

5th TIEMS WORKSHOP "CROATIA 2008"

Zagreb, 28 & 29 October 2008

- CONCLUSIONS –

A two-day international TIEMS Workshop Croatia 2008 entitled "**Dealing with Disasters – any Improvements?**" was held in Zagreb, Panorama Hotel, on 28 and 29 October 2008. A number of international experts (from Norway, France, Slovenia, Check Republic, Belgium, Denmark, Portugal and Croatia) from various fields, scientists and institutions representatives engaged in rescue and protection actively participated in the Workshop through numerous presentations and discussions.

The Workshop was organized by the **Regional Centre for Assistance and Disaster Relief** and aimed at improving the emergency management system as well as the protection, search and rescue system in general, with a particular reference on the international cooperation and procedures coordination in this very field.

In accordance with the TIEMS goals, the improvement of emergency management techniques and rescue and protection techniques were given a special emphasis. Other important issues such as the application of the contemporary technologies in raising preparedness as well as those applied in all emergency management phases, consequences relief and recovery from major incidents and disasters were also discussed.

The majority of presentations and discussions focused on the issue of protection owing to the increased threat caused by the ever growing problems incurred by dangerous wastes, transportation of dangerous substances and by the new biological threats both to environment and people.

These are the reasons why the regular sanitary protection and first-aid treatment, particularly in case of major incidents and disasters, have become more complex. Special attention has to be drawn to the possibility of new epidemics outbreak and the spread of such infectious diseases and other kinds of biological perils for which effective methods of treatment or eradication have not been discovered yet, whilst the methods of fighting them are also often debatable (such as bird flu, various cattle diseases, infiltration of invasive species into marine or land environment etc).

As well as biological threats, chemical and radiological threats are also increasing due to industrial development and population density; war and possible terrorist threats shouldn't be neglected either.

In order to efficiently meet all the challenges imposed by the modern highly technologized way of life, intensive transportation of goods comprising toxic, inflammable or explosive substances, in a society where millions of people regularly change their residences and relate to masses of other individuals, with transportation means operating through different living environments and eco systems, a need for a close cooperation between politics and profession is of crucial importance, calling for a high level of awareness, information and education in policy making.

Furthermore, agency and service representatives, especially competent ministries and scientific institutions experts have to find out adequate methods of education of political structures and population in general as the regulations applied by the unaware are rarely fruitful.

Immensely important is the education of preschool and school age children, without which we can hardly talk about successful education of the population in general.

It is also necessary, apart from the above mentioned cooperation between politics and profession, to engage in networking between different agencies and services, private and public companies dealing with professional and operative spheres inside disaster management and major incidents, and being directly involved in protection, search and rescue activities or disaster relief and other activities aiming at recovery.

The networking and multidisciplinary cooperation should exist on both national and international level, whereas the cooperation between national institutions and regional and international organizations needs special priority. Such a cooperation is important for the coordination of planning procedures and immediate management as well as of operative procedures, which facilitates joint measures in transborder disasters, simpler assistance provision and reception both at home and among different countries.

Also requiring international and intercontinental assistance, solidarity and joint actions are problems such as pandemics of various human, animal and plant diseases, rough weather conditions devastating parts of continents, droughts etc.

Necessary for a successful realization of all the mentioned issues is a more intense involvement of scientific institutions and of competent national bodies for science. They should have a more prominent role within emergency management, especially in possible risks assessments and in identification of techniques and technologies to fight them. State directory bodies competent for science and education have a crucial role in population education, particularly children and the young and their formation into citizens who are aware and caring towards their own and other people's security and environment and who are capable and ready to give assistance to whoever is in need and at any time.

So, permanent education and training of staff, exchanging of knowledge and experience, networking, political and financial support of the government, those things can give a better results if we want to save lifes and property of the people.

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