

# CIVIL SOCIETY AND MINE ACTION: LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

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UDRUGA ZA PODRŠKU I POTICANJE  
ZAJEDNIŠTVA HRVATSKA POMAŽE



- Mine risk education represents one of the key components of mine action
  
  - **key factors:**
    - flexibility and rapid response
    - close engagement with local populations
    - ability to adapt to specific social and cultural circumstances
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# LOOKING BACK...

- since 2014
- focus on reducing mine-related casualties
- target groups identified based on actual needs and casualty data
- priority: social groups that had experienced the highest number of incidents



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# MAIN TARGET GROUPS



agricultural workers

returnee populations

tourist workers/  
guides



hunters and forestry workers

children



# INNOVATIVE APPROACH: VETERANS AS EDUCATORS

- technical knowledge of explosive hazards
  - high level of trust among civilians
  - strong credibility of safety messages
  - improved engagement of participants
- ▶ trust = effectiveness of risk education



# TRAINING OF TRAINERS MODEL: BUILDING EDUCATOR CAPACITY

- communication and presentation skills
- adapting messages to different audiences
- cooperation with veterans' associations
- community-based education approach



# CHILDREN AS EFFECTIVE MULTIPLIERS OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Influence on family behaviour
- Peer-to-peer communication
- Long-term behavioural change



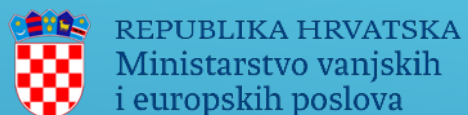
# PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAMMES WITH INTEGRATED MRE

- programs for children from war-affected areas
  - combination of recreation and education
  - intercultural learning environments
  - strengthening resilience
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- ▶ [https://youtu.be/\\_nsC2sumDsQ?si=Tizgw-pk5VNdrdOO](https://youtu.be/_nsC2sumDsQ?si=Tizgw-pk5VNdrdOO)



# FROM MINE-AFFECTED COUNTRY TO KNOWLEDGE PROVIDER: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- ▶ programmes for children from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Iraq, Ukraine
  - ▶ International development and humanitarian cooperation
  - ▶ Training and educations for experts
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THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT STRONG  
INSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

....AND OUR PARTNERS FROM UKRAINE DEMINERS  
ASSOCIATION

# LOOKING FORWARD...

- Croatia has valuable practical
- ▶ experience in mine action
- Shares knowledge and approaches
- ▶ for working with communities
- Croatia shares practical knowledge
- ▶ based on real experience
- Cooperation helps us build effective systems from the beginning



# SUPPORTING VETERANS

- Veterans need support to return to civilian life
- Focus on rehabilitation and reintegration
- Building sustainable support systems
- Learning from Croatian experience



# SUPPORTING CHILDREN

- Children are among the most vulnerable groups
- Many have lost parents or experienced trauma
- Need care, support, and long-term rehabilitation
- Giving them a chance for a better future



- ▶ Humanity knows no bounds!
- ▶ Together we can build a better future

THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION!

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