Would you like to achieve more information of effective civil protection?

- yes [1] no [2] only if necessary [3]
- I do not know [4]

Q 13a. If yes, referring to which hazards in particular? (See also Q 10 and Q 11)

Q 13b. If yes, how would you prefer to achieve the information? (multiple nominations possible)

- personally at secure-information-centres [1]
- via internet on special web portals [2]
- via e-mail [3] via post [4] in newspapers [5]
- through personal consulting [6]

Q 14. Have you ever been threatened by hazards?

- yes [1] no [2]

Q 14a. If yes, by which hazard(s)?

Q 14b. When did the last hazard occur?

Statistic Data

Age: _____

Gender: female [1] male [2]

Family status: _____

Children: yes [3] no [4]

Level of education: _____

Country: _____

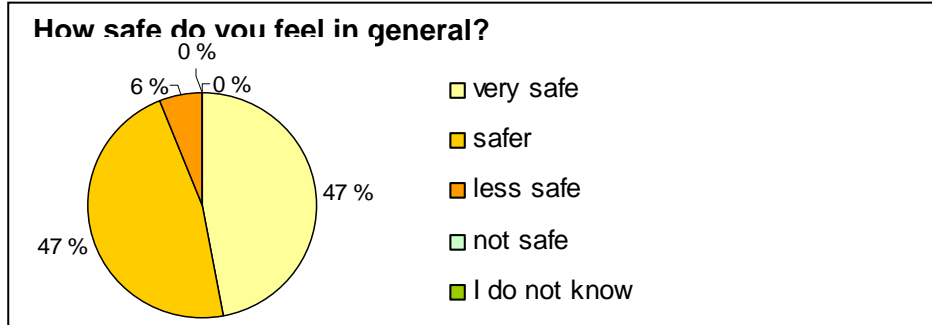
Region/Province: _____



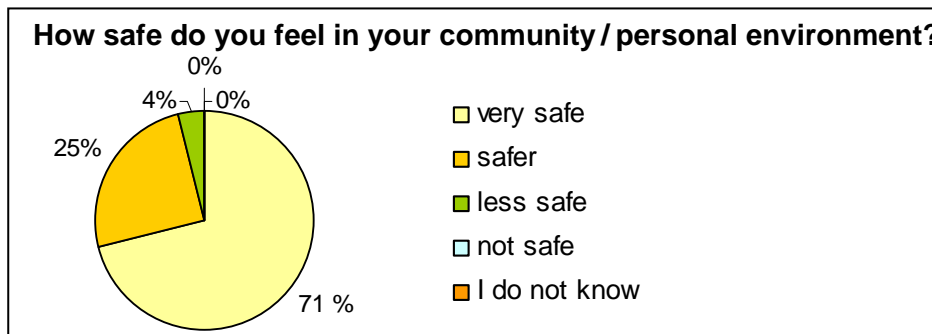
II. DETAILED RESULTS

Austria

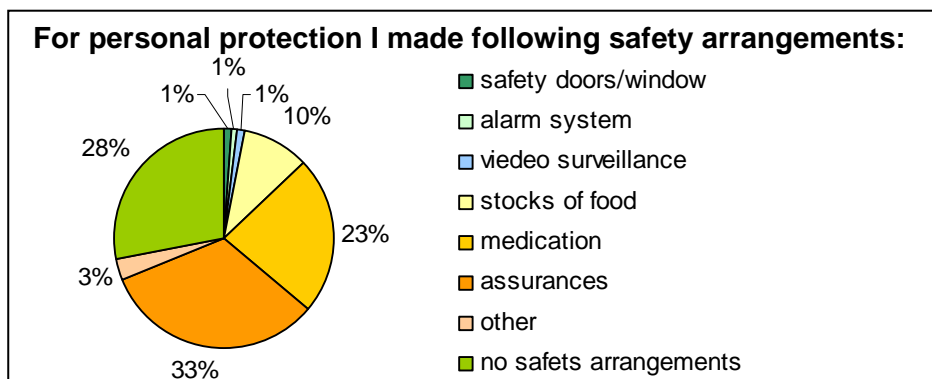
In Austria (Styria) 47 % of the people in general feel very safe and another 47 % feel rather safe, which is a good result. What definitely speaks for the country is that there are only a few people feel less safe and no one who does not feel safe at all.



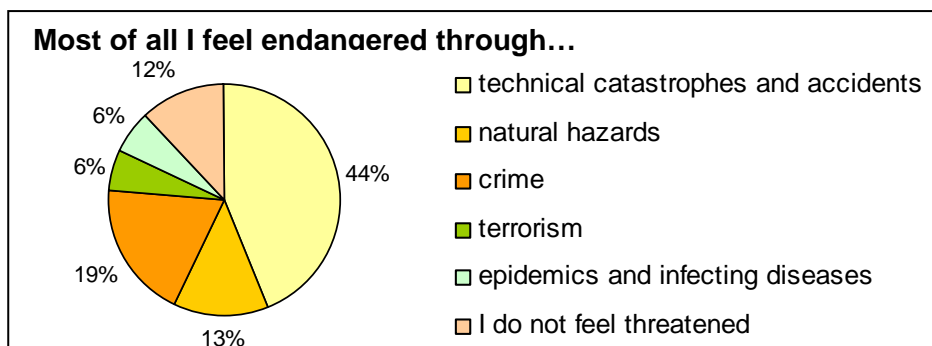
With reference to the personal environment a majority of 71 % feels very safe.



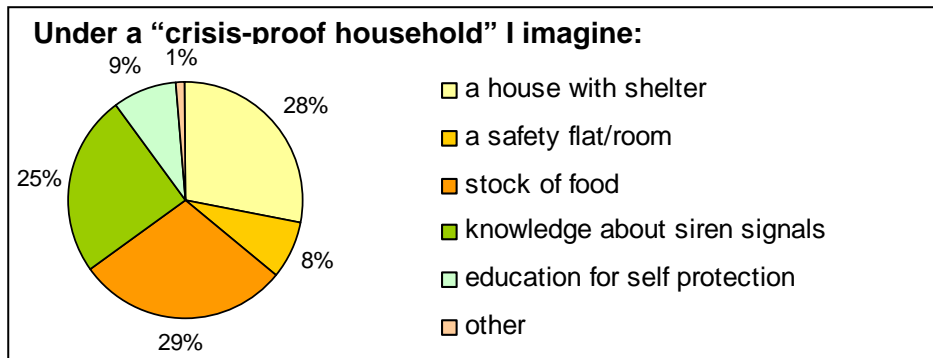
In order to protect themselves from hazards it is necessary to make safety arrangements. Hence people living in Austria mostly take out assurances, provide themselves with stocks of food and adequate medication. However 28 % do not have made any safety arrangements.



People feel themselves mostly treated by technical disasters (44 %), crime (19 %) and natural disasters (13 %). A percentage of 12 % does not feel treated at all.

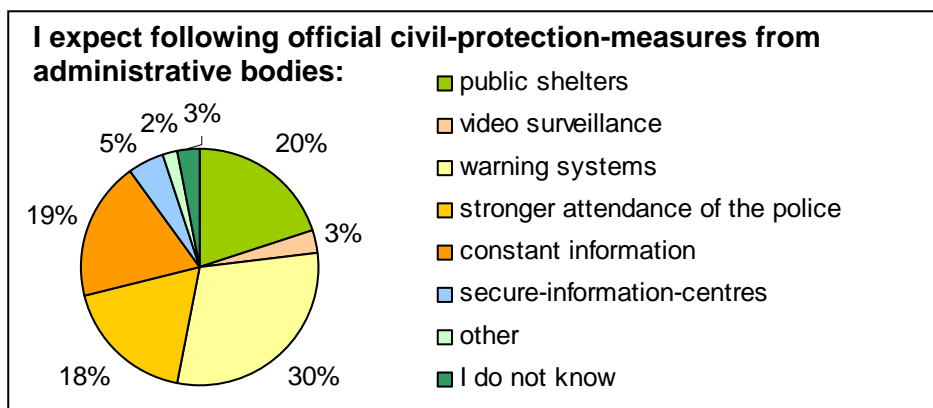


Having a crisis-proof household means for the questioned people predominantly having stocks of food (29 %), houses which are equipped with protective shelters (28 %) and the knowledge of siren signals.

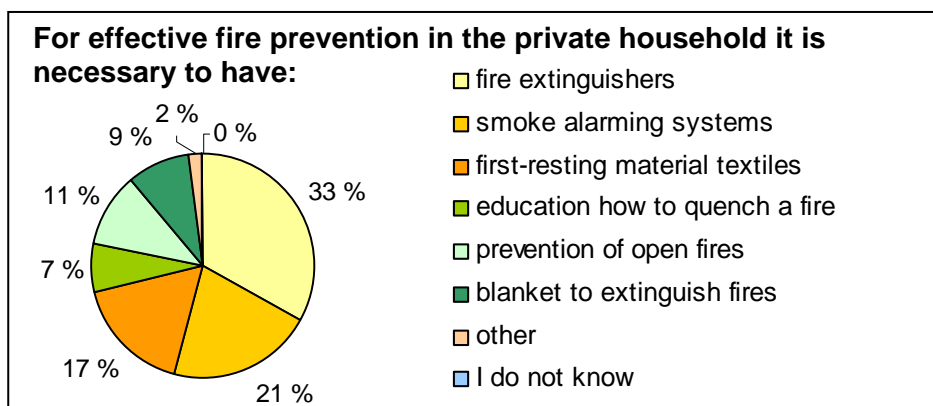


The services of relevant institutions dealing with civil protection (e.g. Civil Protection Associations, Fire Brigades, Police...) and also designated facilities, like sirens, contribute to population's protection against hazards.

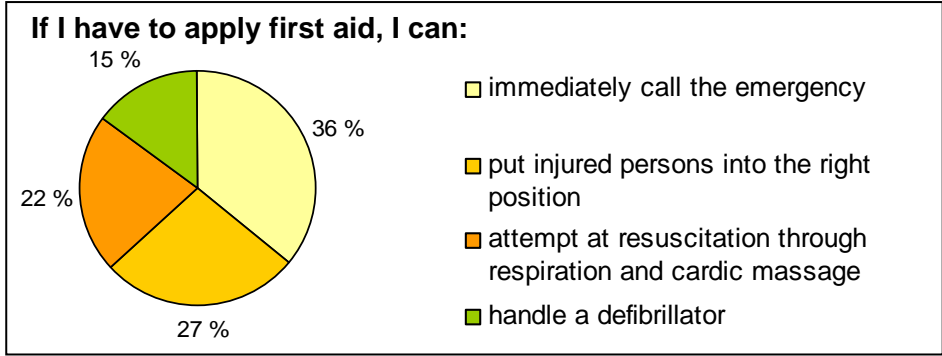
People who participated in the poll mainly have following expectations from administrative bodies: The installation and handling of warning systems (30 %), to provide public shelters in case of disasters (20 %), the constant information of the population (19 %) and stronger attendance of police (18 %).



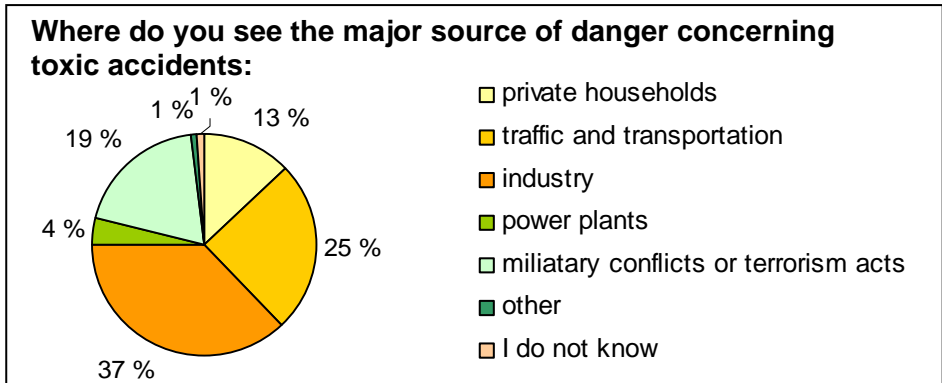
For safety, effective fire prevention is also very important. Austrians think that fire extinguishers, smoke alarming systems and fire-resting materials and textiles are therefore most essential.



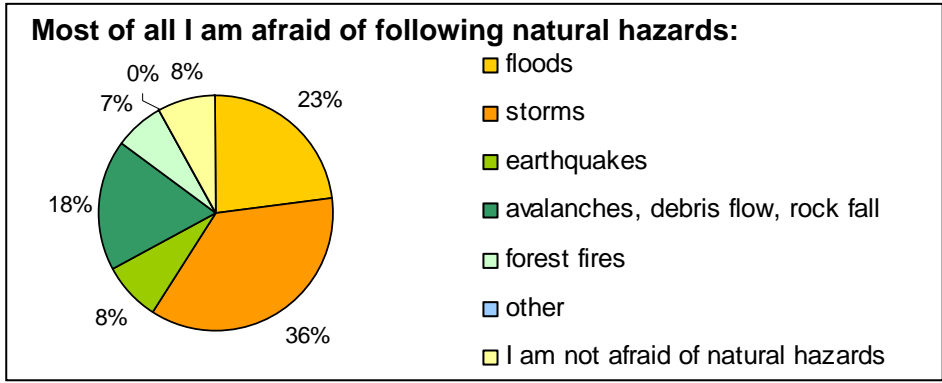
If they would have to do first aid 36 % would be able to immediately call the emergency. 27 % would be able to put an injured person into the right position, 22 % could attempt at resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage and even 15 % would be able to handle a defibrillator.



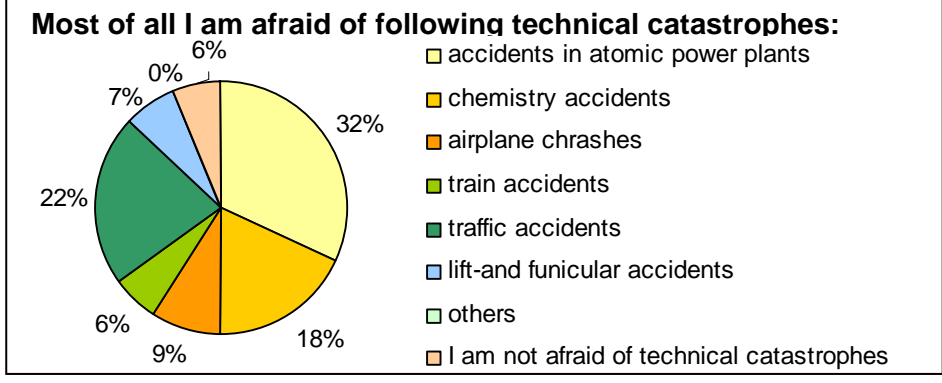
37 % of Austrians questioned see the greatest source of danger concerning toxic accidents in the industry. 25 % think it is traffic and transportation and another 19 % think its military conflicts or terrorism acts.



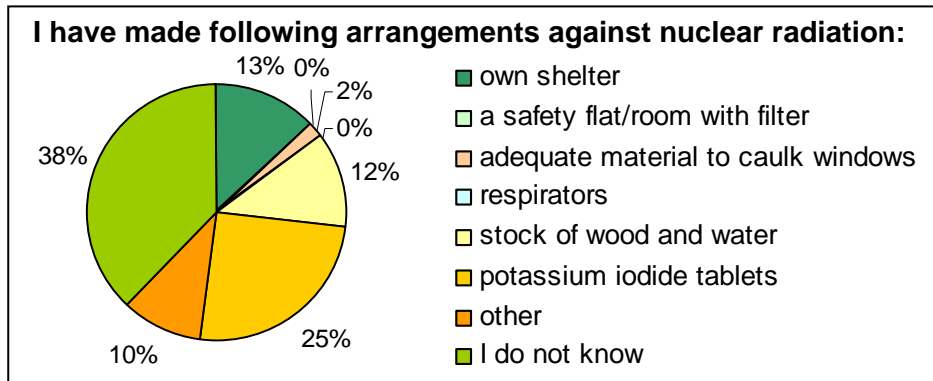
Concerning natural hazards Austrians are most scared of storms (36 %), floods (23 %) and avalanches and debris flows (18 %).



