



## **TRAINING FOR WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, 5 - 11 September 2016**

### **DMTP EVENT REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

The training for Wilderness Search and Rescue was organized by the Center for prevention and protection in cooperation with the Scout Association of Macedonia after a consultation process. In the mid of 2015 the need to organize this training was identified after analyzing that the cooperation and best practices exchange between the national institutions and the civil sector organizations that are working in the area of organizing activities in nature, wilderness and preparing search and rescue operations is at low level.

We have identified the potential of sharing knowledge which can contribute to establish wider perspective in the work of the institutions and the organizations and build mutual understanding, support and cooperation.

Since the numbers of disasters is constantly growing and one of the main reasons for accidents and disasters is the low knowledge of the people and the lack of skills to respond properly, the Center for prevention and protection with the Scout Association of Macedonia started consultations and following the preparation and the identification of the areas for potential benefits, proposal was developed that was submitted and cordially supported by the DPPI SEE. The jointly developed model was aiming to unite the civil sector and prepare it for joint actions.

The training was tailored to the unique needs and was targeting the following goals:

- The civil sector (scouts, mountaineers, red cross) will build their capacities in responsiveness and management of disasters in mountains
- The participants in the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative will create partnerships with the civil sector and reach out to the communities
- Platform will be developed with skilled and prepared teams for response in disasters

## **Format of the event**

In order to provide best learning and exchanging environment the format was tailored to non-formal learning and practice work, using the learning by doing method. The event combined one week training on survival in nature and responding in situations of disasters with team tasks for the participants where they will in practice use the gained skills and knowledge.

Grouped in small teams, the training provided the participants skills and knowledge on how to use the nature resources to survive and how to organize respond in case of disasters in nature (fire, storms, etc.)

The modules were combining practical and theoretical lectures with 4 real life exercises enforced with task to disseminate the learned skills in their organizations- institutions.

## **Preparation of the training**

In order to prepare the event, 3 consultation meetings were held for defining the agenda, the risks and the logistics needs that were arising.

Invitation to the members of the DPPI SEE were sent and an agenda circulated through the office of DPPI SEE.

## **Implementation of the training**

The Training was held from 04 to 11 September in the Scout Center in Ohrid, the villages around Ohrid and above the village of Skrebatno on the border of the National Park Galicica (15 km from Ohrid).

18 participants from 9 countries (Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria Albania, Montenegro and Turkey) participated in the training.

Trainers of the event were members from the Scout Association of Macedonia (Mr. Elvis Todorovski, Mr. Zoran Kostovski, Mr. Ilija Alagjozovski, Mr. Danail Petkovski and Viktor Petrusovski additionally responsible for event coordination). The training sessions were delivered from 05 to 10 September 2016 in the agreed format in the preparation.

Out of the training program welcoming and farewell dinners were organized in Ohrid on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

The program started with induction in the Scout Center in Ohrid where the participants were part of a platform where they presented their work and experiences and understand the program and the expectations. As outcome the program was perceived as very relevant and attractive. The different levels of the skills of the participants as expected was a great contribution to the learning environment.

In the following days the participants went in teams to the village of Skrebatno (National Park Galicica) where in the next two days had induction in orienteering and movement in nature and the practical sessions for Wilderness Search and Rescue and case-scenarios. From the evaluation of the participants this segment of the training is highly evaluated and the participants exchanged their views and practices. The format of the sessions enabled the participants to take the trainers role and provide several cases-sharing best and worst practice experience by them self.

Following the non-favorable weather condition after two days of continuous rain the central base of the training was relocated in consultation with the participants in the Scout Center Ohrid from where the training continued with hikes to the near villages and

the surrounding nature. The program was implemented as planned in the agenda without any major changes.

The final days were dedicated on conclusions and empowering the learned outcomes. The participants agreed on the need for more discussions and trainings like this one and bigger exchanges among the SEE, since similar problems are solved by very different approaches and systematic solutions. As a result that was directly measurable in the end of the training was the established cooperation among the institutions and the civil sector representatives that in future will provide this process to continue on national levels.

### **Areas for improvement**

- There was very low gender balance in the training (only 1 female)
- Provide tasks before arrival so participants will be engaged and understand the training goals on time.
- Involve more experts if possible that will give even broader perspective of the training (Red Cross, Mountain Service etc)
- Increase the level of information and organizations, since for some participants (10%) the training was evaluated as “not very helpful/I don’t think I learned anything new”.

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This report is created on bases of the evaluation of the participants, monitoring of the implementation of the training and consultation with the trainers, upon request of the DPPI SEE.

Cordially,  
Skopje, 04.10.2016  
Viktor Petrusevski  
Scout Association of Macedonia