De-contamination of war-affected territories

De-mine HUHR II, Hungarian-Croatian 2014-2020 Strategic Project

Mr Dejan Popovicz, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
Mr Dejan Rendulić, Ministry of Interior, Croatia

Slano, 2019.
HISTORY OF THE MINE PROBLEM AND PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ORIGIN OF THE MINE PROBLEM
• Mining of the border area in the period from 1991 to 1996 by the Yugoslavian Army (SHA in border zone in Osijek–Baranja County was approx. 80 km in length)
• 195 minefield records in total (more than 7,000 mines)
• Positioned from 5 m to 1,000 m towards inland from the border

DE-MINE HU-HR I.
• Hungary-Croatia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013
• Project partners:
  – Croatian Mine Action Centre – LB
  – Baranya County Police Headquarters – B1
• Total project value: 3,529,393,38 €
  (EU funds 2,999,984,36 €)
DE-MINE HU-HR I. – MAIN OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVES

- To create overall security environment in the Drava-Danube area thus increasing and enhancing development of more sustainable and naturally valuable environment in the cross-border area
- To remove the land mine threat from the border between Croatia and Hungary thus contributing to the development of the landscapes and its natural and rural surroundings
- Enhancing territorial cross border cooperation

PARTNER ACTIVITIES

CROMAC

- Demining operations of mine affected areas along the Hungary-Croatia border on Croatian side

BMRFK

- Surveying and marking of mine-suspected areas, Establishing of Mine Information Database (MID)
- Demining operations of mine affected areas along the Hungary-Croatia border on Hungarian side and environmental rehabilitation
DE-MINE HU-HR I. – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECT RESULTS

- Comprehensive mine survey conducted (79.68 km²)
- SHA data was added to database alongside with ortho-photo and topographic maps
- Mine free border section „D” - no direct mine danger at the HU and no minefields in the zone of the min. 50 meters from the border line on Croatian side. Total demined area along the border: 2,629,983 m² (1.63 km² HR + 0.99 km² HU)
- Altogether 152 mines and UXO’s have been found and destroyed
- 2,5 meters border strip on Hungarian side (where there are border stones) has been made clear and visible
- Accomplishment of environmental rehabilitation on 80 km border line including the territories of the Danube-Drava National Park
DE-MINE HU-HR I. – PUBLICITY ON EU LEVEL

JOINT EFFORTS OF PARTNERS AND PROGRAMME TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT (JTS)

- May 2014 - Brussels: ‘De-mine HU-HR I’ was presented as the best practice example project at the Annual Meeting of the EC and of the Managing Authorities, gaining huge publicity and positive feedback.

- The EC chose the ‘De-mine HU-HR’ project (the largest HU-HR co-operation in the 2007-2013 period) for promotion in an article in the winter 2014 edition (no. 48) of the Panorama magazine, published in February 2014.

- The article about the ‘De-mine HU-HR’ project found again its place in the 2015 Summer Edition (No. 53).

EXCELLENT PROJECT RESULTS AND MINE PROBLEM WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE EC

INTRODUCTION TO DE-MINE II
De-mine HUHR II,
Hungarian-Croatian 2014-2020 Strategic Project
PROJECT GENERAL INFORMATION

Project partners:
• Croatian Mine Action Centre – LB
• Baranya County Police Headquarters – B1
• Danube – Drava National Park – B2

Total project value: 3.529.393,70 €
(EU funds 2.999.984,74 €)

Project duration: 2 years (1.6.2016.–31.5.2018.)
PROJECT PURPOSE

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

• Creation of safe environment and setting of security pre-conditions for development of landscapes in Hungary-Croatia border area.

