

## Outline for a Master Thesis in the Risk Management Research Group

### **Topic: Expert interviews in the context of crisis management**

#### **Context:**

*During the last years, natural disasters affect an increasing number of people. In the context of the energy revolution – not only in Germany – a new kind of risk has to be taken into consideration: The probability of a large-scaled power blackout increases due to fluctuations in the energy provision by renewable energy sources.*

*Furthermore, the connectivity of networks and so called Critical Infrastructures increased such that cascading and escalation effects can lead to wide ranged failures, which may worsen the situation. Hence, the studies of such an event with all its impacts becomes more and more relevant with respect to an early intervention for an increased resilience in an emergency situation.*

#### **The following aspects should be included in the thesis:**

- (1) A structured overview of large-scaled power-blackouts in Europe should be provided (using academic literature, public databases, and verifiable (!) internet sources). Your focus should be on the coordination of authorities between each other and with NGO's in terms of taking care of victims and providing essential goods as food, water and medicine.
- (2) By conducting expert interviews, you should get a detailed understanding of the coordination process for a long-scaled power blackout in order to be able to outline difficulties in the procedure.
- (3) Based on your findings, discuss improvement strategies to strengthen the resilience in case of a power blackout.

#### **Your contact:**

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