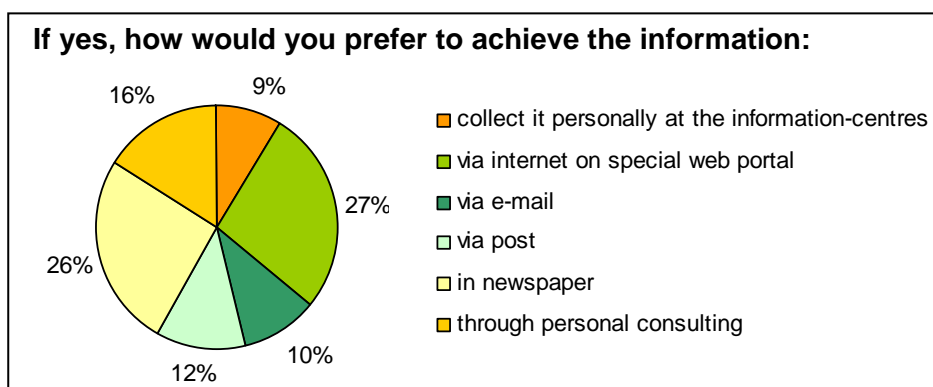
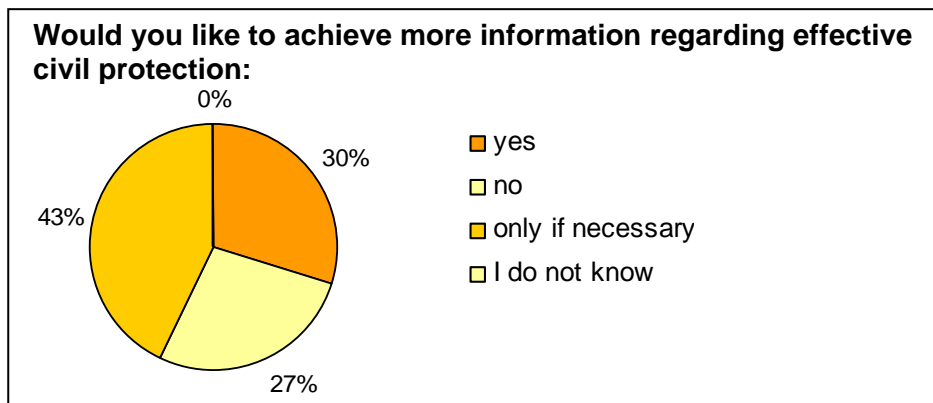
Referring to technical catastrophes they are most scared of faults in nuclear power stations (32 %), traffic accidents (22 %) and chemistry accidents (18 %).



Against nuclear radiation 25 % of the questioned Austrians are prepared with potassium iodide tablets. Only 13 % have own shelters at home. Altogether 38 % do not have made any arrangements against nuclear radiation.

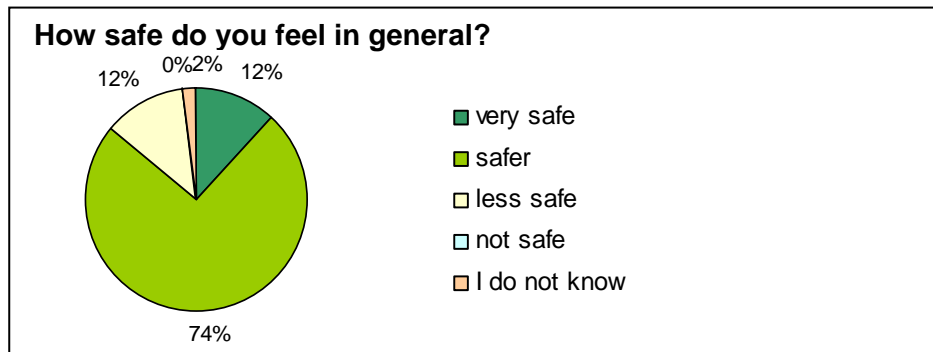


40 % of people questioned said that they would like to have more information on civil protection measures, 15 % would not and 45 % would only like to be informed when if necessary. They majority would like to be informed via newspapers or internet.

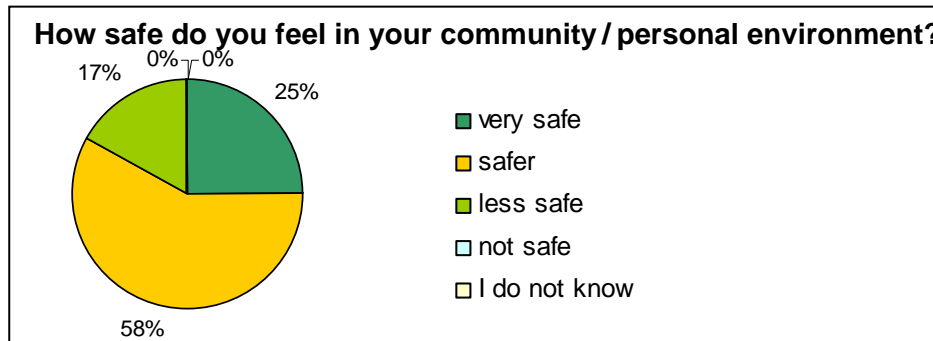


Slovenia

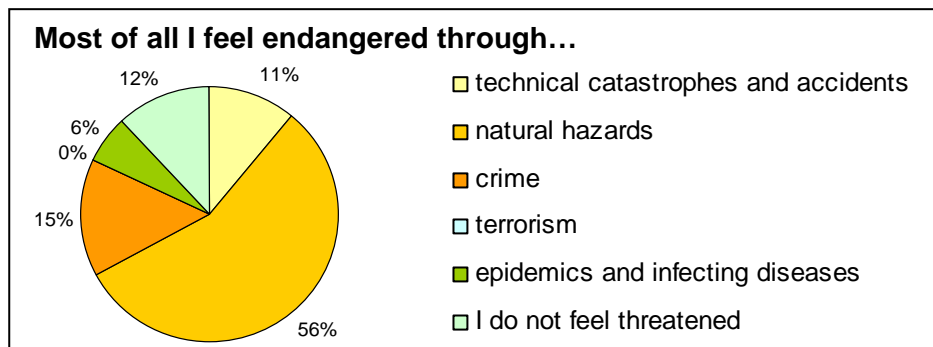
In Slovenia altogether 74 % of the people questioned feel rather safe in their country. 12 % feel less safe – only a small percentage of 2 % is not sure about that.



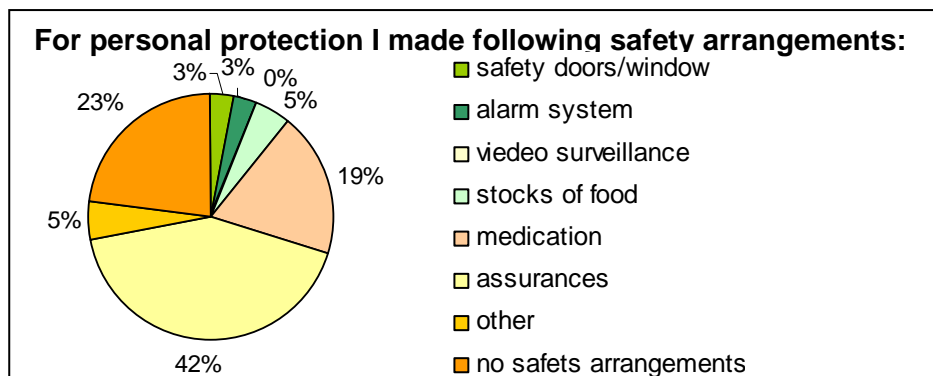
Also in their personal environment 58 % feel rather safe. Only 4 % feel less safe, but there aren't any people which do not feel safe at all.



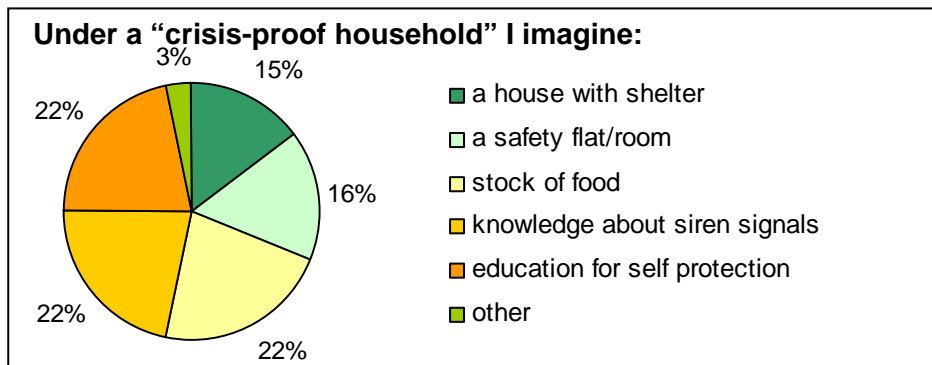
Concerning the question of which hazards the people feel mostly endangered 56 % of the Slovenes, who participated in the poll, answered that they feel treated by natural disasters. 15 % are afraid of crime and 11 % of technical catastrophes.



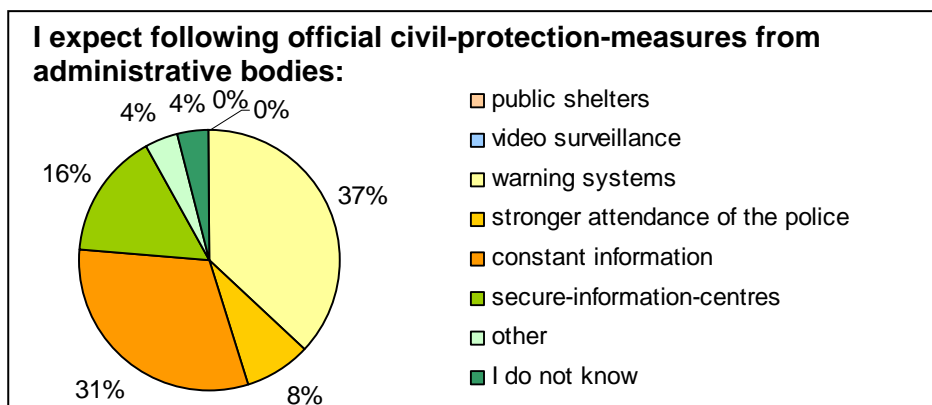
In order to protect themselves they take out insurances (42 %), have safety doors and - windows (23 %) as well as alarm systems (19 %).



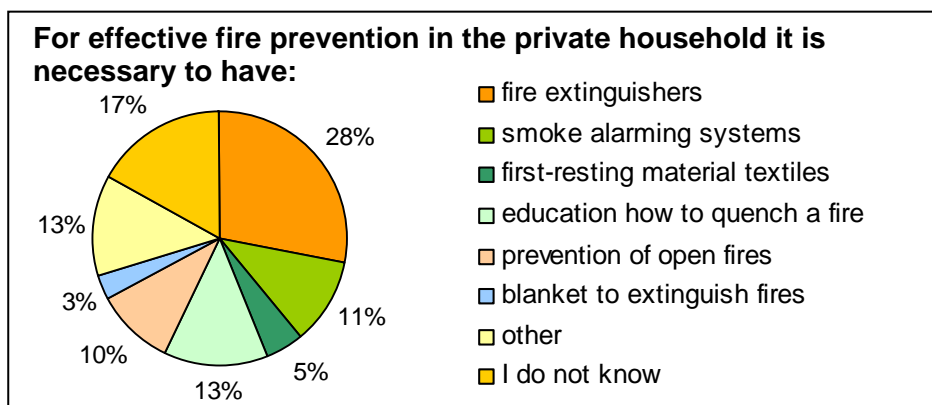
Each 22 % think that a safety room, knowledge of siren signals and stock of food belong to a crisis-proof household. 16 % of the people questioned imagine having a safety room and 15 % think a house with a shelter is very important for a crisis-proof household.



From the administrative bodies the Slovenes mainly expect warning systems (37 %) and constant information (31 %), but also stronger attendance of the police (8 %) is very important for them. 16 % mentioned the importance of secure-information-centres. Some people additionally announced a cooperation of all institutes in change and a policy of prevention from natural disasters.



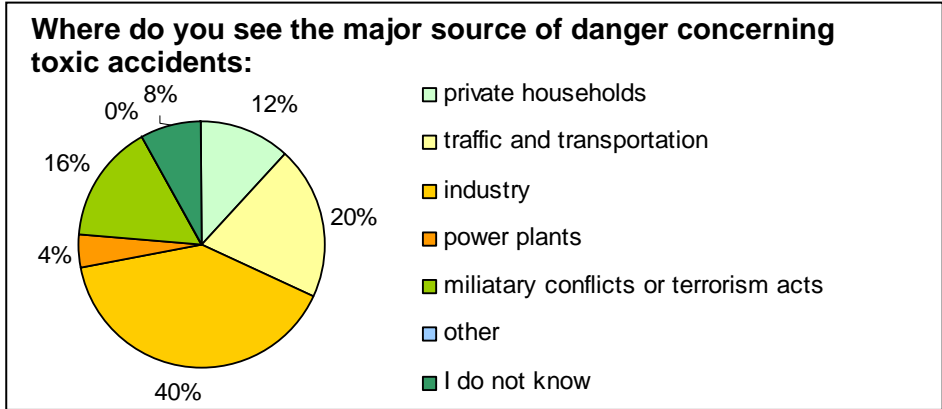
For effective fire prevention the people think that fire extinguishers (28 %) and an education how to quench a fire (13 %) are most important. However there are also 17 % which said that they do not know. Therefore it is necessary to offer adequate information and education. For a percentage of 13 % education how to quench a fire is very. Also the prevention of open fires was mentioned by 10 %.



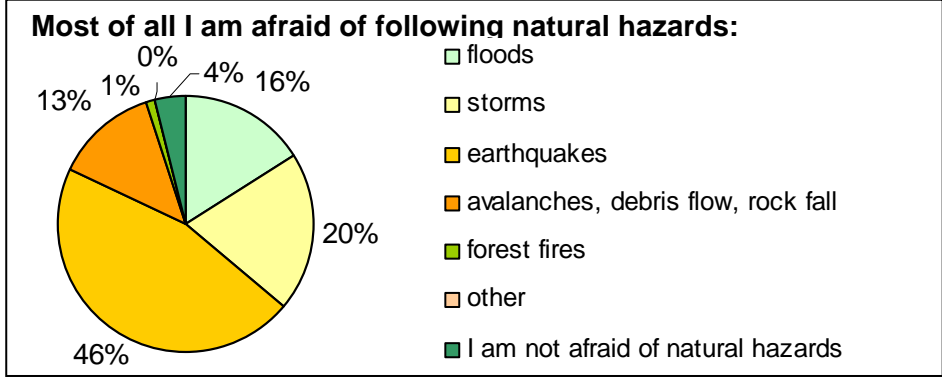
If they would have to do first aid 49 % would be able to call the emergency. 32 % can lay somebody correctly and 13 % could give artificial respiration and do cardiac massage. Only 3 % said that it would not be possible for them to do something.



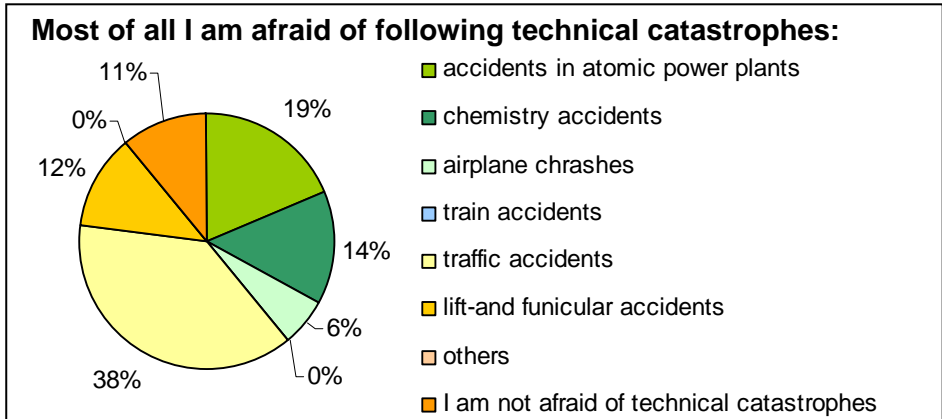
40 % of Slovenes questioned think that the industry is the main source of danger concerning toxic accidents. 20 % think its traffic and transportation and 16 % chose military conflicts or terrorism acts.



