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ENGLISH only



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS V I E N N A A-1030 VIENNA, RENNWEG 3 TEL: (+43 1) 535 0137; FAX: (+43 1) 535 0134; EMAIL: cromiss.vienna@mvep.hr

No: 19/2022

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE, and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honor to submit the annual reply of the Republic of Croatia to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration

Vienna, 9 June, 2022



То

All Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE, The Conflict Prevention Centre.

Vienna



OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

To be submitted no later than 31 May of each year (starting in May 2005)

Part I

1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?

Yes.

2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Attached.

3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?

N/A

4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?

The Republic of Croatia is a strong adversary of the Conventions that prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices and has, over the decades, taken corresponding legal, operational and all other related activities, while also promoting the Convention objectives in all communication and cooperation actions.

5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.

Eventual assistance in clearance will mostly be influenced by the remaining challenges and the current flow of planned financial means until the 2026 deadline.

6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives. More information regarding international cooperation and assistance can be seen in the attached report concerning the Amended Protocol II of the CCW for the 2021, Form E.



Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

YES.

8.(a) If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Attached.

(b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention?

N/A



- 2 -

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(c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Apart from legislatures that prescribe the implementation of the Mine Action related Conventions, the Republic of Croatia had over the years established and developed specific Mine Action laws such as Act on Humanitarian Mine Action back in 1998, or the recent version of the Act on Mine Action and Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018), Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018) which entered into force on January 1, 2019.

9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?

The Republic of Croatia has a comprehensively developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in comprehending their legitimate rights and status. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration with professional and economic rehabilitation. All of this is systematically defined as a part of several legislatures so we can conclude that the integration of the Ottawa Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities is and was in line with the Action 1 of the corresponding Oslo Action Plan. Apart from this, the Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. After significant demining results, one of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities. Further project activities continued in 2021 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings that will continue in 2022. In thematic been addition. a brochure has published (https://civilnazastita.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/CIVILNA%20ZA%C5%A0TITA/PDF ZA%20WE B/20220105 MUP brosura small.pdf), which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. Theproject activities will continue in 2022 and 2023, also enabling small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed to increase their economic welfare.



As mentioned, the Republic of Croatia has a highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a wardisabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This means the Law will provide the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.

Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia has been defined by well-established priorities and sustainable development throughout the three major components: Economic growth, Environmental stewardship and Social inclusion. After the Homeland War, Republic of Croatia had prioritized the clearance of the areas that are crucial for the safety and economic growth / development of the war affected Counties, establishing preconditions for any economic activity whatsoever. After this had been finalized, priorities have turned towards the agricultural production and environmental protection. If we look at the Hazardous area land structure at the end of 2021, it can be seen that 1.11% of the HA were categorized as agricultural areas, 98.7 % as forest areas and the remaining 0.19% as the other areas (swamp, rocky etc. soils). This means prioritization has changed towards the remaining challenges, so mine action activities and clearance projects have been incorporated in the last decade into various larger and sustainable society efforts. Example of these actions are especially highlighted within the clearance projects that are financed from the EU Cross border cooperation or Cohesion fund, targeting nature protected parks or Nature 2000 areas. Such projects, such as "Naturavita", "Fearless Velebit" and "Karlovac Karst" have been and are performed within the highest possible EU and National nature protection regulations, e.g. defining the strict time frames when the clearance activities and certain methods are allowed to be performed, so the various species and habitats are not to be aggravated in any means whatsoever. Sustainable development and environmental stewardship are one of the core purposes of these projects and the remaining five year challenge focuses on the protection of forests, incorporating preservation, rehabilitation and development in the ecological and economic sense as well. With regards to mentioned, the eventual assistance in clearance will mostly be influenced by the remaining challenges and the current flow of planned financial means.



11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives. More information regarding international cooperation and assistance can be seen in the attached report concerning the Amended Protocol II of the CCW for the 2021, Form E.



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OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-personnel Mines no later than 31 May each year.

