



**CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE
OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**

One step away from achieving the goal MINE-FREE CROATIA IN 2026

April, 2025

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HAZARDOUS AREAS (HA) IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

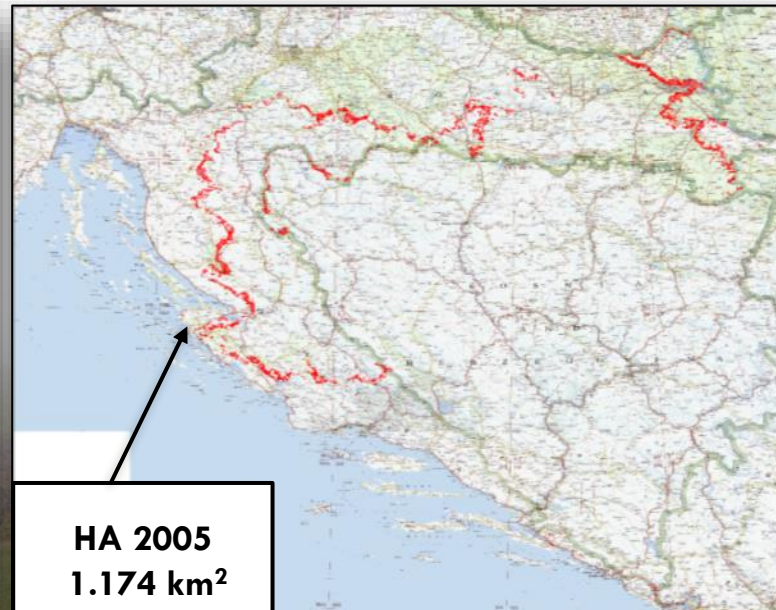
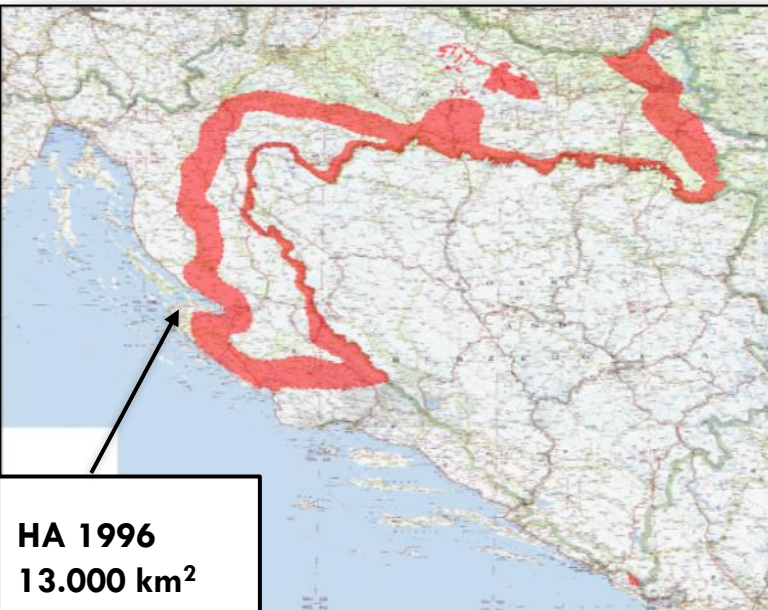
1996

2025

HA – UN estimation

HA - determined after systematic survey and marking of the entire territory of the Republic of Croatia

HA situation
April, 2025



ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 1998



14
COUNTIES

121 towns and
municipalities

HA in the regional or local
self-government unit areas

1998-2025

2
COUNTIES

14 towns and
municipalities

In total, **107 towns and municipalities** and **12 counties**
were released from the HA in the observed period.

The financial value of the clearance activities carried
out in the respective period is **1.107 bn. EUR**

Released by clearance 857,1 km²
Released by NTS/TS 957,0 km²
Total land released **1.814,1 km²**

Found and destroyed:
59.148 AP mines / 41.252 AT mines / 268.437 UXO-s

(abbreviation: AP-Anti-Personnel Mines, AT- anti-tank or vehicle mines, UXO- unexploded ordnance)

THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION (OTTAWA TREATY)



Entered into force on March 1, 1999 - Currently, **164 states*** have ratified or acceded to the treaty, and the Republic of Croatia ratified it on May 20, 1998.

*(*As of 18 March 2025, due to Russian aggression, Ministers of Defence of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland—unanimously recommend withdrawing from the Ottawa Convention)*

This treaty is **unique** concerning the fact it is the first explicitly humanitarian security Convention in the world.

In addition to the annual meetings of the States Parties, a Review Conference is held every five years, during which a **Declaration and Action Plan** for the next five-year period are adopted (the last one was held in Cambodia, in 2024).

The Republic of Croatia has been **extremely active** in the implementation of this Convention from the very beginning and has been internationally recognized as very successful and proactive in various aspects (*success in clearance of the state territory, introduction of new technologies in Mine Action, assistance to Mine Victims, Mine Risk Education, transparency, universalization, international assistance and cooperation, etc.*).

In 2018, the **2nd Request for an extension of the deadline for fulfilling Article 5** of the Ottawa Convention – land release of all known contaminated areas - **until March 2026** was **submitted** to the States Parties and **approved**.