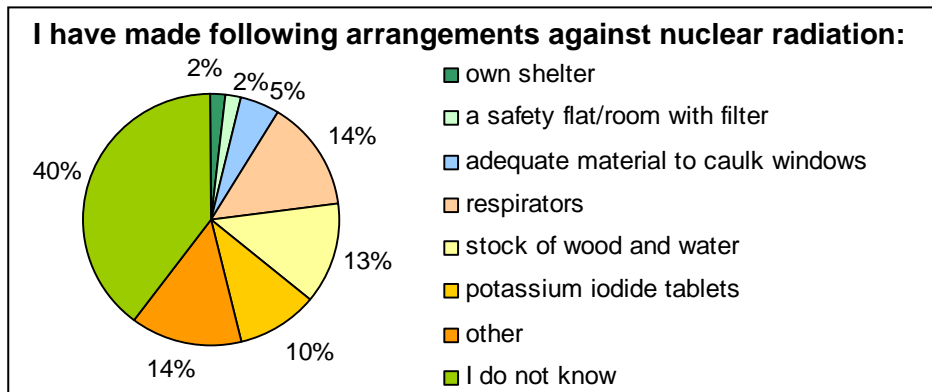
Slovenes are most scared of following natural hazards: earthquakes (46 %), storms (20 %), floods (16 %), and avalanches as well as debris flows (13 %).



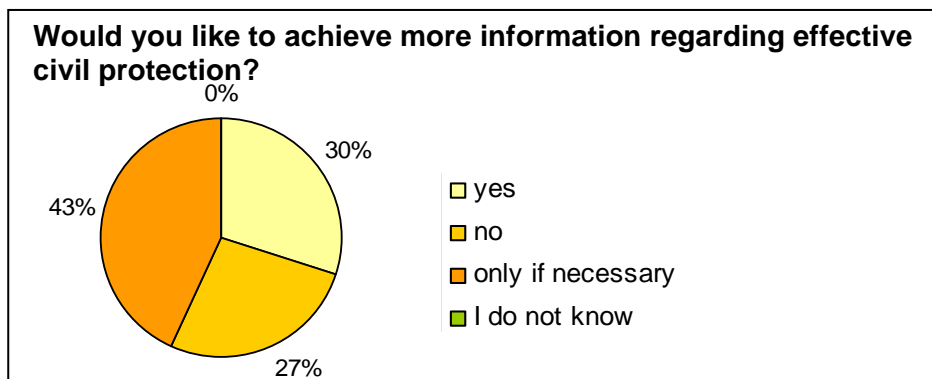
With reference to the technical catastrophes the most scared ones are traffic accidents (38 %), faults in nuclear power stations (19 %) and, chemical accidents (14 %).



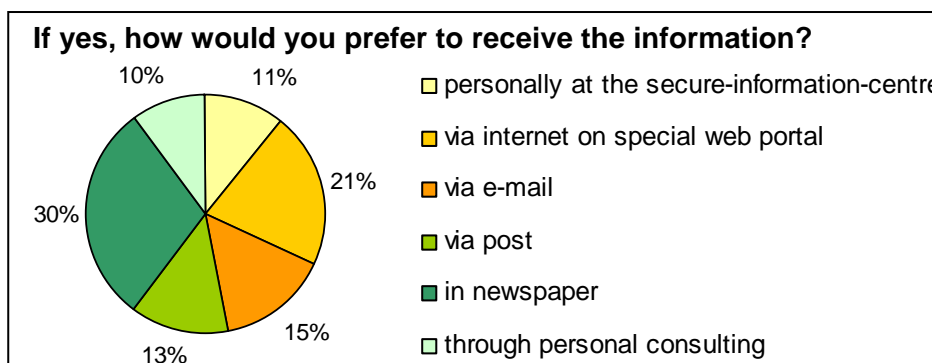
In order to protect themselves from nuclear radiation 14 % of Slovenes have respirators at home. 40 % didn't take any precautionary measures.



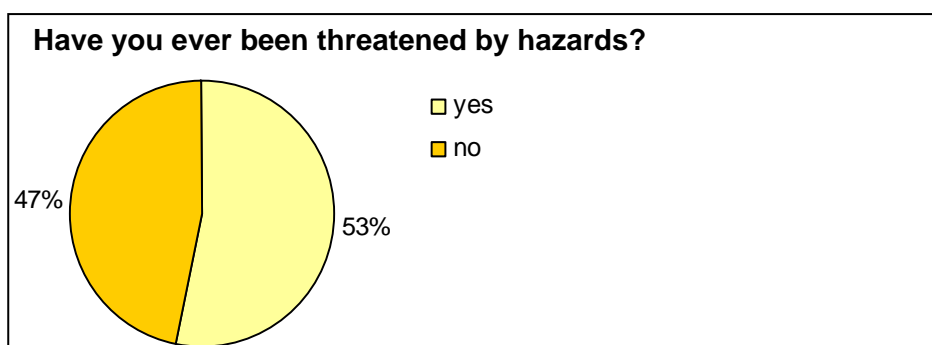
30 % of Slovenes would like to receive more information on civil protection measures, 43 % only if necessary and 27 % not at all.



Those who want to be informed would like to receive the information via newspapers (30 %) via the internet (21 %), or via postal mail (13 %). 10 % of the asked people mentioned personal consulting.

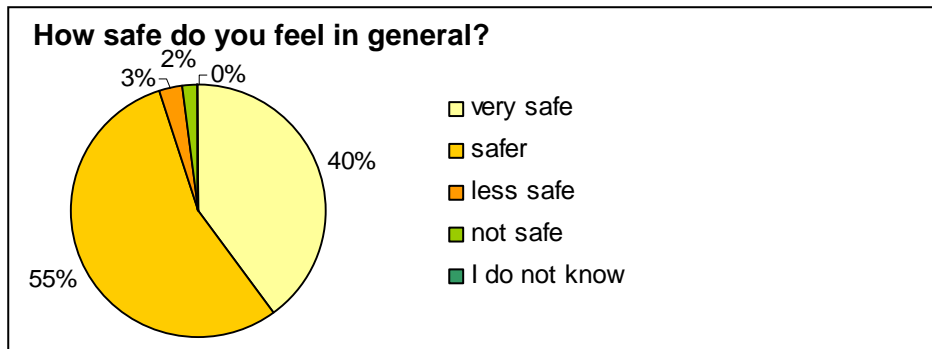


As all of the Slovenes questioned have already experienced disasters, mainly earthquakes, they generally would like to be informed about exactly that natural disaster.

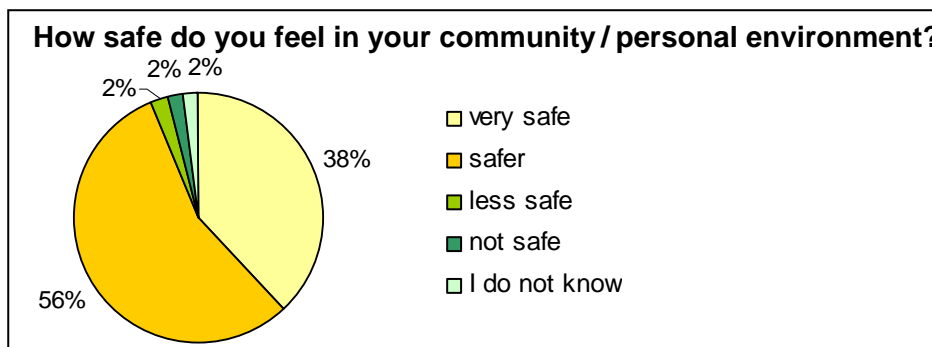


Bolzano / South Tyrol (Italy)

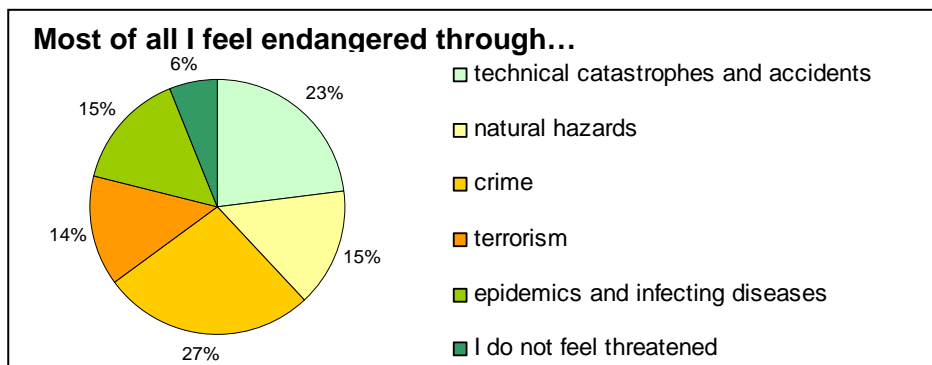
In South Tyrol 55 % of all people questioned said that they generally feel safe, which is a good result. 40 % feel very safe and only a few people mentioned that they feel less- or not safe at all.



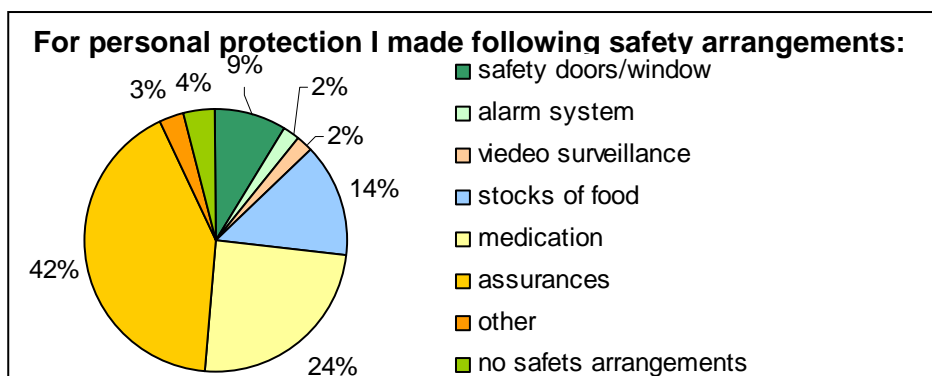
In their personal environment it's about the same: 56 % feel safer and 36 % feel very safe.



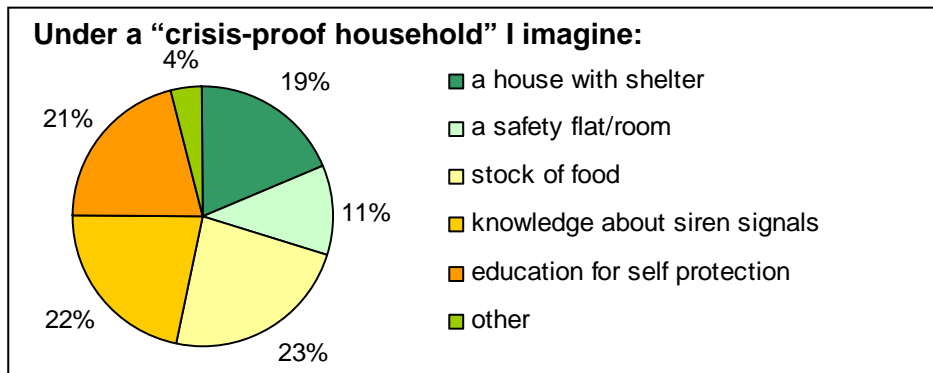
Most of the people from Province Bolzano, meaning 27 % and 23 % feel primarily endangered through crime, technical catastrophes and accidents. Natural hazards, epidemics and diseases were chosen by each 15 %. 14 % also mentioned that they are afraid of terrorism and altogether 6 % said that they do not feel threatened at all.



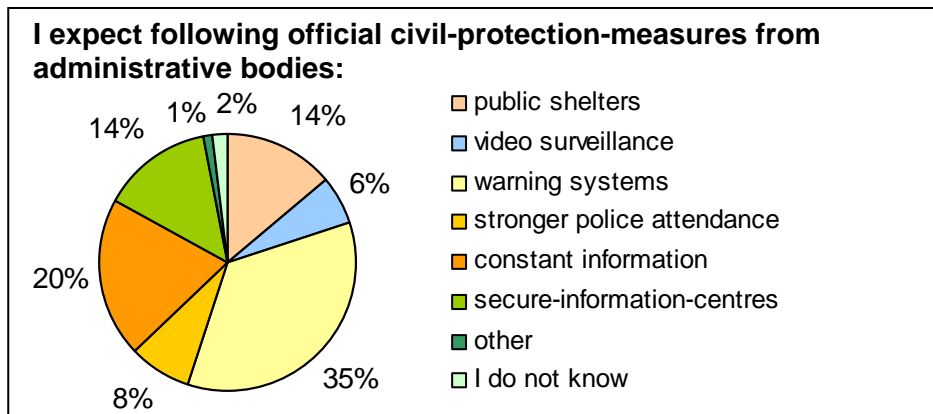
For personal protection 42 % of people took out relevant assurances. 24 % have medication at home and 14 % stocks of food. Only 4 % declared to not have safety arrangements.



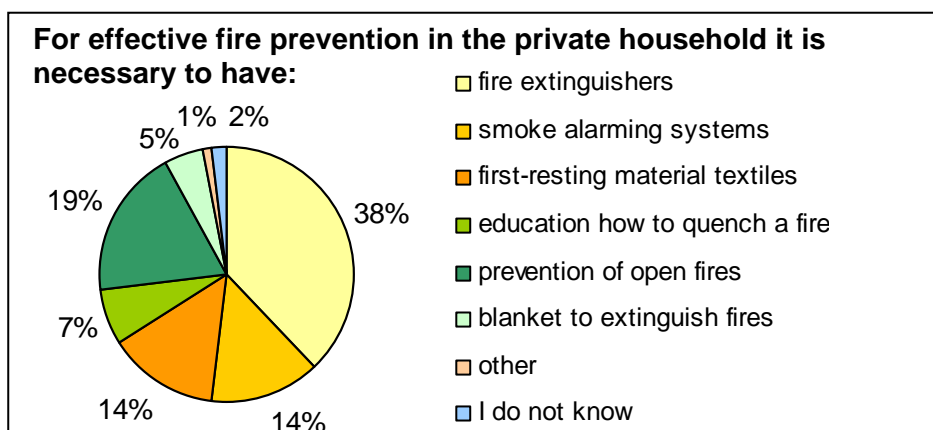
23% people in Bolzano think that stocks of food belong to a crisis-proof household. 22 % chose knowledge about siren signals and 21 % education for self-protection.



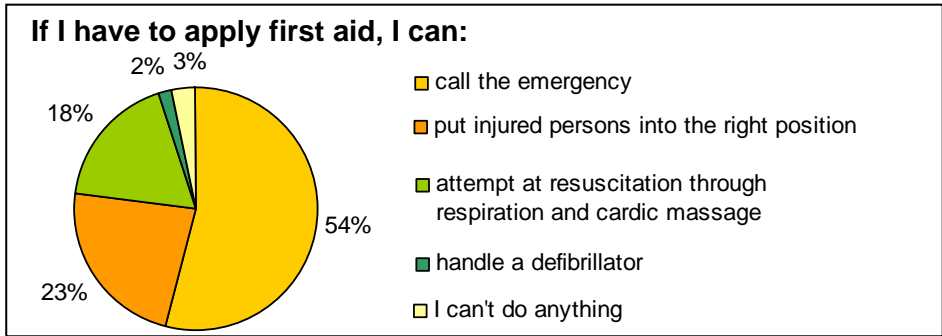
From the administrative bodies they mainly expect adequate warning systems (35 %) and constant information (20 %). Also secure-information-centres and public shelters (each 14 %) seem very important to them.