1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

The Republic of Croatia has ratified the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) back in 2004 and has provided continuous transparency reports which are all available at: https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-protocol-v-on-explosive-remnants-of-war/national-reporting-and-database/ccw-protocol-v-database/

2. If yes, at what stage is the process?

Among the obligations that are defined within the Convention Protocol V, the main challenge that remains is connected with the Article 3 – clearance, destruction and removal of the ERW, but this process is expected to be finalized until the 2026.

3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

The Republic of Croatia has a highly developed mine action system which incorporates all of the mine action pillars. This has led towards the ending phase of the Ottawa Convention obligations with a deadline in 2026, while the cluster munition remnants clearance was successfully completed in line with the Cluster Munition Convention schedule in 2020. In addition, stockpile destruction was finalized several years ago, while mine victim assistance has continuously proven its success in the scope of reduction and elimination of new mine accidents and victims..

4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives. More information regarding international cooperation and assistance can be seen in the attached report concerning the Amended Protocol II of the CCW for the 2021, Form E.



IZRADIO: Dejan Rendulić

KONTROLIRAO: Nikša Bogdanić _____

PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2022

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR Civil Protection Directorate Sector CROMAC E-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr

> MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Defence Policy Directorate Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security Arms Control Department E-mail: <u>mario.crnkoci@morh.hr</u>

This	This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:							
\boxtimes	YES							
	NO							
	Partia	ally, only th	e following	forms:				
А		В	С	D 🗌	Е	F 🗌	G 🗌	

Summary sheet

(Pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the State Parties to the CCW Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of the Final Report, CCW/AP.II CONF.5/2)

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2021 dd/mm/yyyy	to: <u>31/12/2021</u> dd/mm/yyyy
Form A: Dissemination of information:	☐ changed ⊠ unchanged (last reporting year: (2011)
Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:	 ☐ changed ☐ unchanged (last reporting year: (2020)
Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information:	☐ changed ⊠ unchanged (last reporting year: (2009)
Form D: Legislation:	☐ changed ⊠ unchanged (last reporting year:(2019)
Form E: International technical information exchange, co- operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance:	 ☐ changed ☐ unchanged (last reporting year: (2020)
Form F: Other relevant matters:	☐ changed ⊠ unchanged (last reporting year: (2009)
Form G: Information to the UN-database on mine clearance:	 ☐ changed ☐ unchanged (last reporting year: (2020)

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13, paragraph 4 (a) "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2021 to: dd/mm/yyyy

31/12/2021

dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

Since the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols, the Ministry of Defence has taken necessary steps in order to provide adequate and current information regarding the content and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Steps are also being taken to insure components responsible for the implementation acquire the specific level of expert matter knowledge according to their roles in the implementation process. Having in mind the need to insure awareness and good understanding in the Armed forces of the obligations and implications stemming from the CCW (and other international agreements and conventions in the arms control domain), importance has been placed on inclusion of these contents into the military education and training curricula. In that regard, special attention has also been given to education and training for international operations and missions (NATO, EU, UN) as well as other international deployments. The Engineering Regiment, the unit responsible for demining activities within CAF, conducts regular training and education for demining tasks and other activities in the field of mines and other explosive ordnance, which are under the provisions of CCW.

In addition, each member of the Armed Forces acquires a basic knowledge of IHL/LOAC during regular education and training activities provided at the various stages of Croatian military service.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

Dissemination of information about the CCW and its protocols to civilian population is performed through Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities. Croatian Ministries, Offices of the Government and State Administrative Offices as well as NGOs and international organizations, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols.

Croatian Red Cross with its local branches (in local communities), Civil Protection Directorate (Croatian Mine Action Centre-CROMAC and National educational centre for civil protection) of the Ministry of the Interior and the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War are active in events and lectures where MRE messages are given. These lectures always bear in mind that mine risk education is effective in terms of reducing the number of mine casualties. Interesting presentations (lectures) on mine/UXO risk education were organised for children, adults, and for specific target groups (hunters, farmers, firemen, mountaineers, fishermen, public companies employees etc.).

Promotion to the public and the media is an especially important way to directly spread safety messages about the dangers of ERW, which seeks to inform as many citizens at the local and national level. Creating and distributing posters, flyers, brochures, etc. and publishing news stories in print and electronic media (radio and TV spots) reaches a significantly larger number of citizens, and further points to the still present danger of landmines in Croatia.

