

## Why KOPHIS?

Due to demographic change, the number of people in need of care and/or help living in private households rises constantly. Their care in crisis and disaster situations poses great challenges for authorities and organizations with security responsibilities. Since no essential information about this group is available, the social environment of people in need of care and assistance must be considered more than before in the context of disaster management. Therefore it is necessary to establish networks of different stakeholders:

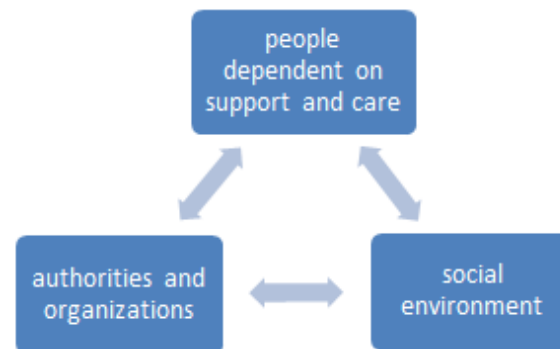
- elderly people or people with disabilities who need care, support, and their relatives or friends
- home care services and additional supporters from civil society
- authorities and organizations with security responsibilities

In order to help in times of crisis, these networks need to be established during non-crisis periods. That's where **KOPHIS** (KONtexte von Pflege- und Hilfsbedürftigen Stärken – Strengthening the context of people in need of care and/or help) takes up.

## What does KOPHIS want to achieve?

The research project **KOPHIS** aims to strengthen people who live in private households and are in need of care services during all phases of a disaster. In the context of disaster management and prevention, the various needs of this heterogeneous group have hardly been considered systematically.

The project **KOPHIS** focuses on this group and attempts to link areas of civil protection that have previously been viewed separately. Through this interlinking and consideration of the social contexts of affected people, **KOPHIS** breaks new ground in civil protection.



## How does KOPHIS proceed?

The close cooperation with the region "Willich" in North Rhine-Westphalia is the foundation for a practice-oriented research. First steps are

- the implementations of guided interviews and
- round-table discussions with stakeholders to establish and strengthen a support network.

By using qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, as well as dialogue forums, we take affected people directly into account. To ensure the well-being of vulnerable people in crisis, practical solution approaches are developed. This includes prevention, self-care and rescue of affected people.

The results of **KOPHIS** lead to recommendations of action and training for stakeholders, in order to transfer knowledge and possibilities for change from research to practice. The findings will be examined and adjusted to be applicable during the whole duration of the project – also beyond the model region Willich.

## From affected to involved

The innovative potential of **KOPHIS** – besides its orientation towards social environment and networking – relies on its participative approach:

From the beginning, people in need of care and/or help, their caregivers and supporters in their close social environment are involved in the project. The population is no longer reduced to its role as the passive recipient of professional assistance.

## Perspectives of KOPHIS

The sensitization of all stakeholders and provision of practical concepts enables a more efficient crisis preparation, risk reduction and disaster management. Therefore, it is possible to take targeted measures as well as to facilitate a fast return to everyday life.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us: [info@kophis.de](mailto:info@kophis.de)

Webpage: [www.kophis.de](http://www.kophis.de)



Picture: © Daniel F. Lorenz (FUB/KFS)

## Information about KOPHIS

The joint project **KOPHIS** is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) affiliated with the program “Research for the civil security 2012 to 2017”, with the topic “Civil security – Increasing resilience in crisis and disaster situations”.

### Project coordinator:



### Project partners:



INTERNATIONALES ZENTRUM FÜR ETHIK IN DEN WISSENSCHAFTEN (IZEW)



Universität Stuttgart  
Institut für Arbeitswissenschaft und  
Technologiemanagement IAT

### Associated partners:



### In cooperation with:



Strengthening the context  
of people in need of care and/or help



Research for Civil Security 2012 – 2017  
“Civil security – Increasing resilience in  
crisis and disaster situations”

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