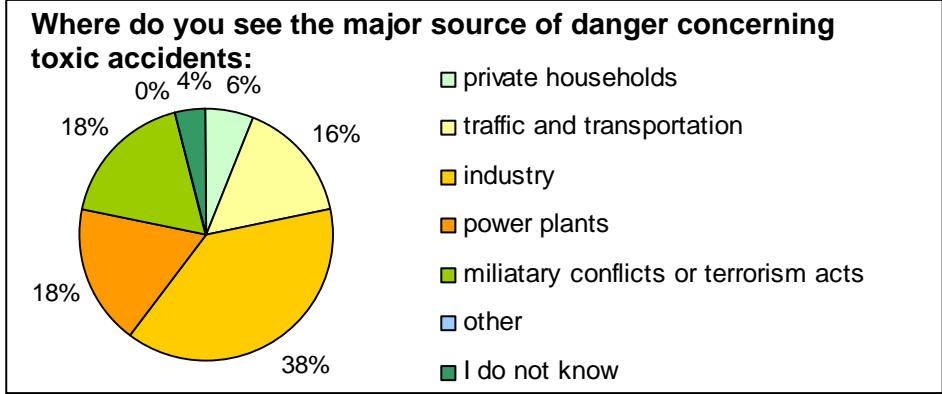
38 % of the people questioned in South Tyrol think that for effective fire prevention in private households fire extinguishers are most important. 19 % think its prevention of open fires and 14 % chose fire resting materials as well as smoke alarming systems. Unfortunately only 7 % think that also education how to quench a fire might be also important.



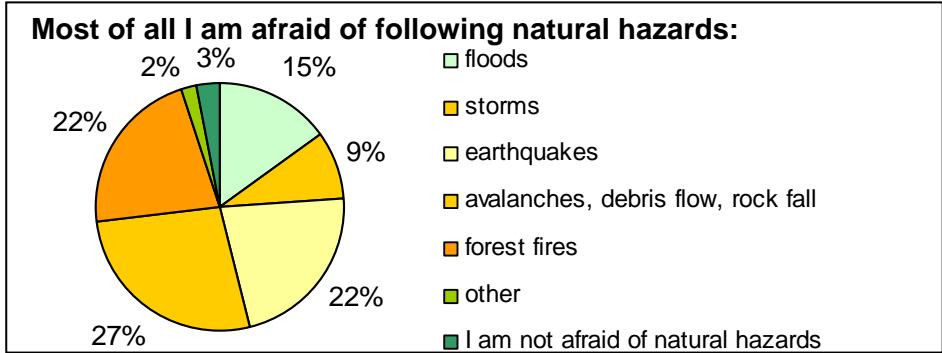
If they had to apply first aid 54 % of the people immediately would be able to call the emergency. 23 % mentioned that they could put injured persons into the right position and 18 % would be able to attempt resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage. Only 2 % can hand a defibrillator and 3 % know that they could not do anything.



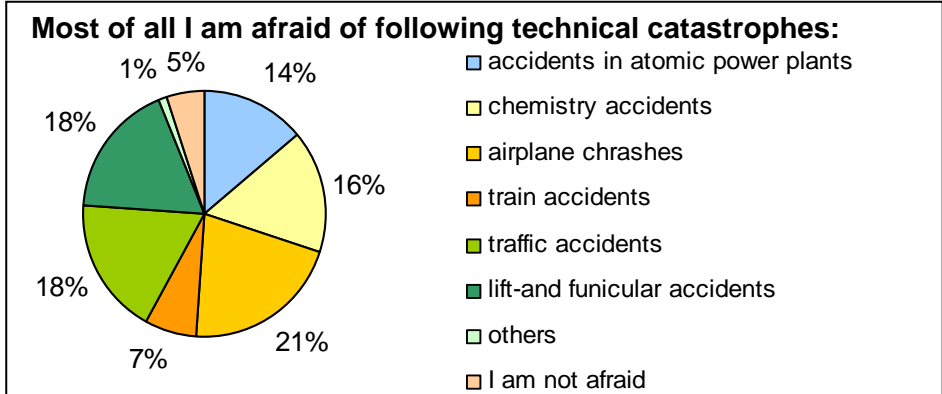
38 % of the people living in South Tyrol see the major source of danger concerning toxic accidents in the industry. Each 18 % think its power plants and military conflicts or terrorism acts. Another 16 % mentioned traffic and transportation as major source.



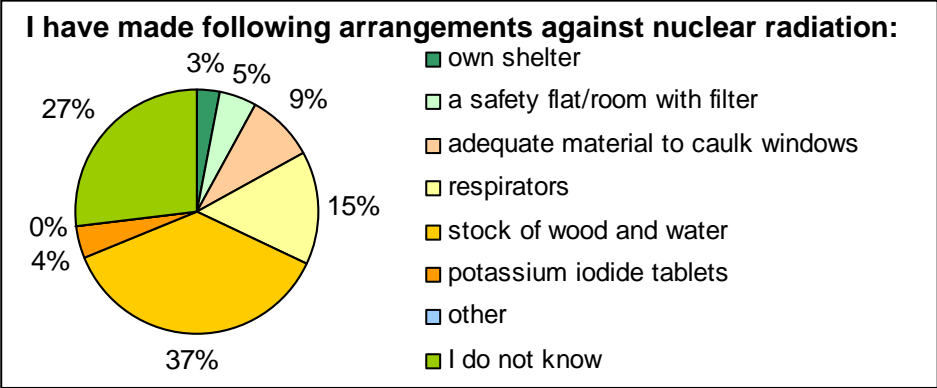
The natural hazards people are most scared of are: avalanches, debris flow and rock fall (27 %), earthquakes and forest fires (each 22 %) as well as floods (15 %). 3 % mentioned not to be afraid of natural hazards.



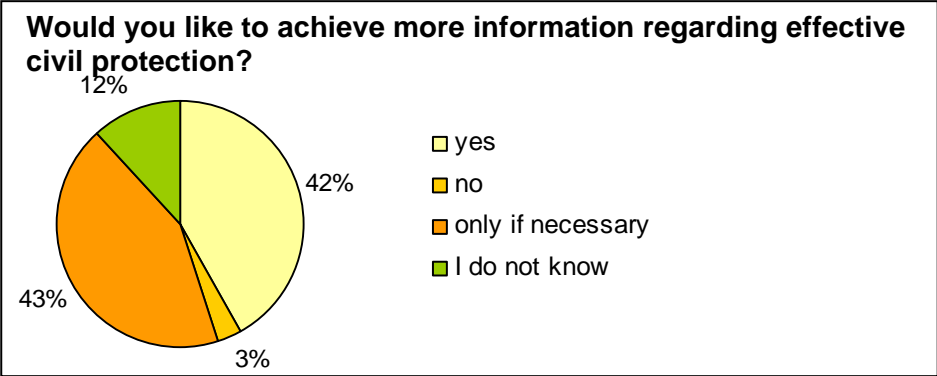
The most scared technical catastrophes are: airplane crashes (21 %), followed by traffic accidents and lift- and funicular accidents with each 18 % and chemistry accidents with 16 %. 14 % of the questioned people mentioned to be scared of accidents in atomic power plants and 7 % took the answer train accidents. 5 % are not afraid of technical catastrophes.



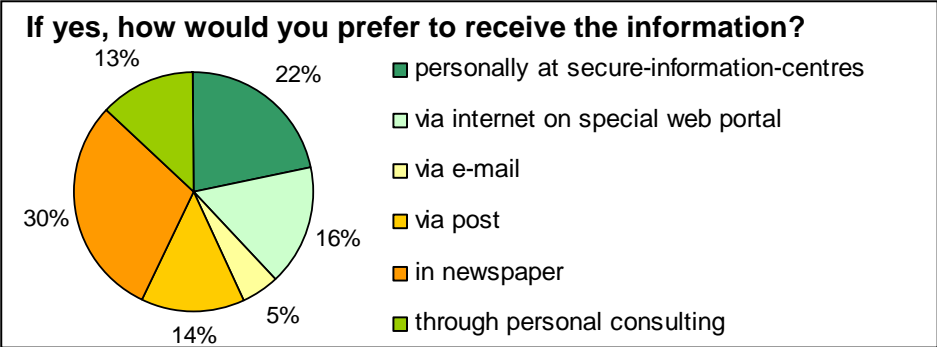
The people living in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano have made following arrangements against nuclear radiation: 37 % have got stocks of food and water, 15 % have got respirators and 9 % adequate material to caulk windows and doors. Only a few people, namely 5 % and 3 % are in case of emergency equipped with safety rooms respectively an own shelter. 27 % of the people who participated in the poll didn't take any measures.



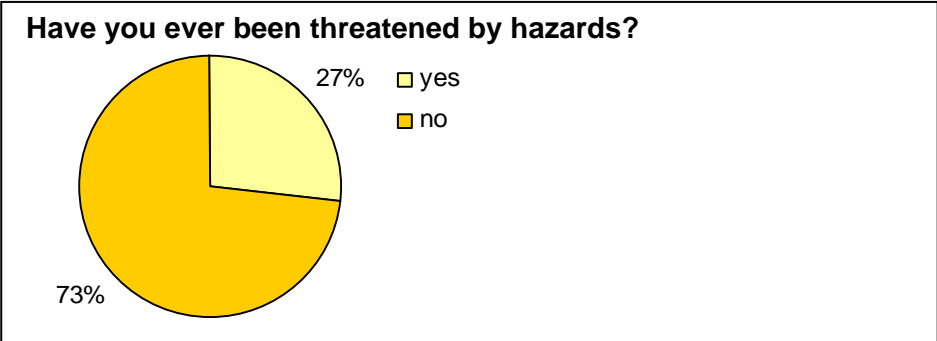
Concerning the question if they would like to get more information about effective civil protection 42 % of people took the answer yes, 43 % only if necessary and 3 % not at all.



A majority of 30 % prefers to achieve the information via newspapers, 22 % personally at secure-information-centres and 16 % via internet. 13 % also mentioned personal consulting.

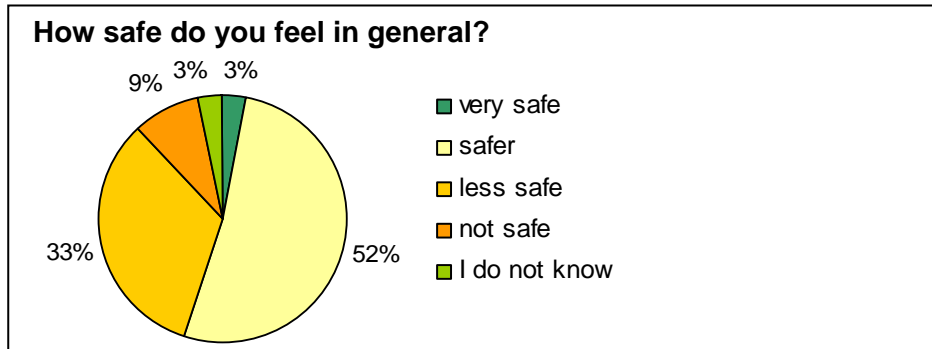


In South Tyrol 27 % of all people questioned have already been treated by hazards – mainly by avalanches and debris flows.

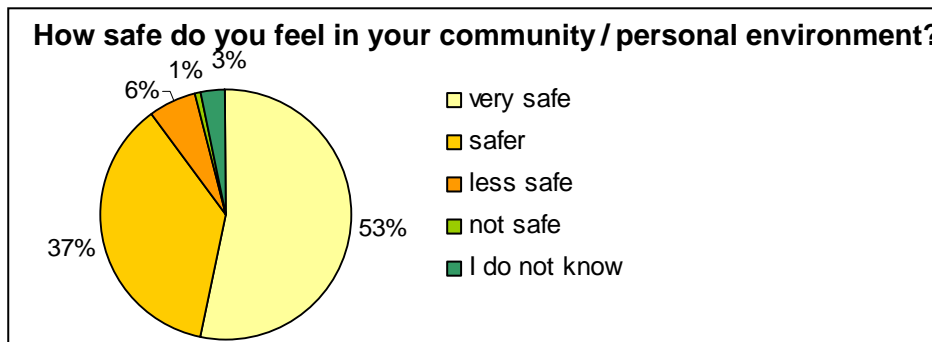


Regione Veneto (Venice / Italy)

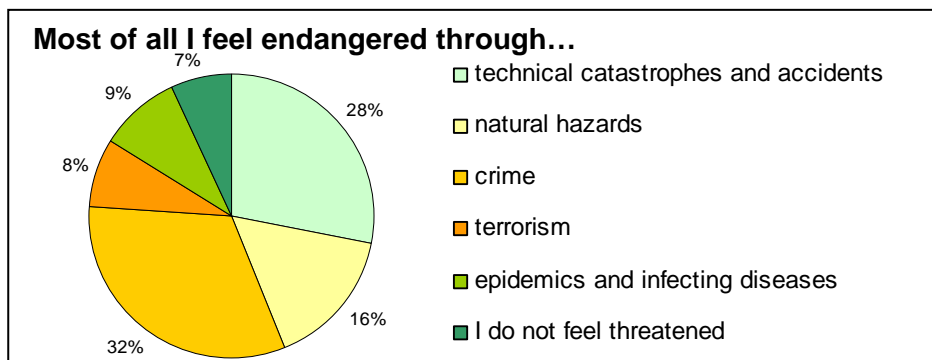
In the region Veneto 3 % of the people feel very safe and about half feel rather safe (52 %). However there are 33 % who feel less safe and also 9 % who do not feel safe in general.



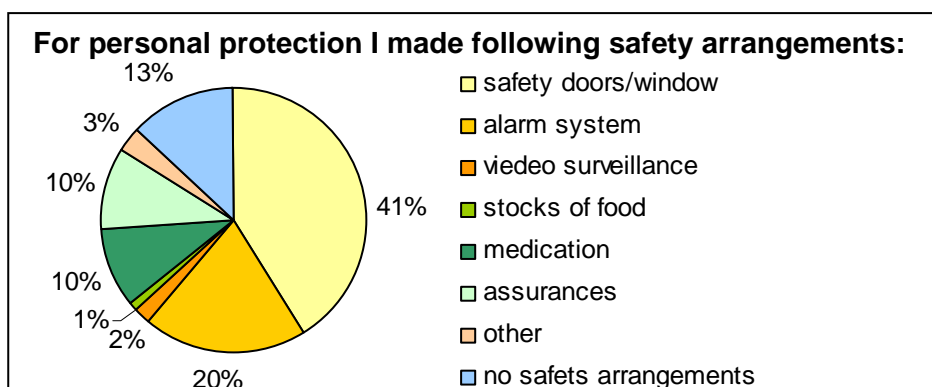
Regarding the personal environment the situation is not much different. Again 53 % of people feel safer, 37 % less safe and about 6 % do not feel safe.



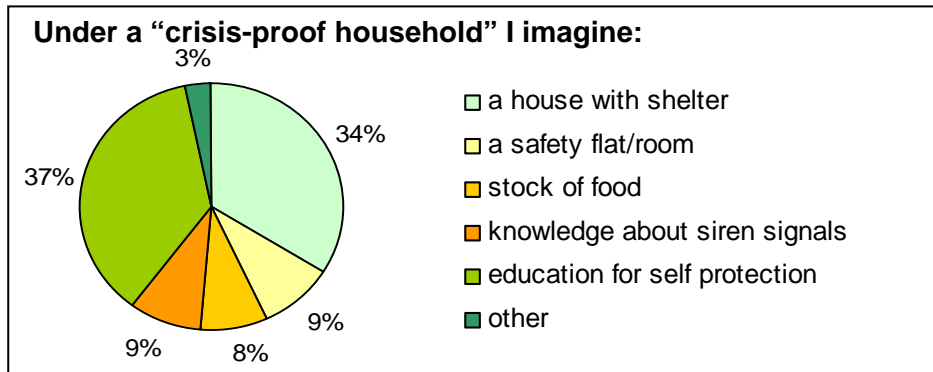
32 % of the people feel most endangered through crime, 28 % through technical catastrophes and accidents and 16 % by natural hazards. Epidemics, diseases and terrorism were chosen by about 8,5 %. 7 % feel not threatened.



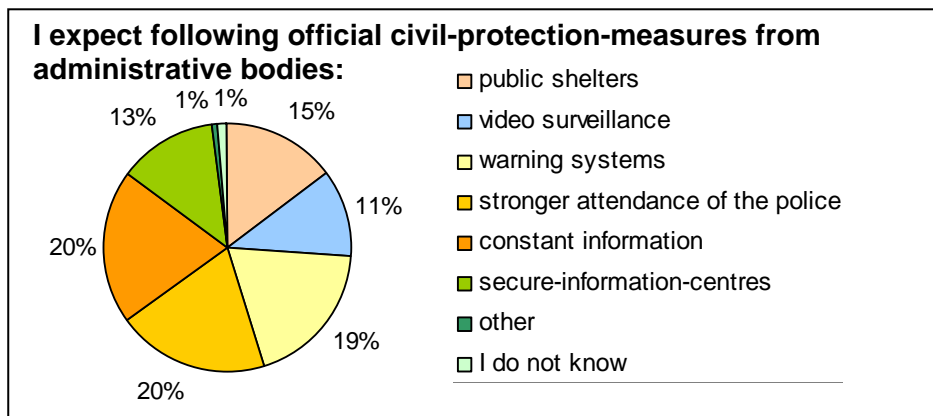
For personal protection 41 % of the people living in Venice have got safety doors and - windows. Another 20 % have got alarm systems and each 10 % assurances and medication.