The Croatian Police Department is continuing its "Less arms, less tragedies" program in partnership with UNDP and Croatian Mine Action Centre. The citizens are being educated and encouraged to turn in their weapons and ordinance left from the Homeland War. The Croatian Police Department also reacts on basis of citizen's telephone calls and finds large quantities of weapons within their investigations of various criminal activities. Realizing the scope of the problem in Croatia, the Police Department is continuing this program in the future.

Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13, paragraph 4 (b) "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2021 to: 31/12/2021 dd/mm/yyyy dd/mm/yyyy

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

The Republic of Croatia confirmed its determination to solve the mine problem by passing the Law on Humanitarian Demining in 1996, establishing the Croatian Mine Action Centre in 1998, fulfilling the commitments undertaken by joining the Ottawa Convention as well as providing for permanent and stable sources of financing from the State Budget, the World Bank loans, EU funds and Croatian public companies.

In 2012, the Office for Mine Action was established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia ("Official Gazette", 21/12) as a governmental body for technical, analytical, advisory, co-ordinating and other activities related to mine action in Croatia. As such, it will also closely follow the activities and work with CROMAC. One of the main goals of the Office is to raise the awareness of population about the danger of mines, as well as to create conditions for effective development of mine action in Croatia.

As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Government Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior. The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate – under the Ministry of the Interior.

Civil Protection Directorate (Croatian Mine Action Centre) created the Mine Action 2021 Plan with the consent of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, Ministry of agriculture and all mine contaminated Counties in the Republic of Croatia.

Through 80 conceptual clearance projects, ERW threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 34.1 km^2 while additional 11.7 km^2 was excluded through Technical, Supplementary Non-technical and Non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted with the total decrease of the hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of 45.8 km^2 (+ 643.764 m^2 land released by the MoD). Hazardous

area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2021 totalled 204,4 km².(excluding the MoD areas of additional 29,5 km²)

The Annual Mine Action Plan was realized using the following funding sources - State Budget funds and EU funds. It is important to mention that, like in the previous reporting year, in 2021, funds acquired for the demining operations from the EU contribution were significant. In 2020 the state budget had the biggest financing share with 69,8 % of the realized funds while EU funds contributed with 30,2%. Parallel with the implementation of the clearance and survey activities, the management and maintenance of the marking system and, if necessary, additional marking of suspected hazardous areas was conducted in order to create a clear boundary between safe and suspected hazardous areas. The locations of mine danger signs are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested maps on HA situation as well as available as an online web service for the interested parties or general public. On December 31, 2021 the total hazardous area was marked with 8.022 mine warning signs, which means almost over 39 mine warning signs per square kilometre of HA.

Certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas, radar stations and storage sites are still partially contaminated by ERW. The MoD Pioneer battalion of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. During 2021 an area of 643.764 m² under the authority of the MoD (military areas) was searched with 375.961 m² cleared which resulted with 18 AP mines found and destroyed and 1.328 pieces of UXOs eliminated as well. AT landmines were not discovered during the process.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2021, as a part of their regular activities, counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign "Less arms, less tragedies" (where the citizens are being educated as a part of MRE activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 230 AP and 31 AV landmines with different 5.198 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (416 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm - 587.524 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

Mine/UXO risk education

Different Mine risk education activities, marking of Mine suspected area, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using <u>CROMAC web portal</u> had a positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition to usual MRE methods CROMAC with its partners developed the Minefields.info application for Android and iOS smart phones, to further tackle and increase the availability of mine warning information towards the general public. The applications main purpose is to warn the user of a life-threatening danger caused by entering or approaching the vicinity of HA. It works on a basis of distance and GPS tracking so if user gets closer to a suspected hazardous area the application will alert him immediately. The application also has "Call for Help" option and to report and take a photo of unknown potential ERW, along with a database of known ERW in the corresponding country, which further provides MRE available through smartphones.

In 2021, in accordance with the Covid-19 measures, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational centre of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2021, a total of 89 mine risk educations were held in 5 Counties and 21 cities and municipalities. The EORE activities covered a total of about 4,165 people, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings

were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations.