SPECIFIC GOALS

• Establishment of overall security environment in the Drava-Danube area aimed at sustainable development and nature protection in the cross-border area
• Removal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) from the territory along the Croatian-Hungarian border and renewal of border stones
• Raising awareness in the European Union regarding demining of nature protected areas
• Enhancement of territorial cross border cooperation.
MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

• Demining and Quality Control (LB),
• Renovation and supplementation of border stones (LB),
• Geodetic measurement of border stones (LB),
• Stabilization of permanent points of geodetic baseline and drafting new border documentation of the state border between the Republic of Croatia and Hungary (LB),
• General survey of the area contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and creation of UXO database (B1),
• Technical survey of the UXO-contaminated area and removal of ammunition with continuous quality assurance and quality control (B1),
• Environmental rehabilitation (B2).
PROJECT RESULTS (LB) – total budget: €2.104.919

• TOTAL AREA DEMINED: **1,53 km²**
  - 137 anti-personnel mines – PMA-1, PMR-2A, PMA-3
  - 103 anti-vehicle mines – TMM-1, TMA-3, TMA-5 and TMRP-6
  - 66 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO)

• Renovation and supplementation of border stones
  - renovation of 560 border stones with clearance of 70km borderline area in sector D (D1-D211 and D260-D417)

• Geodetic measurement of border stones (LB)
  - Reconstruction of the 275.6 km of borderline area from B1 to D1 and from D211 to D260 which resulted with the measurement of 2472 border stones
  - 5 permanent points of geodetic baseline were stabilized and measured
  - Geodetic measurement of 370 border stones on the part of sector D (D1-D211 and D260-D417) was realized and the draft of the new border documentation relating to the state border between the Republic of Croatia and Hungary was produced
PROJECT RESULTS (B1) – total budget: €1.254.480

- General survey of the area contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and creation of UXO database
  - produced information database for the definition of UXO-suspected areas based on which it was established that UXO should be removed on the territory of 1.1 km² out of the total project area of 3.4 km²

- Technical survey of the UXO-contaminated area and removal of ammunition with continuous Quality assurance and Quality control
  - suspected contaminated areas were inspected using the combination of soil radars, UXO detectors and metal detectors
  - one Hungarian 80 mm artillery projectile found, 3 pieces of 80 mm mortar shell (World War II), two bullets for automatic weapons, one Kalashnikov rifle frame, one bullet and one infantry rifle shell, one Soviet detonator and 1.431 kg of metal waste has been removed
  - independent Quality assurance and Quality control has been conducted
PROJECT RESULTS (B2) – total budget: €170.000

- **Environmental rehabilitation**
  - Danube and Drava part of project area that extends along the territory of 339,1 hectares belongs to the national park area and ecological network Natura 2000
  - Inspection of species and their natural habitats within the Natura 2000 protected areas
  - Involvement in the conduct of UXO removal operations on the worksites in order to ensure abidance of environmental protection regulations
  - New grassland was grown and 1,200 pieces of seedlings planted to rehabilitate the UXO removal areas the invasive vegetation species were put under control, and all purchased tools will enable the long-lasting sustainability of project results and nature protection
De-mine HU-HR I-II publicity on EU level

- **15-16 February 2017, Valencia**: De-contamination of war-affected territories (De-mine HU-HR II) was presented as the best practice example project at the Interreg Communication Network seminar, organised by Interact.
  
- Showcased at the panel *Interreg in Action*, sharing communication part of the project, including innovative and creative approach developed by the LB, to raise the awareness of the general audience on the problem of the landmines and importance of the Mine Action.
  
- Communication achievements were jointly presented (unique case) by the LB and the HU-HR JS.
De-mine HU-HR II COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

- Kick off Conference (LB) in Croatia and Closing Conference (B1) in Hungary
- European Cooperation Day event (children theatre play, sitting volleyball demonstration)
- 2 „On-site” press day events (LB, B1)
- 6 partner workshops organized (2-LB, 4-B1)
De-mine HU-HR II COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

• Joint participation on annual „Mine Action Symposiums” (2)
• Published article in „Zsaru” magazine, short camera shootings, permanent website issuances
• Permanent Billboards placed, distribution of promotional items
• 11th Symposium „Geodesy and others” Opatija, 2018 – Book of papers
Thank you!
A cross-border region where rivers connect, not divide