

Follow-up audit of key recommendations

General Secretariat, Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport

Key facts

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted a follow-up audit on the implementation of its main recommendations made in 2020 and 2021 at the General Secretariat of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (GS-DDPS).¹

Successfully implemented recommendations

Recommendation 20436.001 concerning the ICT and digitalisation governance framework has been implemented. The GS-DDPS has launched the process and is planning to complete the first update cycle by end-2024 at the latest.

Recommendation 20542.004 has been implemented. The political platform of the Swiss Security Network has approved the report "Subsidiarity and coordination principles for the funds for conscript armed forces, civil protection and civilian service in crisis situations" and transmitted it to the Secretary General of the DDPS. The report is appropriate and regulates the principles of cooperation between the stakeholders in Switzerland's security.

Recommendation 21545.003 concerns reporting on the risk of contaminated sites at the DDPS and has been implemented. Apart from the lack of a "worst case" description, the reporting complies with the specifications of the handbook on risk management in the Confederation. Improvements are needed from the GS-DDPS on this point. Specifically, it should first perform and document a scenario analysis, and then use this to derive a "credible worst case" description.

Necessary steps to implement the final outstanding recommendation

In recommendation 21545.002, the SFAO had recommended that the GS-DDPS plan and define the milestones for dealing with contaminated sites. Compared with the draft of 2021, the DDPS has considerably improved the existing action plan for soil and contaminated sites. The schedule is available and is described in the action plan. The head of department still has to give their approval.

Original text in German

¹ The audit reports "ICT governance audit" (audit mandate 20436), "Evaluation of the deployment of people subject to service in the Armed Forces, civil protection and civilian service during the COVID-19 pandemic" (audit mandate 20542) and "Audit of the handling of contaminated sites" (audit mandate 21545) are available on the SFAO website.