Central ceremony for the April 4, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was not held in the usual capacity due to Covid-19 measures which limited the promotion and awareness campaigns to media and web channels.

All actions and activities in Mine Action in Croatia and worldwide were presented on web pages of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia.

Unfortunately, even with widely organized MRE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2021 there were 2 accounted mine accidents, with only one of them recording victims. Mentioned EO incident occurred in the Karlovac County, when seven illegal migrants were injured after activating PROM-1 bounding fragmentation AP mine in the marked hazardous area, resulting with one fatality, two heavy injuries and four light injuries. The lightly injured persons received the emergency health assistance, while the heavy injured persons had to be urgently transferred to Ogulin General Hospital where they underwent surgery and received further medical assistance.

Providing assistance to mine victims

The Republic of Croatia has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. All persons being involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. These rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations. Relevant state administration authorities were involved in solving the problems of mine victims relating to medical rehabilitation.

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. One of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities. Further project activities continued in 2021 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counselling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings that will continue in 2022. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published, which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. The project activities will continue in 2022 and 2023, also enabling small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed to increase their economic welfare.

The Republic of Croatia has highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and

professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This means the Law will provide the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

County institutes for emergency health care are available in all 21 counties which in turn provide even level of assistance in case of urgency. The time of response of emergency health teams (ambulances) in case of urgency (such as mine incident) has been improved and is now up to 10 min in urban areas and up to 20 min in rural areas (in 80% of situations). In cases of severe injuries or difficult medical conditions of any kind that require urgent transport of patient to a more equipped medical facility, helicopters of the Croatian Armed Forces are available and usually deployed. This in turn dramatically increases the level of survivability in such cases. Psychosocial interdisciplinary centres are available in all 21 counties with four being regional centres for psychological services that provide psychotherapeutic services, with the main centre in the capital of Zagreb. Finally, House of Croatian Veterans is accommodation / rehabilitation institution that can permanently or temporarily reside Homeland War veterans, returnees from the peacekeeping missions, injured deminers and members of their families, civilian war victims, as well as other persons in need (including mine/UXO victims and survivors), depending on their health status and socio-economic situation (for the time being, one centre is operational and running with others in plan to opened).

Form E International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Depos (e) mo intern	sitary [] on []: easures taken on international	es shall provide annual reports to the tional technical information exchange, on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation				
Remark:						
High Contracting Party:	THE REPUBLIC OF CRO	DATIA	_			
Reporting for time period from:	01/01/2021	to:	<u>31/12/2021</u>			

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

dd/mm/vvvv

Among other things, the representatives of the Civil Protection Directorate officials participated at the events regarding the:

dd/mm/vvvv

- Participation in the Study conducted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) regarding the clearance of difficult and challenging terrain
- Participation in the 2nd part of the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)
- Participation in the 19th meeting of the Ottawa Convention member states
- Participation in a bilateral work group of Ukrainian Croatian experts on the topic of Croatian experience of peaceful reintegration of the temporarily occupied territories and support for war veterans. Strategic mine action planning in the Republic of Croatia was presented at the meeting, as well as the provision of practical assistance in the implementation of Mine Action measures.
- Participation at the 17th International Symposium MINE ACTION 2021 that took place from June • 16th to 18th, 2021 in Croatia, organized by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior and Croatian Mine Action Centre - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE Project Co-Ordinator in Ukraine)

In addition, Civil Protection Directorate officials have continuously during 2021 provided thorough support and transparent information towards the international partners and organizations regarding the APMBC, CCM and CCW Conventions as well as Landmine Monitor, OSCE, Mine Action review (NPA), EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

n/a

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC (CROMAC-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, CROMAC-CTRO took over the activities and projects focused on testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technologies.

Non-Technical Survey Training Course (EECCA RCP NTS) was held in Karlovac, Croatia, from 8th to 19th November 2021, organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) within the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme. The NTS Training was held in cooperation with the CROMAC-CTRO along with the support from OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. Under the EECCA RCP framework, mentioned Course gathered 14 participants from 5 countries, representing National Mine Action authorities and other relevant stakeholders in the region, which had an opportunity to share knowledge and experience on land release activities, especially in determining efficient resource allocation during the land release process.