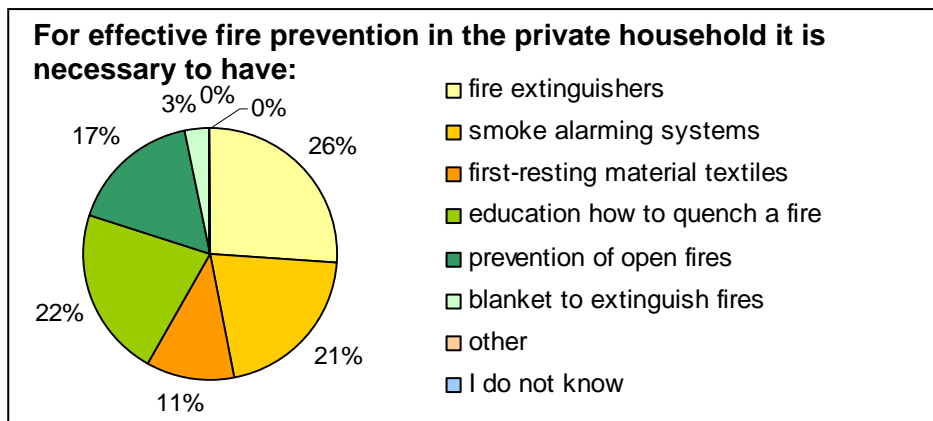
With a crisis-proof household 37 % people questioned associate education for self-protection. 34 % think a house with shelter belongs to a safe household, each 9 % think its knowledge about siren signals and safety flats/rooms.



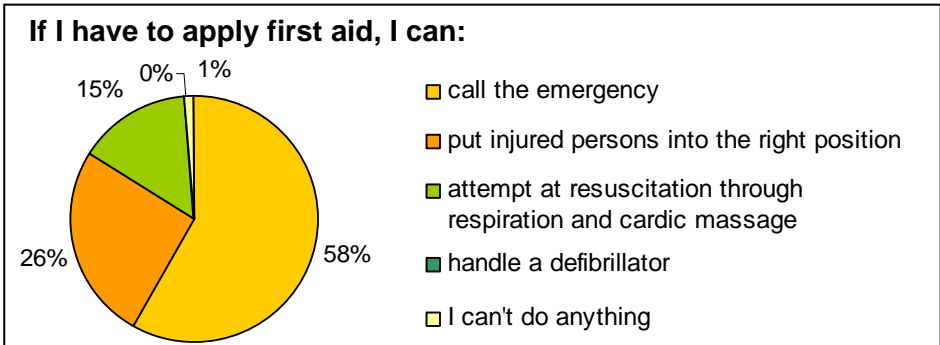
From administrative bodies the people questioned in Veneto-region mainly expect stronger attendance of the police (20 %), constant information (20 %) and warning systems (19 %). Also public shelters (15 %), secure-information-centres (13 %) and video surveillance is very important for them.



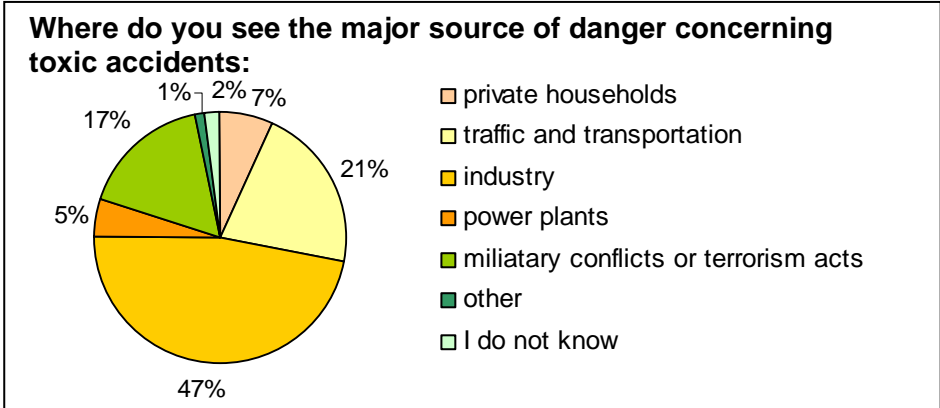
For effective fire prevention 26 % of the people think that it is absolutely necessary to have fire extinguishers at home. 22 % said that the education how to quench a fire is also important. Lots of people also mentioned smoke alarming systems (21 %) and the prevention of open fires (17 %). A positive aspect is that there was nobody who said that he doesn't know.



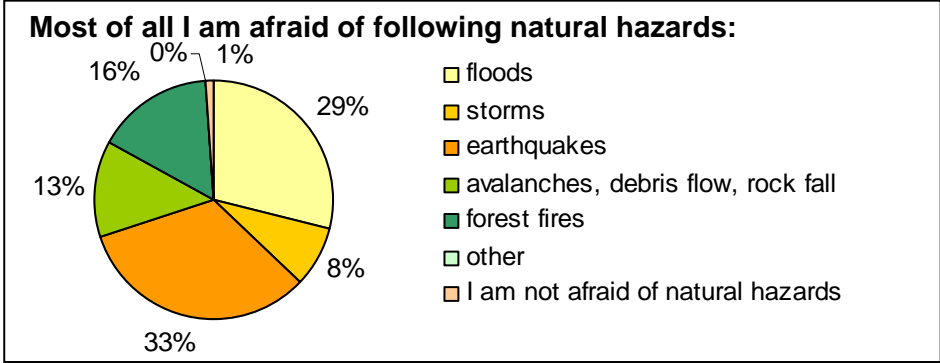
If the people questioned in Veneto would have to apply first aid, 58 % could immediately call the emergency and 26 % think that they would be able to put senseless and/or injured persons into the right position. Another 15 % would attempt at resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage. However nobody would be able to use a defibrillator. The result shows that the willingness to help in Venice is very strong – only 1 % mentioned to be not able to help injured persons.



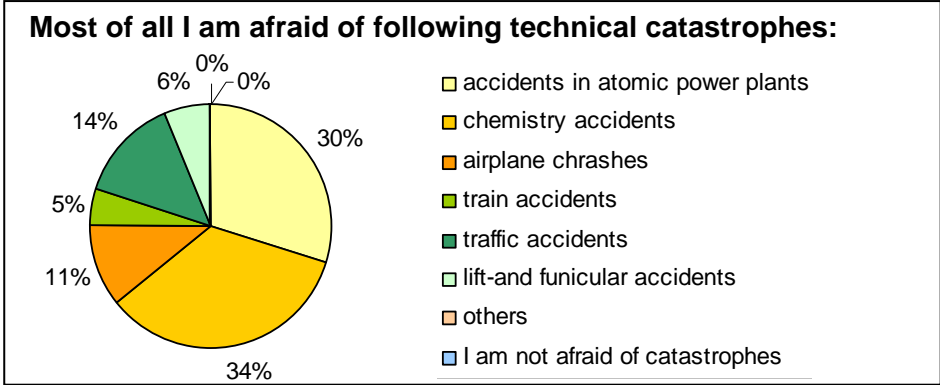
Nearly half of the people questioned in Veneto region see the major source of danger concerning toxic accidents in the industry (47 %), followed by traffic and transportation with 21 % and military conflicts or terrorism acts with 17 %. Also private households were mentioned by 7 % of the people. Only 5 % see the major danger source in power plants. Only 5 % see the major danger source in power plants.



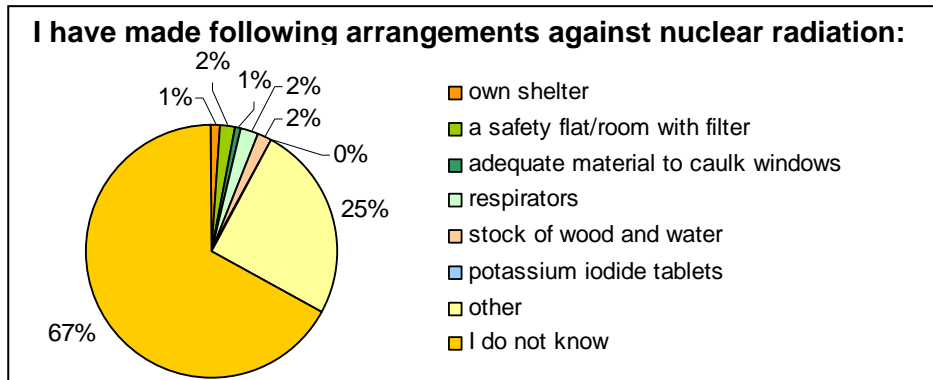
The most feared natural hazards are earthquakes (33 %), floods (29 %), forest fires (16 %) and avalanches, debris flow or rock fall (13 %). In Venice only 1 % of the people who participated in the query declared to be not afraid of any natural hazards.



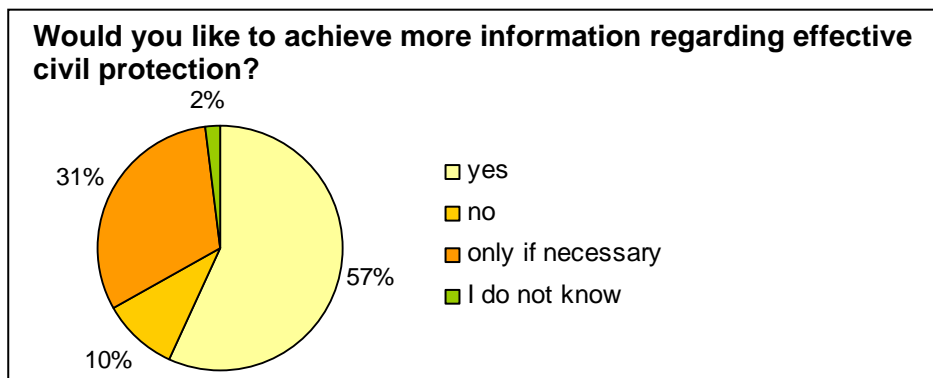
The technical catastrophes people are most scared of are chemistry accidents (34 %), accidents in atomic power plants (30 %), traffic accidents (14%) and airplane crashes (11 %).



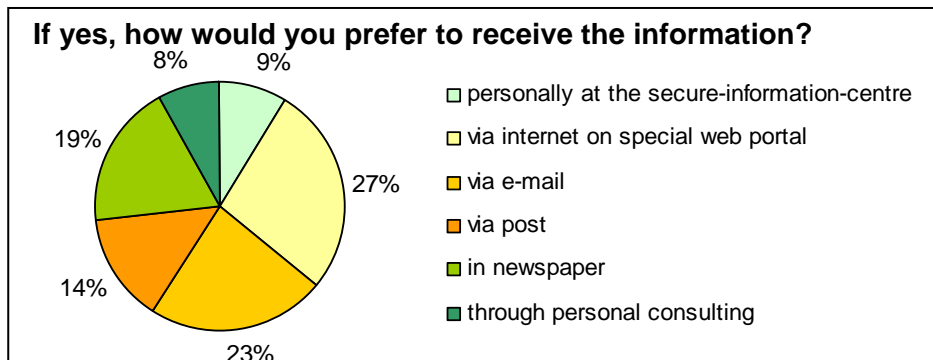
In order to protect themselves from nuclear radiation 2 % have got respirators. 2 % have a safety room as well as stock of food and water and 25 % arranged for other measures. However 67 % haven't made any arrangements against nuclear radiation.



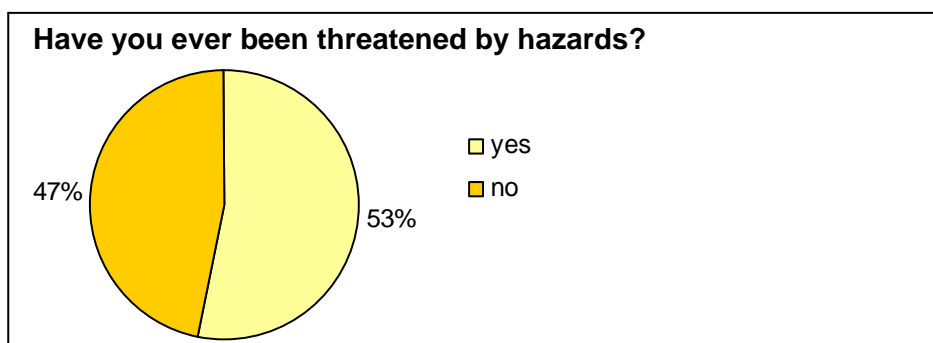
57 % of people questioned would like to achieve more information on effective civil protection, 31 % only if necessary and 10 % do not want to be informed.



27 % of them would like to get the information via internet, 23 % via e-mail, 19 % via newspapers and 14 % via postal mail.

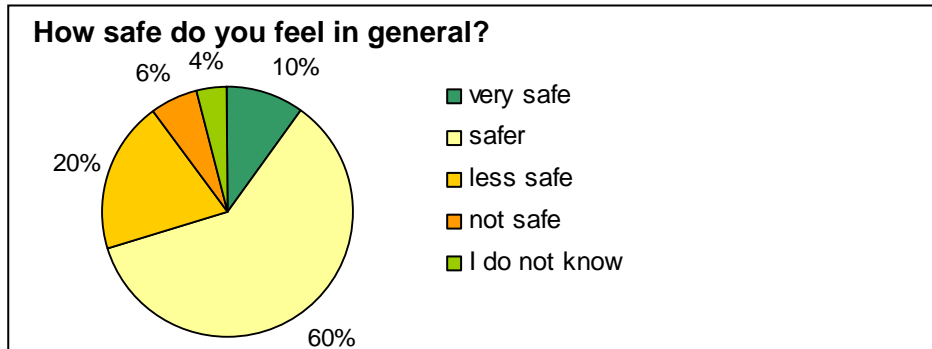


In the region Vento 32 % of people questioned have already been treated by hazards – most of them by floods, earthquakes and chemical accidents. The majority of those accidents happened in 2007.

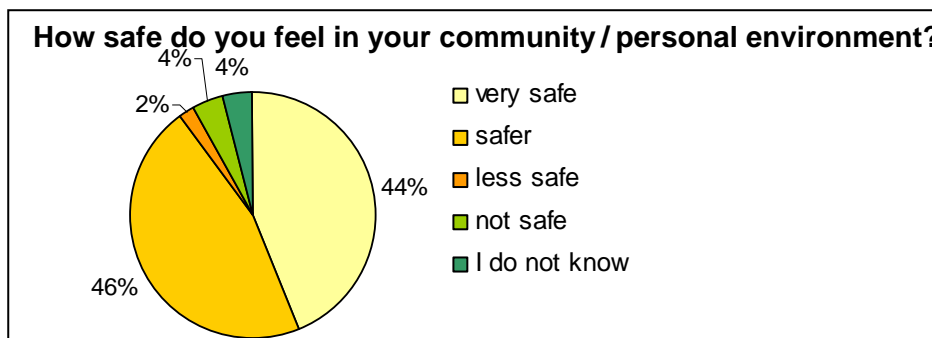


Czech Republic

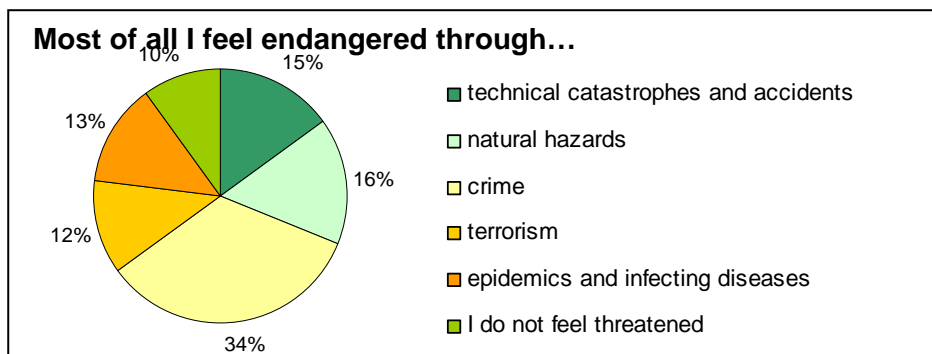
In the Czech Republic 10 % of the participating people indicated generally to feel very safe, 60 % feel safer. But there are also 20 % who feel less safe and even 6 % who feel not safe.



