



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROJECT FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

- EVENT REPORT -

CAVE RESCUE TRAINING

Pliva – Šipovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
12th – 20th September 2015

1. General information and objective of the event

The Cave Rescue Training was a part of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) for 2015 of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE).

The training was organised by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) and supported by the Republic Civil Protection Administration of Republic of Srpska, Cave rescue unit-Ponir, Cave Rescue Service of the Republic of Slovenia (CRSS). Additionally, it was supported by the cave rescue instructors from Mountain Rescue Service Serbia, Commission for Rescue in Vertical Conditions (MRSS) and Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (HGSS).

The training was conducted from Saturday, 12th to Sunday 20th September 2015 at the Pliva-Šipovo, Training Centre Pecka, cave Mačkica and Santrač.

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 for the participants from Albania also provide personal equipment for rescue from caves.

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. The programme is running successfully for seven years. In accordance with the expressed interest and in consultations with the DPPI SEE Secretariat we propose to organize the training next year (2016) in Romania.

2. Lecturers

The program was organized and implemented under the supervision of Janez Melanšek, Senior Adviser from ACPDR. Lecturers and instructors at the training were Aleš S. Stražar, Maks Merela, Marko Zakrajšek, Marko Erker, Damijan Šinigoj (Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia), Ana Bakšić, (Croatian Mountain Rescue Service), Aleksandar Ravas (Mountain Rescue Service Serbia), Mirko Vidović and Aleksandar Pegan (Cave rescue unit-Ponir).

At the training in 2015 for the first time as lecturers and instructors participated instructors from Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (HGSS) and Mountain Rescue Service Serbia and this has contributed significantly to the quality of the training and additionally to more intensified cooperation among cave rescuers in the South Eastern Europe. We propose to keep that practice also in the future trainings.

3. Participants

The basic Cave Rescue Training is one of the few trainings that is being implemented constantly for 7 years (Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina). A huge interest is being expressed by the participants to continue with the

programme that has synergy effects and contributes significantly to strengthening cooperation among cave rescuers in South Eastern Europe.

In 2015 for the first time three females and two doctors participated at the training.

Course was attended by twenty (20) participants from eight (8) 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	ALBANIA	Mr. Alket	Bitraj
2	ALBANIA	Mr. Denis	Kola
3	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Mr. Nermin	Grabovica
4	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Ms. Gordana	Pegan
5	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Mr. Mladen	Milošević
6	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Mr. Zoran	Nišić
7	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Mr. Jelenko	Mitrašinović
8	BULGARIA	Mr. Ljubomir	Trifonov
9	BULGARIA	Mr. Branimir	Banov
10	CROATIA	Mr. Petar	Perišić
11	CROATIA	Mr. Hrvoje	Bokavšek
12	MACEDONIA	Mr. Andrej	Minčevski
13	MACEDONIA	Mr. Goce	Dimitrievski
14	MONTENEGRO	Mr. Eldin	Brđanin
15	MONTENEGRO	Ms. Danijela	Šćepanović
16	SERBIA	Mr. Jovan David	Đorđević
17	SERBIA	Mr. Nemanja	Milosavljević
18	SERBIA	Mr. Aleksandar	Ravas
19	SLOVENIA	Ms. Tina	Bizijak
20	SLOVENIA	Mr. Tomaž	Klinar

4. Problems and solutions

This year the level of knowledge of English language was good with almost all of the participants.

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

All participants managed to pass the whole curriculum (theory and practical work), however at different difficulties (adapted their knowledge and skills). They have all reached the satisfactory level of qualification and higher level of knowledge.

Some of the participants still have some lack in the basic knowledge that is required before the participation at the training (to be able to independently move in the caves) and we would once again like to remind countries to send only the participants that meet the selection criteria. If

expressed by the countries, it would be possible to organize a specific preliminary training on the national level for the countries that do not have that kind of training within their national protection and rescue systems.

At the end of the training we conducted a workshop instructor, practical test, making a 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)	103,95		
Accommodation participants and Course Management	3.572,80		
Equipment	2.814,35		
Lecturers (reimbursements to employing organisations)	2.976,64		
Course management (extra hours)	4.187,50		
Office material	-		
TOTAL:	13.655,24		

Appendix:

- programme

Produced:
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