



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for  
Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
TRAINING PROJECT  
FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE 2

- EVENT REPORT -

CAVE RESCUE TRAINING  
Starigrad-Pakelnica, Croatia  
14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> September 2013

## 1. General information and objective of the event

The Cave Rescue Training was part of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) for 2013 of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). It was organised by Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (HGSS) and the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), with the support of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (DUZS).

The training was conducted from Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 at the Training Centre for Croatian Mountain Rescue Service in Paklenica.

The programme is primarily aimed at volunteer speleologists of caving clubs, fire-fighters, police officers, soldiers, health workers and other interested members of protection, rescue and relief forces who have passed the speleologist's examination or have completed equivalent national programmes for independent caving activity and have sufficient experience in the field with excellent knowledge of rope technique.

Training was based on theoretical knowledge and various practical exercises, which are necessary for successful rescue activity and also for the prevention of accidents in the caves.

Program contents:

- Cave conservation,
- Single rope technique – Alpine style,
- Procedures for accident in the cave,
- Examination of the victim,
- Setting up of evacuation and transport systems and learning rescue manoeuvres,
- Preparation and evacuation of a victim on stretcher,
- Planning cave rescue and importance of exercise/rescue analysis,
- Setting up rescue units for international intervention and
- Presentation of various specialities inside the rescue services.

The programme was implemented as a combined structure of theoretical lectures and practical work given and supervised by the licensed teachers and instructors from the Training Centre of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of ACPDR. The training programme "Cave Rescue Training" is approved and signed by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia provided all necessary equipment for the practical part of the training.

Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia also provided personal equipment for for the participants from Turkey and Albania.

During the eight day training there were 80 hours of various lessons as lectures, short demonstrations, practical work in smaller caves for consolidation of knowledge and bigger final exercise of the cave rescue activities. The training was conducted in English language.

The Cave Rescue Training is one of the programs, which is very well accepted and regularly exercised within Disaster Management Training Programme. This program is running successfully for five year. Expressed interest in the region and suggestions to organize the training in Serbia next year, are the reasons for the continuation of this program in the future.

## 2. Lecturers

The program was conducted under the direction of Aleš Cedilnik and Marko Zibelnik (Training centre ACPDR). Lecturers and instructors were Aleš S. Stražar, Walter Zakrajšek, Marko Erker, Bernard Štiglic (Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia) and Ljubo Majica, Ivica Čukušić, Darko Bakšić (Croatian Mountain Rescue Service).

## 3. Participants

Course was attended by twenty (20) participants from ten (10) countries.

All have passed the relevant activities and exercises to reach the required level of competence and acquired the title of a cave rescuer.

No	Country:	Name:
1	SLOVENIA	ANDREJ HLIŠ
2	SLOVENIA	DAVID HEATH
3	ALBANIA	XHEVAHIR ASSLANI

4	ALBANIA	ELDAN CONIKU
5	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	GORAN PETKOVIĆ
6	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	NEMANJA KRIVOKUĆA
7	BULGARIA	DIMITAR BONEV
8	BULGARIA	MARTIN GANCHEV
9	CROATIA	BRUNO PAVIĆ
10	CROATIA	VALENTINA ČUKUŠIĆ
11	MACEDONIA	DARKO JOVANOSKI
12	MACEDONIA	DARKO NEDANOSKI
13	MONTENEGRO	DRAGOLJUB ČUZOVIĆ
14	MONTENEGRO	DANIJELA ŠĆEPANOVIĆ
15	ROMANIA	ADINA MICULA
16	ROMANIA	VASILE IULIAN SPATARU
17	SERBIA	DANIJEL ALEKSIĆ
18	SERBIA	MARKO AVDIĆ
19	TURKEY	KARTAL MUHCI
20	TURKEY	VEDAT YILMAZ

#### 4. Problems and solutions

This year the level of knowledge of English language was adequate at almost all participants, only a few had some problems (one from Albania and Turkey participants).

Beside basic cave rescue skills the understanding and communication in English is the only additional selection criteria. In order to assure a successful training the sending organization should be encouraged to select participants with at least working knowledge of English.

The participants from Albania (Firefighter department), Bulgaria (Rescuer in Regional Directorate Fire safety and Civil Protection), Romania (Force NCO) and Turkey (Sivil Savunma Arama Kurtarma Birlik Müdion) had too little prior knowledge of caving.

ACPDR expectations are to get each year candidates with more knowledge of cave rescuing, so that the training would provide an added value to the national trainings.

Participants from Albania and Turkey had no prior experiences with the world of Karst and cave rescue training and therefore have not had basic knowledge, which we require for the implementation of the training. Lecturers and instructors needed to put a lot more effort in training and more attention in order to assure safety of participants (they are not able to independently move in caves, which is expected from cave rescuer).

Seven (7) participants have not passed all prescribed activities (rope technique - polygon) required according to the Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia (CRS), however appear to have achieved significant progress in their knowledge.

At the end of the training we conducted a workshop for instructors, where they had to pass a practical examination. The following topics were covered: plan of rescue, use of rope techniques, logistical support, etc.

## 5. Opinions of participants

The Cave Rescue Training was in general evaluated as “very good”. All participants were satisfied with the organisation, theoretical and practical part of the course. They found the training very well prepared and executed. Lessons learned will be most useful in their future engagements in caves.

## 6. Financial Report

Cost of title	Source of funding in EURO		
	Slovenia	DPPI SEE	Others
Travel (to venue)			
Accommodation participants and Course Management	4.913,14		
Equipment	3.575,88		
Lecturers (reimbursements to employing organisations)	2.364,87		
Course management (extra hours)	3.312,50		
Office material	-		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>14.166,39</b>		

Appendix:

- programme

Produced by:  
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