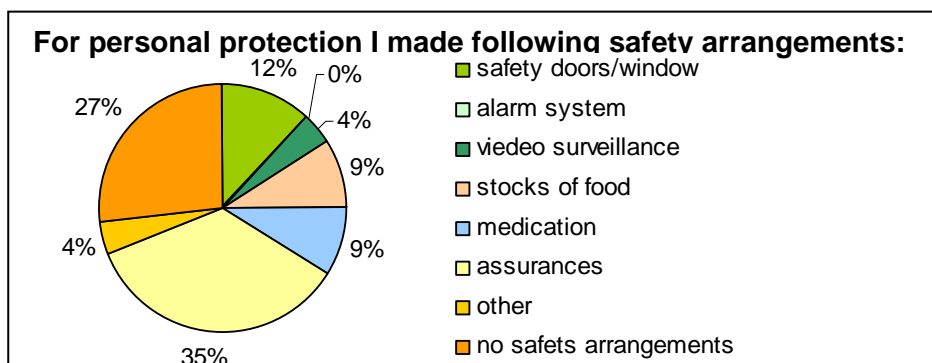
In their community respectively their personal environment 44 % feel very safe in their personal environment and 46 % feel safer. Only a few percent feel less (2 %) or not safe (4 %).



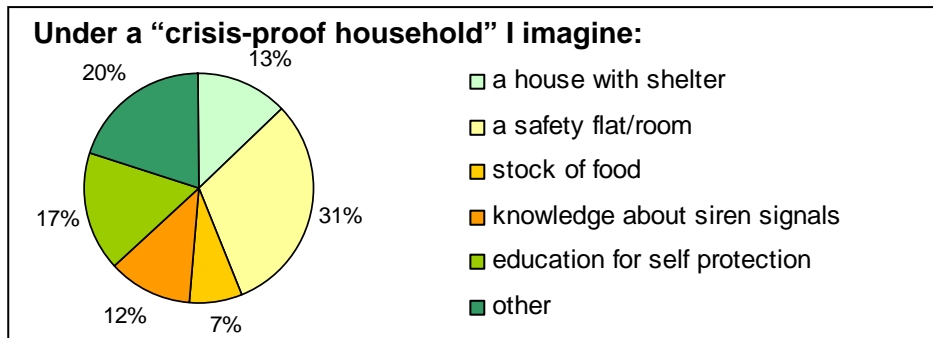
Concerning the question what the people feel most endangered through the majority mentioned crime (34 %). The rest of the result is quite balanced. They feel also endangered through natural hazards (16 %), technical catastrophes and accidents (15 %), epidemics and infecting diseases (13 %), terrorism (12 %). Altogether 10 % do not feel threatened at all.



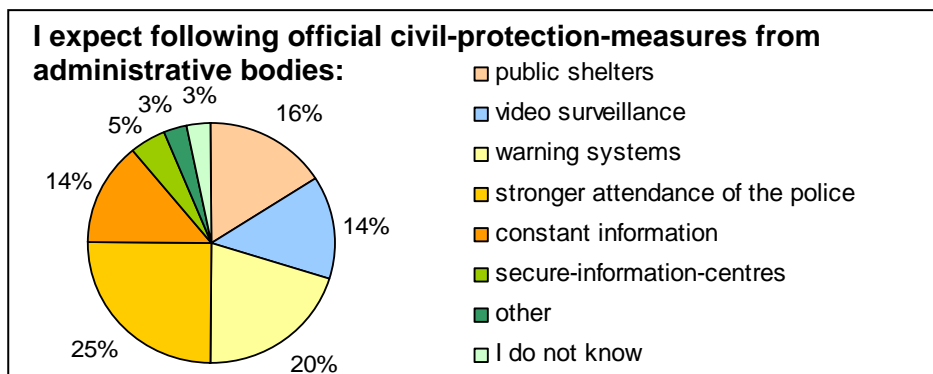
For personal protection from hazards 35 % of the people took out assurances. 12 % have safety doors and windows at home, 9 % prepared themselves with stocks of food and medication. 27 % mentioned to have other safety arrangements.



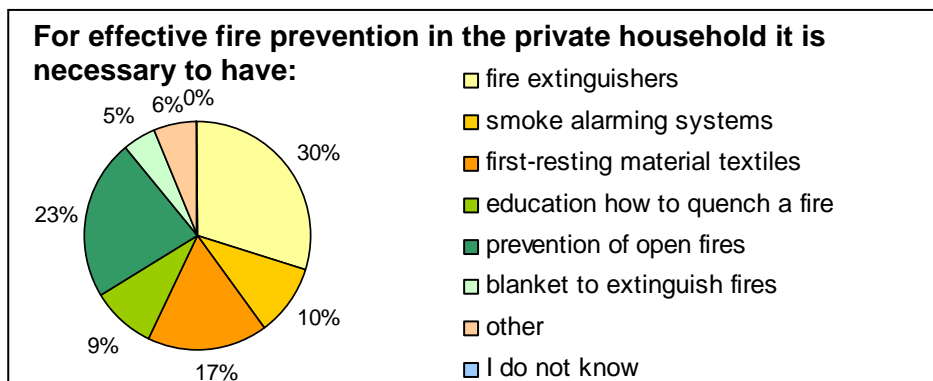
With a crisis-proof household 31 % associate a safety flat/room, 20 % mentioned other. 17 % think of an education for self-protection, 13 % of a house which is equipped with a shelter, 12 % of knowledge about siren signals and 7 % of stock of food.



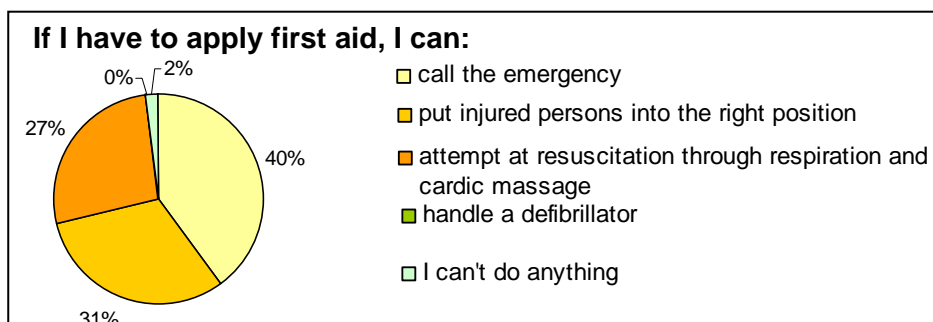
The major expectations of the population in Czech to administrative bodies are stronger attendance of police (25 %) and warning systems (20 %), followed by video surveillance and constant information with each 14 %.



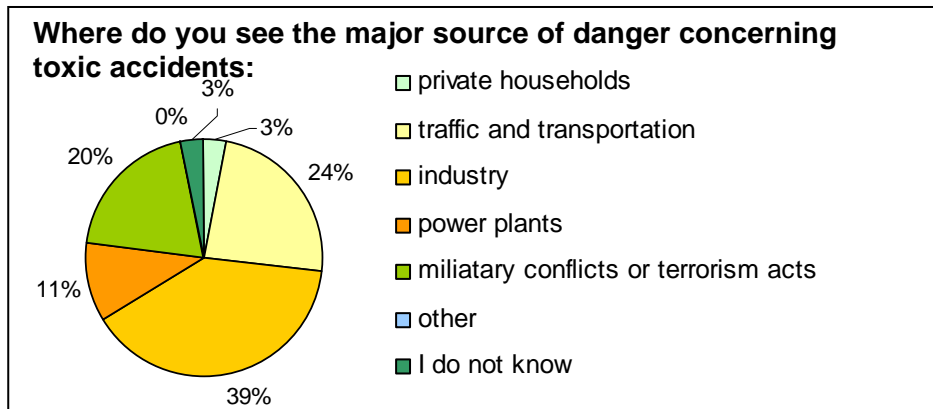
30 % of people questioned in the Czech Republic think that for effective fire prevention in private households fire extinguishers are most important. 23 % think its prevention of open fires and 17 % chose fire resting materials. 10 % voted for smoke alarming systems.



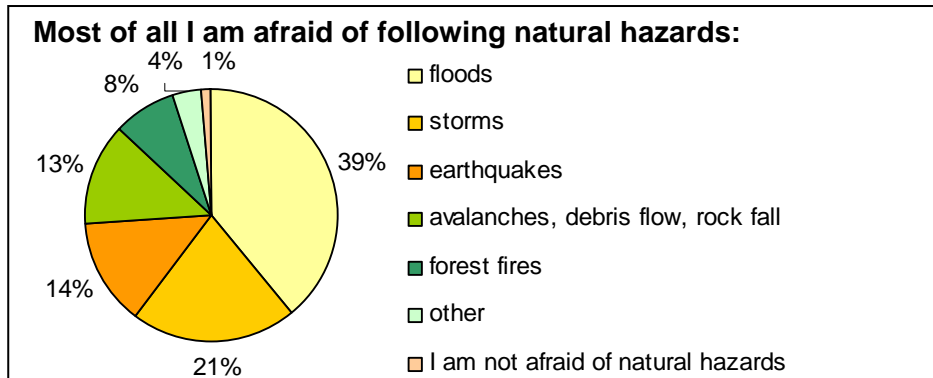
If they had to apply first aid 40 % of the people immediately would be able to call the emergency. 31 % could put injured persons into the right position and 27 % would be able to attempt resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage. However there's nobody who would be able to handle a defibrillator. 2 % mentioned to be not able to do anything.



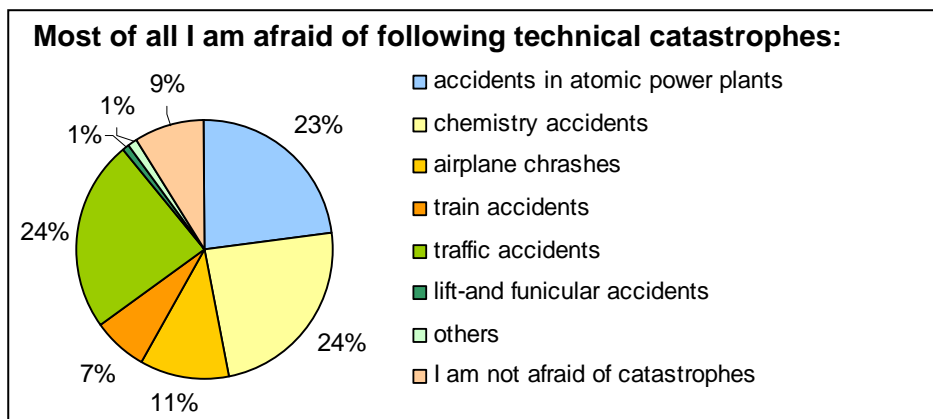
39 % of people questioned in the Czech Republic see the major source of danger concerning toxic accidents in the industry. 24 % think its traffic/transportation, 20 % chose military conflicts or terrorism acts and 11 % power plants. Only 3 % see the major source of toxic accidents in private households.



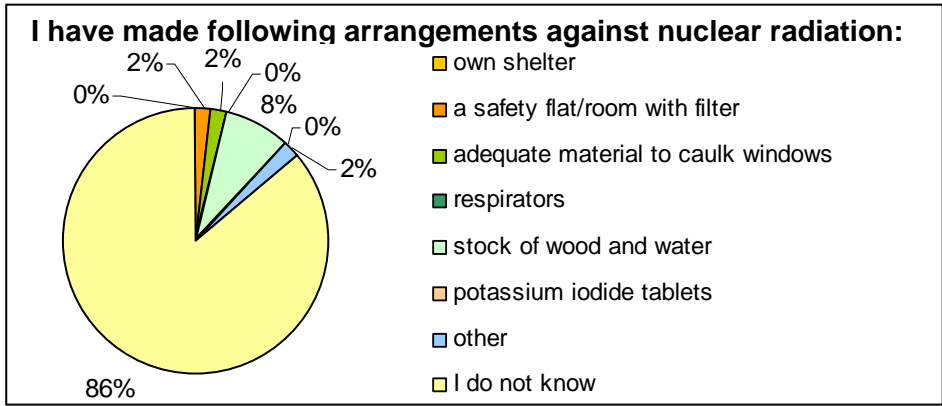
The natural hazards that are feared most by Czechs are floods (39 %), storms (21 %), earthquakes (14 %), avalanches, debris flows and rock fall (13 %) and forest fires (8 %). Only 1 % of the questioned people are not afraid of natural hazards.



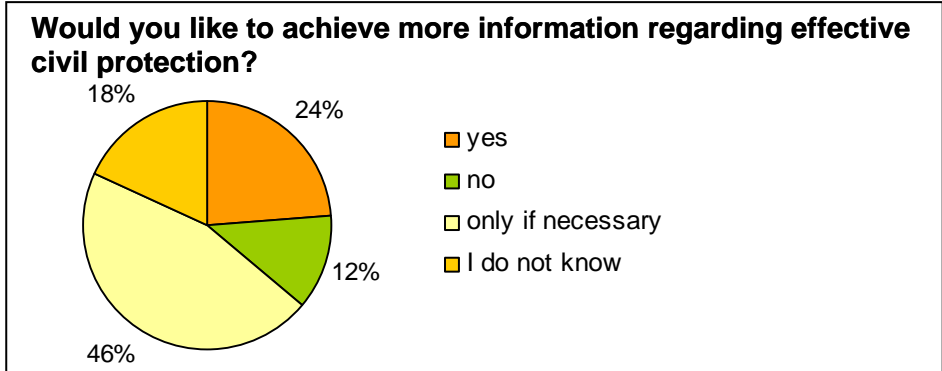
The technical catastrophes they are most scared of are: chemistry- and traffic accidents (25 %), accidents in atomic power plants (23 %) as well as airplane crashes (11 %). 9 % mentioned to be not afraid of technical catastrophes.



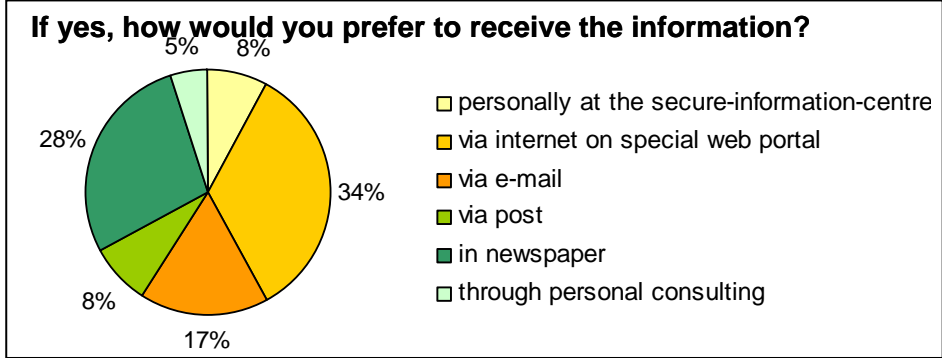
Although lots of people are scared of accidents in atomic power plants 86 % of all people asked in the Czech Republic have not made any arrangements in order to protect themselves from radiation. Only a few people, namely 8 % have got stocks of food and water and each 2 % have a safety flat or room with a filter or adequate material to caulk windows.



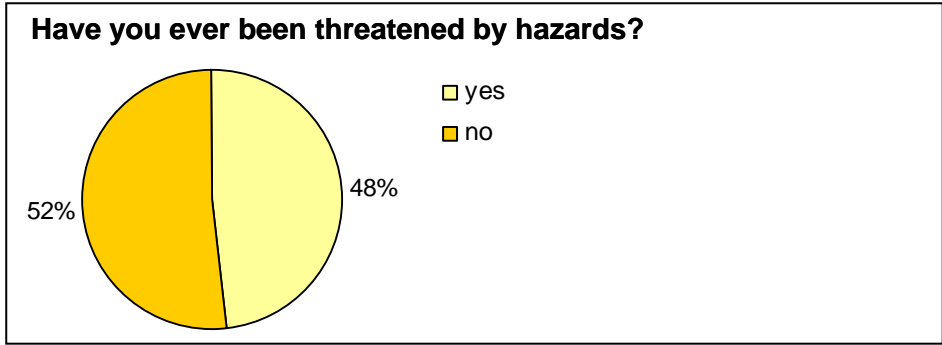
Altogether 80 % of the questioned people would like to achieve more information regarding effective civil protection. 24 % would like to be better informed only if necessary, 18 % do not know and 12 % do not want to receive more information.