Representatives of CROMAC-CTRO participated at the NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2021 held in Bratislava between 13th and 14th October. The leading theme of this event was "Technological innovations influencing future EOD and related capabilities" where CROMAC-CTRO was invited to present activities and possibilities for the cooperation in the field of testing new technologies in the Mine Action.

Representatives of CROMAC-CTRO were in an official visit to Ukraine in the period from September 30 – October 3, 2021. The main goal of the visit to Interregional Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Rapid Response of the SES of Ukraine was to exchange experiences in the field of Mine Action while presenting the experiences of the Republic of Croatia in the field of certification and testing of demining machines, personnel protective equipment and dogs used in humanitarian demining operations. In addition, as Ukraine is working very intensively on the establishment and implementation of projects related to Mine risk education, Croatian NGO "Croatia Helps" and the Ukrainian Association "Association Saperiv of Ukraine" have launched the joint project called "Safe Movement – Mine Education for Children and Youth, Croatia and Ukraine".

CROMAC-CTRO has participated in a NATO Science for Peace and Security Project G5355 "Biological methods (bees) for explosive detection", where it had a managing role. It was a three-year project (extended for 11 months due to COVID-19 pandemic), implemented from 2017 to 2021 which aims to develop innovative methods and technologies for detection of landmines through advancement and integration of current state-of-the-art techniques, namely, trained bee colonies, in conjunction with organic semiconductor-based explosive vapour sensing films, UAVs with high-definition and thermal imaging cameras and image processing and analysis software. The combination of these two methods enables passive sampling of an area to confirm the presence of explosive materials, but also active pinpointing of landmine locations. In 2021, the final field trial of the passive method of the project was conducted at the Benkovac Test Site from 30th August to 3rd September. The Project was presented in Bratislava at the NATO COED Demonstrations and trials in October and the final project report submitted later that month and accepted by the NATO.

17th International Symposium MINE ACTION 2021 took place from June 16th to 18th, 2021 in Croatia, organized by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior and CROMAC-CTRO ltd. in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE Project Co-Ordinator in Ukraine) gathering participants and experts in Mine Action from 18 countries. 17th International Symposium MINE ACTION 2021 main topics were focused on Mine Action system models and Quality management in Mine Action, modern technologies in Mine Action, Mine Action funding possibilities and Mine Action impact on development, economic, energy, transportation and infrastructure.

Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
 "2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance."

Remark:

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2021 dd/mm/yyyy 31/12/2021

to:

dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

Mine clearance capacities included a complete equipment of 44 commercial demining companies that are authorized by Croatian Ministry of the Interior to perform mine clearance activities.

All the employees that work in mine clearance are wearing protective equipment that consists of flak jacket with protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. In the Republic of Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine-detection dogs (MDD).

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Government Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior. The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate – under the Ministry of the Interior.

CROMAC-CTRO LLC continued in 2021 to conduct testing and certification of mine detection and mine clearance equipment; MDDs, research and development of new mine detection and mine clearance methods and technology; and providing expert education and training in the field of mine action.

Throughout the 2021 there were 43 commercial demining companies that were authorized by the Ministry of the Interior and competed throughout the public tenders for mine clearance projects:

- 1. ACTA DEM ltd. Nuštar
- 2. ARES RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Radovanci
- 3. ALFA RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Zagreb,
- 4. Avatar razminiranje ltd. Osijek
- 5. BIOS-F ltd. Lekenik
- 6. Capsula Interna ltd. Dubrovnik
- 7. COR ltd. Požega
- 8. CREDO ltd. Požega

