



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OBRAMBO

UPRAVA REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
ZA ZAŠČITO IN REŠEVANJE

Vojkova cesta 61, 1000 Ljubljana

T: 01 471 33 22

F: 01 431 81 17

E: gp.dgZR@urszr.si

www.sos112.si

Mrs. Ivana Ljubojević
DPPI SEE Secretariat
Branilaca Sarajeva 34
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
ivana.ljubojevic@dppi.info

via e mail

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT
TRAINING PROJECT
FOR SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

- EVENT REPORT -

CAVE RESCUE TRAINING
Rosia, Bihor Country – Romanija
17th – 25th September 2016

1. General information and objective of the event

The Cave Rescue Training was a part of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) for 2016 of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE).

The training is co-organised by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations-Romania and the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) and supported by Cave Rescue Romania (SALVASPEO) and Cave Rescue Service of the Republic of Slovenia (CRSS).

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 maneuvers,
- 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 Erker, Bojan Jereb, Marjan Vilhar, Vesna Milojević (Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia), Aleksandar Ravas (Mountain Rescue Service Serbia), Aleksandar Pegan (Cave rescue unit BiH) and Tudor Rus (Cave Rescue Romania – SALVASPEO).

For the second year lecturers and instructors from other DPPI SEE countries (BiH, Serbia and Romania) participated at the training.

3. Participants

The basic Cave Rescue Training has been conducted constantly for 8 years (Montenegro 2009, Macedonia 2010, Bulgaria 2011, Slovenia 2012, Croatia 2013, Serbia 2014 and Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015). A huge interest is being expressed by the participants and DPPI SEE partner countries to continue with the programme that has synergy effects and contributes significantly to strengthening cooperation among cave rescuers in South Eastern Europe.

Course was attended by nineteen (19) participants from nine (9) countries.

Two doctors (from Slovenia and Romania) also participated at the training.

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 | ENE DUKA |
| 2 | Albania | PLLUMB CENGU |
| 3 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | DRAGAN PRODIC |
| 4 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | NERMIN GRABOVICA |
| 5 | Bulgaria | DIMITAR ZAHARIEV |
| 6 | Bulgaria | PETAR TIKOV |
| 7 | Croatia | JOSIP VADJIC |
| 8 | Croatia | VLADO SPEHAR |
| 9 | Montenegro | DANIJELA SCEPANOVIC |
| 10 | Montenegro | VESELIN MIJUSKOVIC |
| 11 | Serbia | DUSAN STARINAC |
| 12 | Serbia | IGOR OLARIC |
| 13 | Romania | LUCIAN FRENTIU |
| 14 | Romania | ADINA ANGELA OLIMPIA MICULA |
| 15 | Romania | ION LUCIAN SCURTU |
| 16 | Slovenia | TJASA RUTAR |
| 17 | Slovenia | ANDREJ KRISTAN |
| 18 | Turkey | RAMAZAN YERLI |
| 19 | Turkey | YILMAZ OZCAN |

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 | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------|--------|
| | <i>Slovenia</i> | DPPI SEE | Others |
| Travel (to venue) | 277,32 | | |
| Accommodation participants and Course Management | 3.316,40 | | |
| Equipment | 2.587,52 | | |
| Lecturers (reimbursements of salaries to the employing organisations) | 3.056,93 | | |
| Course management (extra hours) | 4.537,50 | | |
| Office material | - | | |
| TOTAL: | 13.775,67 | | |

Produced:
Janez Melanšek
Senior Advisor
Manca Orehek
Advisor

Branko Dervodel
Secretary
Deputy Director General

Appendix:
• programme