CHALLENGES FROM THE 2ND REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE ARTICLE 5 OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION

HA in Croatia (January 1, 2019)

County	No. of towns/Municipalities with HA	CHA (km ²)	SHA (km ²)	Total HA areas (km ²)
Karlovačka	8	15	31,4	46,4
Ličko-senjska	9	94,5	32,1	126,6
Osječko-baranjska	12	18,1	19,5	37,6
Požeško-slavonska	2	18,6	0,5	19,1
Splitsko-dalmatinska	3	36,2	28,3	64,5
Sisačko-moslavačka	10	15,9	3,3	19,2
Šibensko-kninska	7	12,1	5,7	17,8
Zadarska	8	11	13,1	24,1
Total (responsibility of the CPD / MoI/CROMAC)	59	221,4	133,9	355,3
Total MoD responsibility	/	32	/	32
TOTAL CROATIA		253,4	213,4	387,3

CONTAMINATION
(2019)

Release all known Hazardous Areas (HA) by **1 March 2026** and therefore fulfill the obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, and originally in line with the aspirations of Member States under the Maputo and Oslo Declarations

Main commitments

The extension decision requested that the Republic of Croatia submits **updated work plans** to the Member States **every two years** (i.e. by 30 April 2020, 30 April 2022 and 30 April 2024) for the remaining period covered by the extension.

Transparently report on all other elements that were the subject of the Decision on granting the extension on an annual basis in accordance with **Article 7** of the Convention.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE 2ND REQUEST (2019 – 2025)



- 3 updated **National Work Plans** for the periods 2020-2022, 2022-2024, 2024-2026 were submitted within the deadline.
- **6 National Annual Reports** submitted within the deadline in accordance with the Article 7 of the Convention for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024



NATIONAL CAPACITIES
AND
RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION
CROATIA



Pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention - International Cooperation and Assistance

During the observed period, the Republic of Croatia participated in two research studies conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining on the topic of:

- **National capacities and residual contamination**
- **Difficult terrain in Mine Action**



- various forms of **financial and technical donations and professional assistance to Ukraine** for the needs of humanitarian Mine Action
- in October 2023, **the first International donor conference for humanitarian demining of Ukraine** was held in the Republic of Croatia
- donation of **8 mine detection** dogs to the **Republic of Azerbaijan**
- organization of **5 annual international symposiums** "Mine Action,,
- Through the activities of the **association "Croatia helps"**, the organization of winter and summer holidays in the Republic of Croatia for **more than 500 children** from the war zones of Ukraine, Syria, Armenia, etc.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE 2ND REQUEST



Demining and Socio-economic Integration



Švicarsko-hrvatski program suradnje

- In addition to **clearance** activities, this project established a **revised Mine Victim database**, implemented various supportive educations, retraining and psychosocial support workshops for direct and indirect mine victims
- a new **Brochure** was produced with **comprehensive information** on the rights and opportunities of direct and indirect mine victims,
- **financial resources were allocated** to victims with a purpose of socio-economic integration in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the establishment of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurship for 15 mine victims

IMPROVED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO DIRECT AND INDIRECT MINE VICTIMS

The Ministry of the Interior - Civil Protection Directorate, in cooperation with the other state administration bodies, local and regional self-government units and the civil sector, **continuously** carries out information campaigns and educational activities - in the past 5 years, over **780 educations** have been held, in which, more than **62,000 people** (mostly preschool and school age children) have participated.

CONTINUOUS AND TARGETED EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

REMAINING CHALLENGES IN THE PERIOD 2025-2026



- In 2025, it is planned to conduct survey and clearance operations in all remaining hazardous areas in the Republic of Croatia (**46.4 km²**) and to conduct clearance operations in areas contaminated exclusively with UXO in Karlovac County (**2.1 km²**)
- Informing and educating the population about the dangers of mines, UXOs and other Explosive Remnants of War
- Continuing the coordination of the activities of all stakeholders involved in mine victim assistance. (maintaining and updating the database)
- Cooperation with the international stakeholders in mine action and support towards the Countries in need

FULLY DEFINED FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK UNTIL 2026

From the Competitiveness and Cohesion Program, more than EUR 129 million have been secured so far (of which EUR 80 million are grants), while the rest are funds from the state budget and compensation funds for general Croatian forest functions

KEY MINE ACTION GOALS AFTER 2026

Continuation of activities in accordance with the remaining **5 fundamentals** of Mine Action and in accordance with the obligations of the **Ottawa Convention and other relevant international treaties**



- Operational activities related to **residual contamination risk after 2026** and **transparency** of national implementation measures,
- Keeping records of **stockpiled mines** and explosive ordnance and their use for testing and educational purposes,
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**, including database management and coordination in providing **assistance to Mine Victims** (*"mine free is not victim free"*)
- **Universalization** and operational **support to other States Parties** concerning contextual Treaties
- continuing the work in important international bodies (Review Board of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) in Geneva, Advisory Board of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Demining Centre and cooperation with other reputable international bodies and organizations
- Post-implementation reporting and ensuring an audit trail of implemented EU projects from the MFF 2021-2027 (until 2031)

Thank you for your attention