34 % prefer to achieve the information via internet on a special web portal, 28 % via newspapers, 17 % via e-mail and each 8 % via post or personally at secure-information-centres.

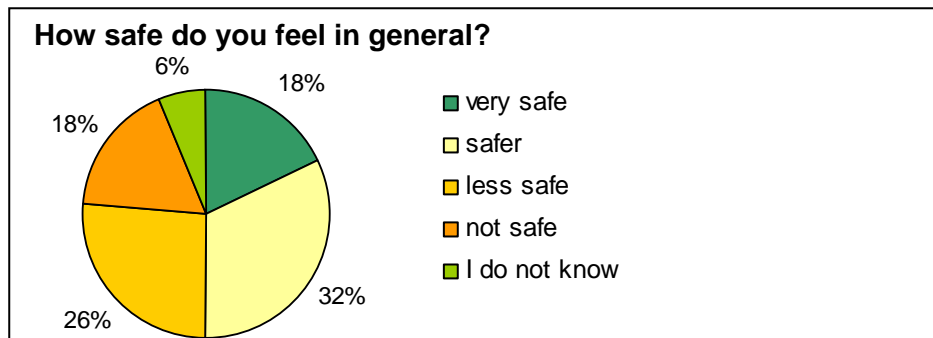


In the Czech Republic 48 % of all people who participated in the questionnaire have already been threatened by hazards. Most of them were involved in traffic accidents and were victims of crime in the year 2007.

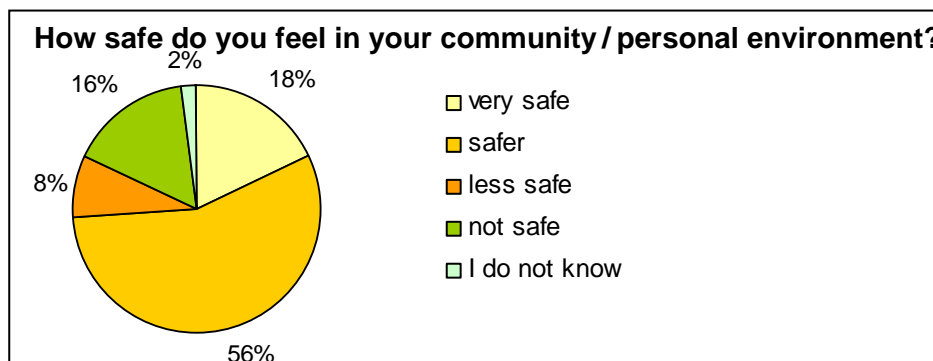


Western Greece

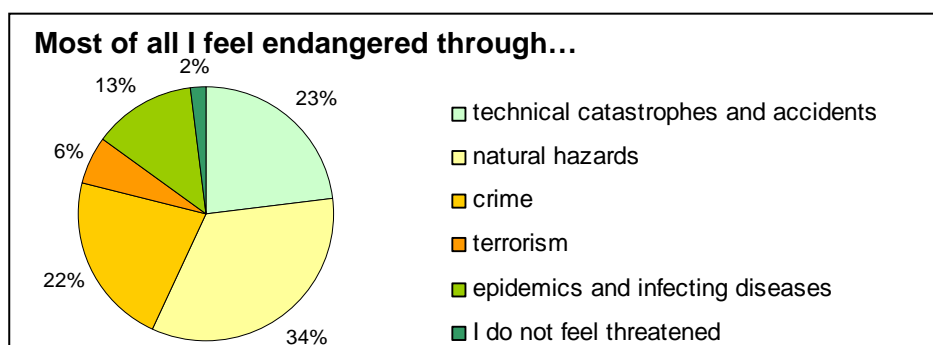
Concerning safety in Greece a general trend wasn't discernible. One the one hand 18 % of the asked people feel very safe in general. 32 % feel rather safe. But on the other hand there are 26 % and 18 % of the people which think that they are not very or not at all safe.



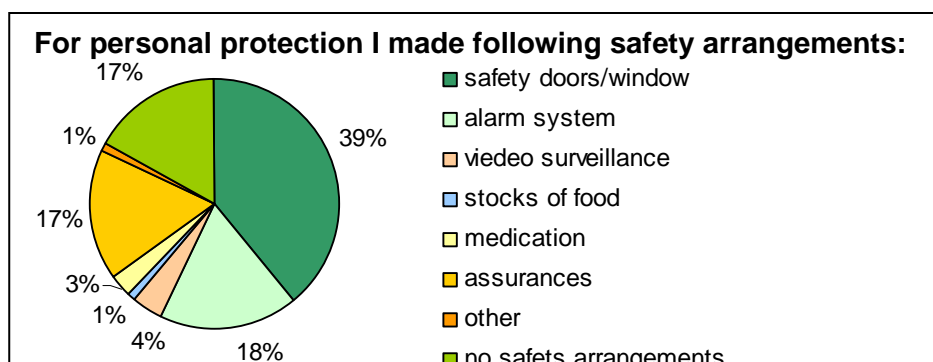
In their personal environment however 56 % of the persons questioned announced that they feel rather safe, 18 % very safe. Nevertheless there are also 8 % who feel less safe and 18 % who do not feel safe at all.



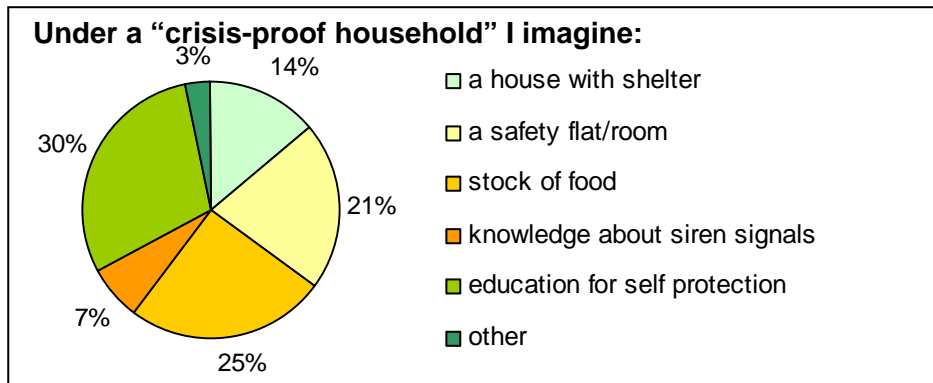
The questioned Greeks feel mostly threaded by natural hazards (34 %), technical disasters (23 %), criminality (22 %) and epidemics as well as infecting diseases (13 %).



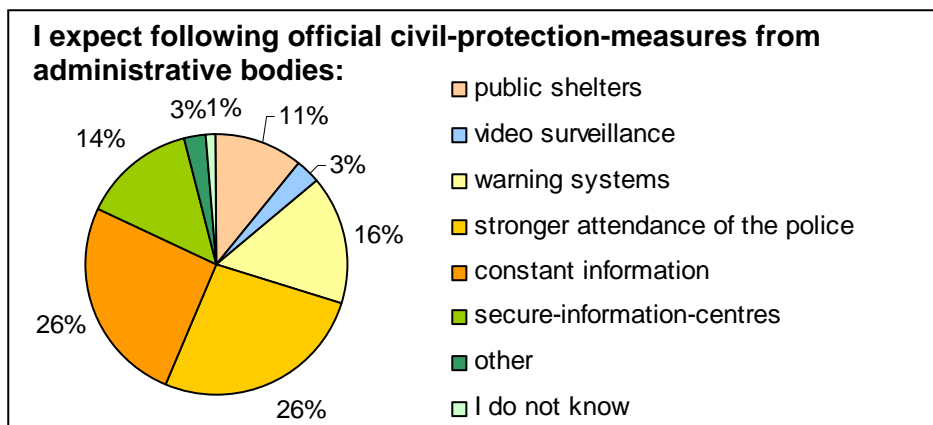
To protect themselves from hazards 39 % of Greeks use safety doors and -windows to protect themselves from dangers, 18 % have alarm systems installed and 17 % took out assurances. Anyhow another 17 % of the people do not have any safety arrangements.



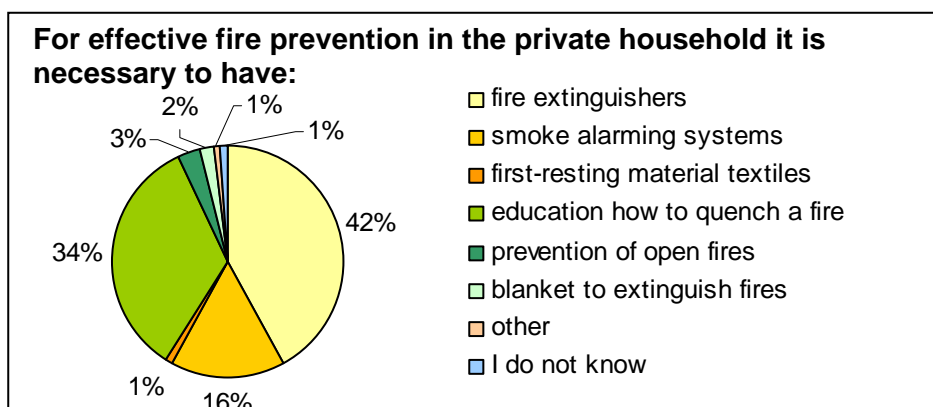
Another two questions of the query dealt with the people's ideas of a crisis-proof household and effective fire prevention in the private household. 30 % of the people in Western Greece think that a safety room is most important.



Each 26 % of Greeks expect more presence of the police and regular information from the administrative bodies. Also warning systems (16 %) and safety information centrals (14 %) are very important for them.



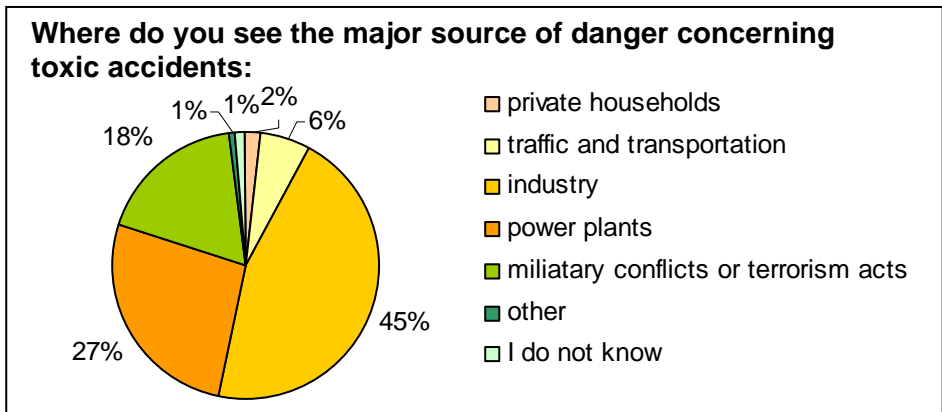
For fire prevention 42 % or rather 34 % of Greeks think that a fire extinguisher and an appropriate training are essential.



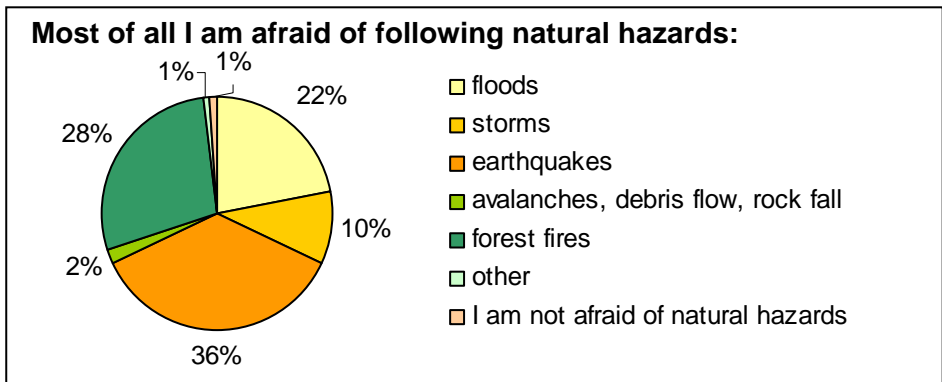
If there'd be an accident about a half of people questioned would be able to call the emergency. 28 % would be able to give artificial respiration and only 20 % would be able to put injured persons into the right position.



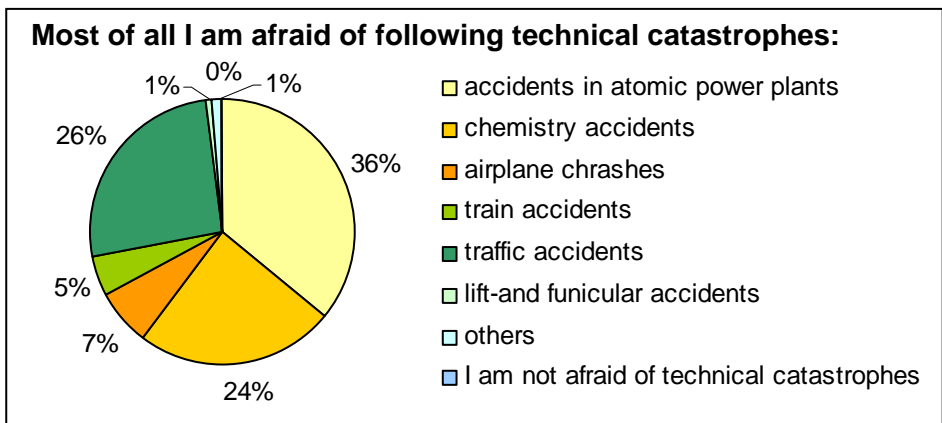
Another topic of the query was sources of danger for concerning toxic accidents. 45 % of Greeks think that the industry is mainly responsible for those accidents, followed by power stations (27 %) and traffic (18 %).



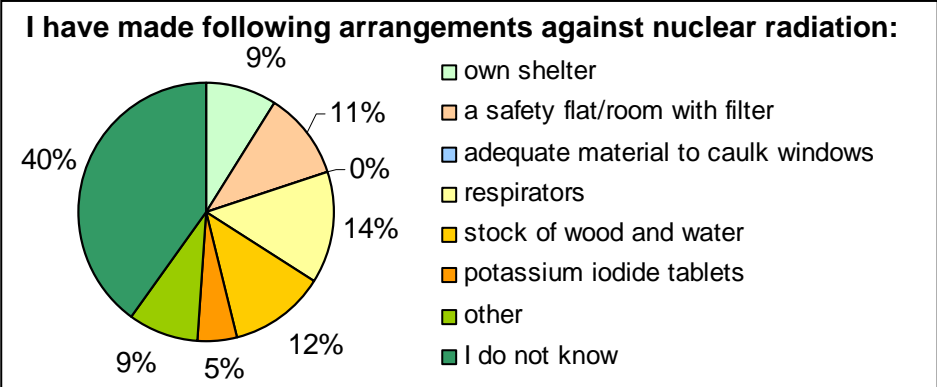
The people are most scared of earthquakes (36 %), storms (28 %) and floods (22 %).



