



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

EVENT REPORT - CAVE RESCUE TRAINING

Strmosten - Lisine, Despotovac, Serbia

13th– 21th September 2014

1. General information and objective of the event

The Cave Rescue Training was part of the Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) for 2014 of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE). The training was organised by the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Emergency Management of the Republic Serbia and the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) and supported by the Mountain Rescue Service Serbia, Commission for Rescue in Vertical Conditions (MRSS) and the Cave Rescue Service of the Republic of Slovenia (CRSS).

The training was conducted from Saturday, 13th to Sunday 21rd September 2014 at the Training Centre for Mountain Rescue Service Serbia.

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, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey 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. These programs are running successful for five year. Participants from the region expressed interest to continue with this programme also in the future. The proposal is to organize the Cave Rescue Training in 2015 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Lecturers

The program was conducted under the management of Janez Melanšek (ACPDR). Lecturers and instructors were Aleš S. Stražar, Maks Merela, Marko Zakrajšek, Marko Erker, (Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia) Ana Bakšič, Danko Škalamera (Croatian Mountain Rescue Service) and Vladimir Rade, Miloš Kuraica, Milan Rabrenović, Boris Zorić Dane Medić (Mountain Rescue Service Serbia).

3. Participants

Course was attended by nineteen (19) participants from nine (9) 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. Aleksander	Marashi
2	ALBANIA	Mr. Edison	Suma
3	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Mr. Nermin	Grabovica

4	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Ms. Jelena	Simović
5	BULGARIA	Mr. Stanislav	Ivanov
6	BULGARIA	Mr. Ivo	Kolchakov
7	CROATIA	Ms. Đana	Petrović
8	CROATIA	Mr. Dražan	Tomić
9	CROATIA	Mr. Goran	Vrbatović
10	MACEDONIA	Mr. Aleksandar	Buleski
11	MACEDONIA	Ms. Aleksandra	Slavkoska
12	MONTENEGRO	Mr. Željko	Barac
13	MONTENEGRO	Ms. Milan	Erbez
14	SERBIA	Mr. Željko	Milošević
15	SERBIA	Mr. Nikola	Rabrenović
16	SERBIA	Mr. Aleksandar	Ravas
18	SLOVENIA	Mr. Matic	Boršnak
18	SLOVENIA	Mr. Damijan	Šinigoj
19	TURKEY	Mr. Onur	Gur

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.

ACPDRE expectations are to get each year more advanced participants, that the training would be an upgrade the national trainings participants have in their respective countries.

The participants from Albania (Firefighters department), Macedonia (Speleo diver) and Turkey (Sivil Savunma Arama Kurtarma Birlik Müdion) had too little prior knowledge of caving.

For participants from Albania, Turkey and some others the training was their first contact with the world of karst and cave rescue training.

Participants from Albania, professional fire-fighters were using caving rope techniques for the first time and have progressed according to their ability. A participant from Turkey was not in fit in a physical condition, which is one of the conditions for promotion and synergistic effect; he has also for the first time met with personal protective equipment and caving rope technique. We suggest that for future participants from that two countries, carried out a preliminary basic training from caving techniques. The reasons for this are mainly because these countries do not have a cave rescue service or similar organization to deal with cave rescuing.

It means that participants do not reach the base of knowledge, which we require in the tender. Lecturers and instructors need to put a lot more effort in training and more attention (they not able to independent movements of the caves, which are expected from cave rescuer).

All contents provided with a basic training program for cave rescue, were carried out in accordance with the training plan. Participants from Albania, Turkey, Macedonia implemented the final exercise in the cave that was not so demanding, which had a horizontal entry (adapted

their knowledge and skills). These four (4) participants have not passed all prescribed activities (rope technique - polygon) all required activities according to the Cave Rescue Service of the Speleological Association of Slovenia (CRS), however, appear to have achieved significant progress.

At the end of the training we have conducted a workshop for instructors in which they have had a practical test with different tasks (making a plan of rescue, use of rope techniques, logistical support, etc).

In this year's training, in addition to the cave rescue instructors from CRSS, participated also cave rescue instructors from Croatian Mountain Rescue Service and Mountain Rescue Service Serbia, which has proved to be excellent organization of work. We propose that also in the future we include in the organization of the cave rescue training cave rescue instructors from MRSS and HGSS.

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)	411,45		
Accommodation participants and Course Management	1.291,20		
Equipment	1.968,28		
Lecturers (reimbursements to employing organisations)	2.985,91		
Course management (extra hours)	2.981,25		
Office material	-		
TOTAL:	9.638,09		

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Secretary
Director General

Appendix:

- programme