



**Joint Fire Fighting Units (JFFU) Project Refresher Training for firefighters of Montenegro
(20 -26 October 2012, Divulje near Split, Republic of Croatia)**

DMTP Report 2012

The overall objective of the Project was to improve preparedness and prevention and response to open fires in the coastal area, regardless of national borders, with jointly trained rapid fire-fighting response units between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. Within the framework of the project a number of Emergency Response Teams has been formed and more than 90 fire fighters trained and equipped. The JFFU project Phase 1 was successfully finalized with a final Joint Fire-Fighting Exercise held in Budva, 27 May 2004. The project was implemented by the Governmental organizations responsible for civil protection, disaster management and rescue in participating countries.

The refresher training for firefighters of Montenegro was hosted and organized by the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia and co-organized by the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) from 21 to 26 October 2012 in the Firefighting Operations Centre Divulje near Split as the second of two refresher trainings with respect to wildfires management (the first refresher training was organized for firefighters of Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2012).

The training participants were professional firefighters from five professional municipal fire departments of Montenegro. With coordination support and administrative assistance from DPPI SEE Secretariat, the training was successfully conducted with facilitation and lecturing support of instructors from the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate: Mr. Mladen Vinkovic, Mr. Neven Szabo, Mr. Sinisa Klečar and Mr. Reno Marotti, and medical doctors, Mr. Josko Grancic and Mr. Tomislav Vuko.

The aim of the training was for fire fighters to acquire additional knowledge, skills and techniques in fighting wildfires. The training was also designed to raise awareness of procedures and practices of wildfire development and behavior in different scenarios.

Training objectives were:

- i. Understand tactical performance and vegetation fire fighting;
- ii. Acquire skills in using personal and team equipment for vegetation fire fighting;
- iii. Acquire knowledge on using means for aerial firefighting;
- iv. Gain practical knowledge on how to use GPS and links with topographic maps;
- v. Acquire practical skills in fire commanding;
- vi. Understand tactical assignment performance.

The training was implemented as a combined structure of theoretical lectures and practical exercises given and supervised by the fire fighting instructors from National Protection and Rescue Directorate. Feedback on the training by the participants was very positive, no injuries were reported and the training met all the set objectives.