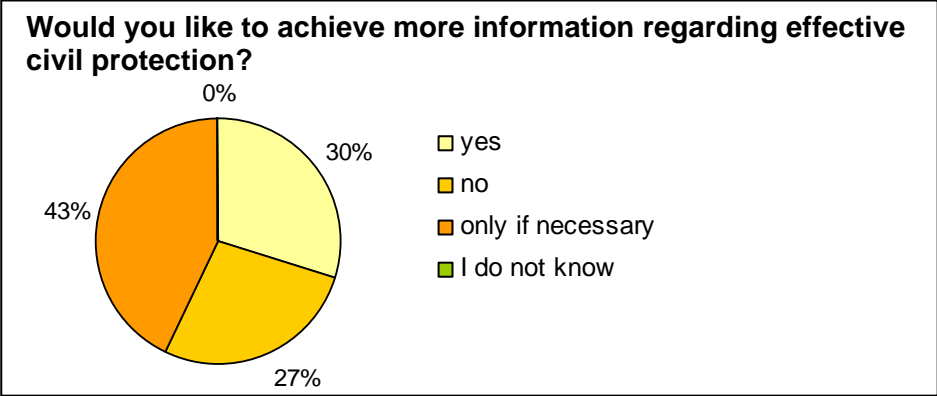
Concerning technical disasters they feel primarily threatened by: faults in nuclear power stations (36 %), traffic accidents (26 %) and chemistry accidents (24 %).



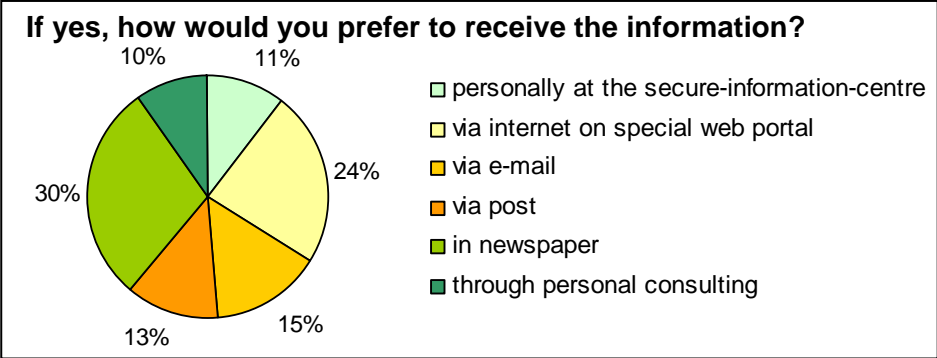
With reference to important safety arrangements to protect against radiation 14 % have got respirators at home, 12 % of the questioned Greeks are prepared with a stock of food and water, 11 % have an own safety flat / room. Nevertheless altogether 40 % do not have any arrangements against nuclear radiation.



30 % of all questioned people would like to receive more information on effective civil protection measures, 43 % only if necessary and 27 % would not.

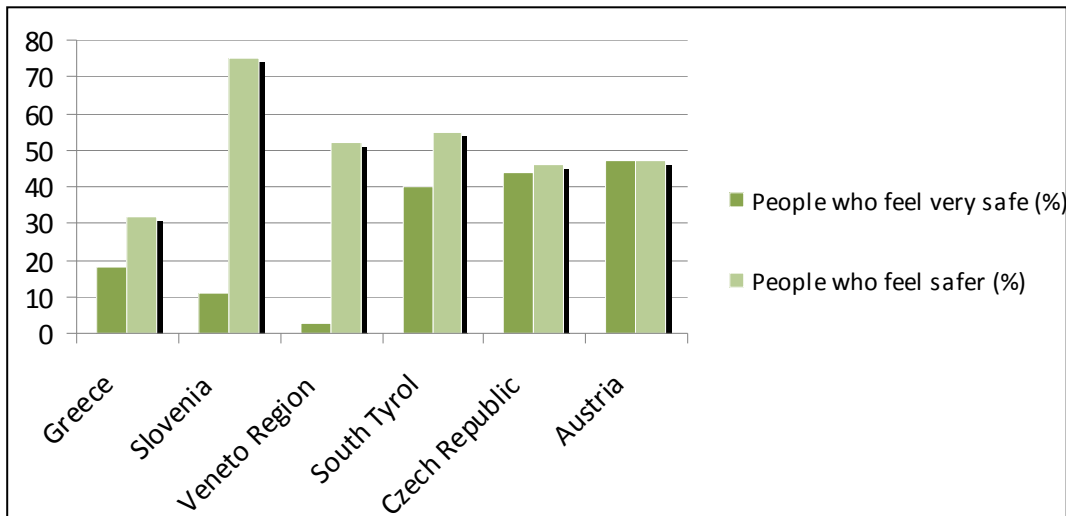


With reference to the information transfer they would like to receive the information via newspapers (30 %), internet (24 %) or via e-mail (15 %). A reason for that result could be that 53 % of the persons questioned have already experienced (natural) disasters. Most of them experienced earthquakes and heavy forest fires in the year 2007.

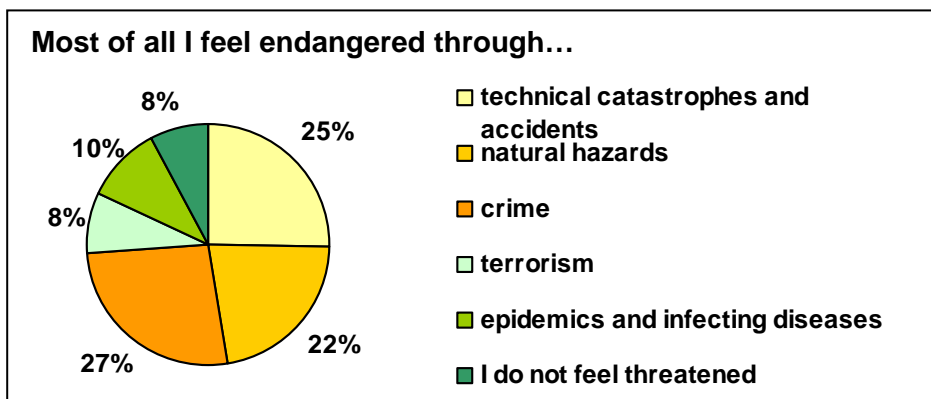


III. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

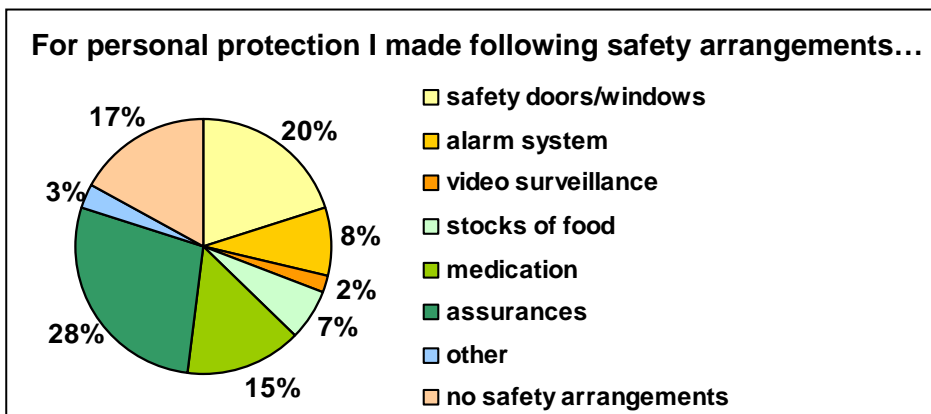
When you compare the questioned regions with each other then you can see that people in Austria in general as well as in their personal environment feel most safe. Austria is followed by South Tyrol, Czech and Slovenia. At the end there are Western Greece and Veneto.



In general people feel most endangered by technical catastrophes and accidents, natural hazards and crime.



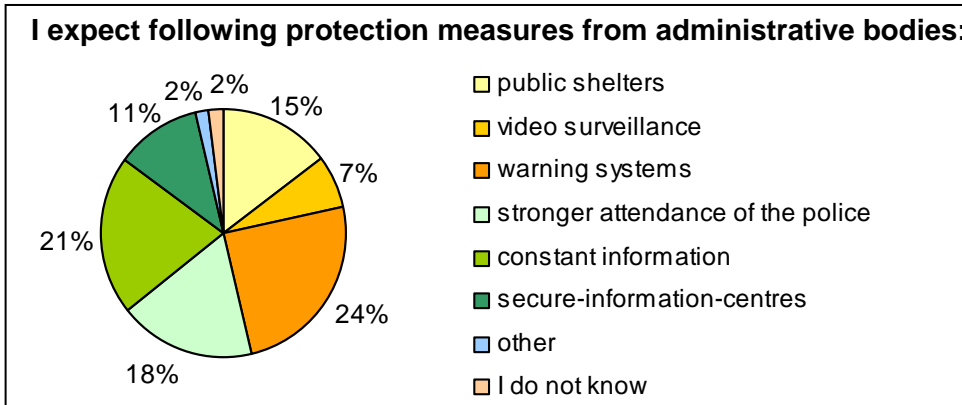
For **personal protection** mostly mentioned arrangements are safety doors/-windows and assurances.



The imaginations of a **crisis-proof household** are widespread. Education for self-protection, stock food and houses with shelter were announced most.

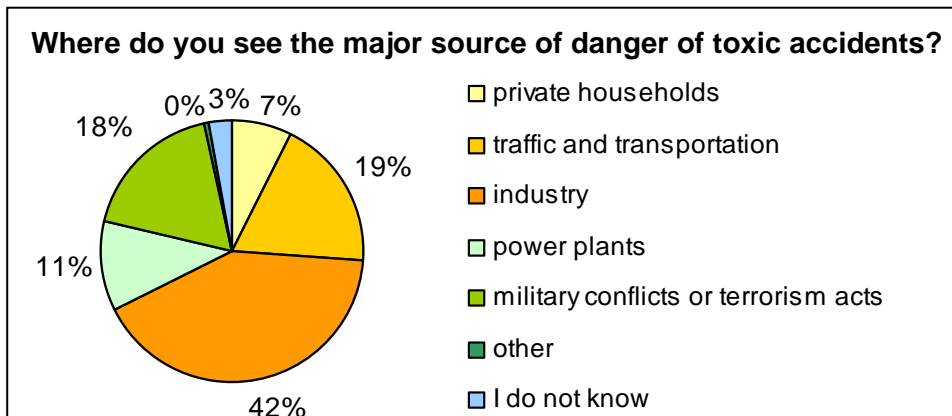
For **effective fire prevention** in private households most people say that it is absolutely necessary to have fire extinguishers. Also smoke alarming systems and personal education for an effective prevention of fire in the personal household were mentioned.

With the expectations of **civil-protection-measures** from the administrative bodies a special trend was not discernible. Most people said they expect warning systems and constant information. But also stronger attendance of the police is very important for them.

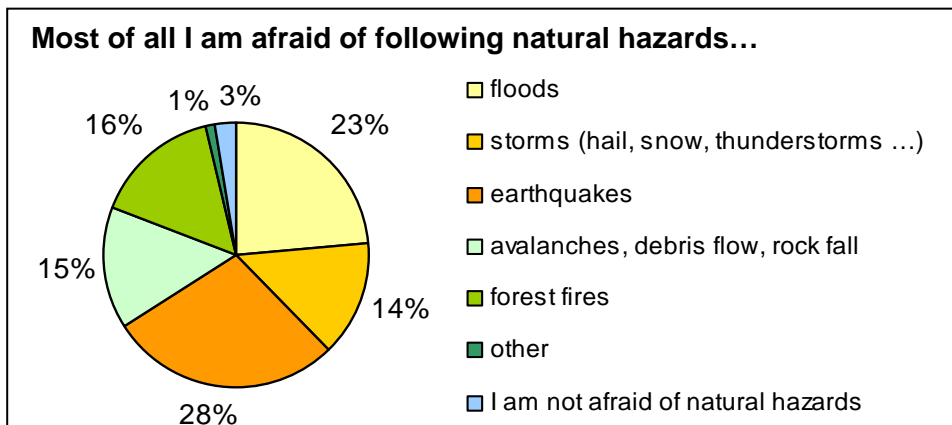


Another major topic of the query was **first aid**. Most people would be able to call the emergency. About one quarter is capable to put injured persons in to the right position and another quarter to attempt resuscitation through respiration and cardiac massage. As predictable there are only a few people who would be able to use a defibrillator.

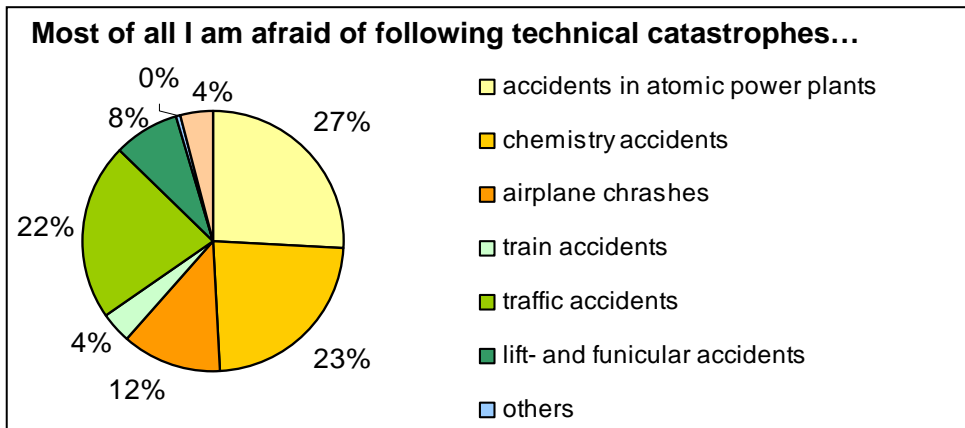
Internationally seen, it can be said that the unchallenged leader of major **sources of danger** concerning toxic accidents is the industry, which was chosen most often in each country. The industry is followed by traffic and transportation, military conflicts or terrorism acts.



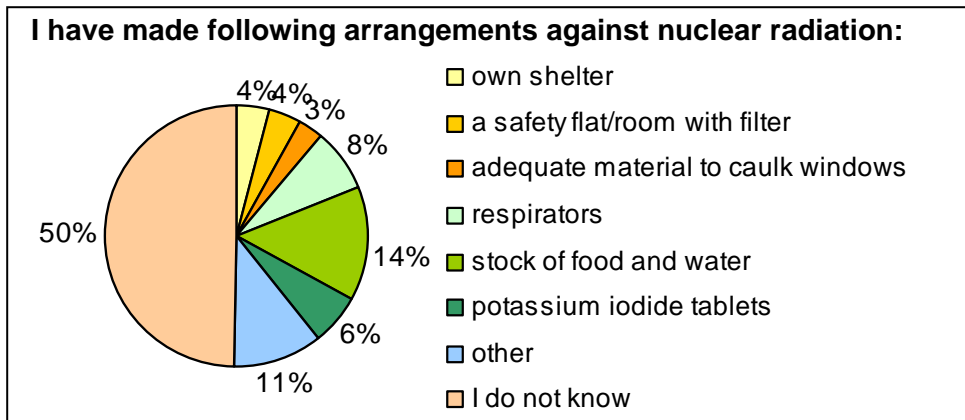
The most feared **natural hazards** are storms, earthquakes and severe floods.



Concerning **technical catastrophes** traffic- and chemistry accidents are much feared – however most people are definitely scared of an accident in an atomic power plant.



However it must be said that although so many people are scared of it there are hardly any people who have made arrangements against nuclear radiation, especially in Veneto Region and in the Czech Republic. Those who have, mentioned having stocks of food and water.



Altogether the people are very open-minded to risk communication. The majority of people questioned would like to achieve more information on **civil protection**, if necessary. There are only very less ones who do not want to receive information at all. Preferred sources for the information transfer are the internet, which was chosen from a lot of people, a clear tendency concerning media people would like to retrieve information from is not discernable. Last but not least it can be said that fortunately there are not so much people who have already been **threatened by hazards**. However some have. Which hazard is depending on the country they live in. While in Slovenia, where all people questioned have been threatened by hazards, most of the people have experienced earthquakes in Greece it is forest fires, in Veneto floods, in South Tyrol avalanches and debris flows and in the Czech Republic traffic accidents. What definitely can be said is that most of those accidents and catastrophes occurred in 2007, which is a clear sign that the intensity of natural, man-made and combined hazards is increasing.

Conclusion:

The questionnaire shows us the importance of risk communication and that there still has to be done a lot. Indeed some people are good informed and thus well prepared against disasters, however there is also a huge part which is not. As dealing with risk is an important question, especially because of the increasing intensity, it must be taken advantage of the existing attendance of people to receive more information about this topic.

Source: INTERREG IIIB Cadses Project MONITOR – Workpackage 4 Report “Risk Communication and Perception”, Annex I: Regional differences – Results of the questionnaire about risk communication and –perception; Bettina, P., Claudia, P., Renate, M., Joze, P., Wergles, N. et al (2008)