



Report from TIEMS 2015 Workshop in Split, Croatia



On 27 and 28 May 2015, the Faculty of Economics of the University in Split hosted a two-day international workshop entitled '**Oil & Gas Harvesting: Benefits, Threats and Challenges**'. The workshop was organized by The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS), the University in Split, the National Rescue and Protection Directorate (DUZS) and the Croatian Hydrocarbons Agency and has gathered more than twenty national and international lecturing scientists and experts.

TIEMS President, K. Harald Drager, opened the workshop, and the following lecturers held their presentations: Mirko Zelić (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts), prof. Igor Dekanić, DSc (Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering Zagreb), prof. Neven Šerić, DSc (Faculty of Economics, Split), Barbara Dorić (Croatian Hydrocarbons Agency), Dubravka Lulić-Krivić, DSc (Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Traffic and Infrastructure), Giedo Van pellicom (Belgium), Alen Grabner (Seadrill, Norway), Magne Ognedal (Petroleum Safety Authority, Norway), Marian Cirnat (European Maritime Safety Agency), Paul Foley (Oil Spill Response Ltd.), William Wolf (PMU EMRC), prof.dr.sc. prof. Marina Biti, Dsc (Faculty of Philosophy, Rijeka), Admiral Romano Grandi (SNS Italy), Darko Domović (Oil Spill Education Centre), Astrid Zekić (DLS, Rijeka), Martin Bilić (DUZS), Jelena Kurtović (RERA Split Dalmatia County), prof. Marko Perković, DSc (Maritime Faculty, Ljubljana), Mira Morović, DSc (Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries), Dijana Klarić (The Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service).

The workshop, which was open for the public, and the discussions following each of the workshop sessions have produced the following **conclusions**:

1. The University and experts should be actively involved in the government project on exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons with the aim to find best solutions for Croatia in compliance with its interests.
2. Regarding the regulatory framework, Croatia is following best European and global practices. However, there is a lack of trust in the state and in the capability of the system to timely respond to potential risks.
3. Croatian institutions, both at national and local level, are not prepared and do not dispose of all the means and equipment and human capacities needed to adhere to and monitor the adherence to the highest global standards guaranteeing the safety of the Adriatic, which is a prerequisite for the start of any activity.
4. The Republic of Croatia has positive experiences and incident-free tradition in exploring and exploiting hydrocarbons. In order to reduce the risk from incidents to a minimum, it is crucial to implement the latest global practices.
5. A successful realization of this project would ensure a significant economic benefit for Croatia accompanied by the development of various economic activities.
6. The project must not endanger environment, human lives or any other economic activity, and must above all develop in synergy with tourism which is a source of income for a great number of Croatian citizens.
7. Besides control and safety measures and equipment belonging to the oil companies, the state has to dispose of its own means and equipment in order to ensure the shortest response time in case of an incident.
8. Withdrawal from the project does not imply the safety of the Adriatic since Albania, Montenegro and Italy are also active in the exploration and exploitation of the hydrocarbons. For this reason, monitoring and adherence to the highest standards in the whole of the Adriatic is of vital importance for its safety.

9. The workshop has also resulted in the idea to set up a volunteer education programme that would provide training of volunteers to respond to and mitigate the consequences in case of worst scenario taking place.



Croatian Minister of Economy, Ivan Vrdoljak, Opened the Workshop



Former Director Magne Ognedal of Petroleum Safety Authority in Norway (left)



An engaged audience listening and debating