9. DETEKTOR ltd. Čakovec 10. DETONATOR ltd. Gornja Vrba 11. DIZ EKO ltd. Zagreb 12. Dok-ing ltd. Zagreb 13. Dok-ing razminiranje ltd. Zagreb 14. EXPLORATOR ltd. Zagreb 15. FAS ltd. Karlovac 16. FAS-Pro ltd. Karlovac 17. FOSSIO ltd. Požega 18. HARPIJA ltd. Varaždin 19. HEKSOGEN ltd. Dubrovnik 20. ISTRAŽIVAČ ltd. Nuštar 21. ISTRAŽIVAČ BENZ ltd. Nuštar 22. I.T.R. ltd. Gospić 23. KRIPTON ltd. Lepoglava 24. LOCO ltd. Sl. Brod 25. MAGNUS ltd. Bjelovar 26. MANANG ltd. Dubrovnik 27. MAPER ltd. Bjelo 28. MINA PLUS ltd. Velika Mlaka 29. MINE-EX ltd. Demining Company, Nova Gradiška 30. MKA DEMING ltd. Čakovec 31. ORKAN ltd. Ljubešćica 32. PIPER ltd. Požega 33. PIPER RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Zagreb 34. PITON ltd. Čakovec 35. RUMITAL ltd. Zagreb 36. Taurus razminiranje ltd. Karlovac 37. TETRAZEN ltd. Ozalj 38. TITAN ltd. Požega 39. TNT 7 ltd. Petrinja 40. Tornado razminiranje ltd. Lepoglava 41. ZELENI KVADRAT ltd. Lukarišće

42. ZIGO ltd. Lukarišće

43. ZONA RAZMINIRANJA ltd. Slavonski Brod

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE CROMAC sector Mr. Nikša Bogdanić, head of Sector, e-mail:<u>hcr@civilna-zastita.hr</u>

Other points of contact:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - Defence Policy Directorate Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security - Arms Control Section Phone: +385 1 3784 169, Fax: +385 1 3784 383, e-mail: <u>mario.crnkoci@morh.hr</u>

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CROMAC-CTRO) LLC Ms. Katarina Markt, director, e-mail: <u>katarina.markt@ctro.hr</u>

Ministry of the Interior – Civil Protection Directorate Web site: <u>https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/</u> CROMAC Mine information System portal: <u>http://www.misportal.hcr.hr/</u> CROMAC - CTRO Web site: <u>www.ctro.hr</u>

NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

REPORTING PERIOD: 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021 (dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

Form	A: National implementation measures:	Form F: Program of APM destruction:
X	changed	changed
	unchanged (last reporting: 2020)	x unchanged (last reporting: 2009)
		non applicable
Form	B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:	Form G: APM destroyed:
	changed	x changed
Х	unchanged (last reporting: 2003)	unchanged (last reporting: 2020)
	non applicable	non applicable
Form	C: Location of mined areas:	Form H: Technical characteristics:
X	changed (last reporting: 2020)	changed
	unchanged	x unchanged (last reporting: 2009)
	non applicable	non applicable
Form	D: APMs retained or transferred:	Form I: Warning measures:
X	changed (last reporting: 2020)	x changed (last reporting: 2020)
	unchanged	unchanged
	non applicable	non applicable
Form	E: Status of conversion programs:	Form J: Other Relevant Matters
	changed	x changed (last reporting: 2020)
Х	unchanged (last reporting: 2009)	unchanged
	non applicable	non applicable

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

Reporting Formats for Article 7¹

STATE PARTY:	THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA			
DATE OF SUBMISSION	30 April 2022			
POINT OF CONTACT	MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR Civil Protection Directorate Croatian Mine Action Centre - sector E-mail: <u>hcr@civilna-zastita.hr</u>			
	MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			

Defence Policy Directorate Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security Arms Control Department E-mail: <u>mario.crnkoci@morh.hr</u>

(Organization, telephones, fax, email) (ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION)

¹ These reporting formats <u>informally provided by Austria</u> on disk are based on document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.4 of 31 March 1999, as amended and decided upon by the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held in Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999. Tables of formats may be expanded as desired.

Form A National implementation measures

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9"

Remark: In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on the territory under its jurisdiction or control".

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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Measures	Supplementary information
On October 1, 2004 Croatian Parliament passed a Law on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.	Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction ("OG",
On October 6, 2004 Croatian President signed a DECISION on the proclamation of the Law on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.	141/04)
Having recognized that mine/CM/UXO contamination is a problem of domestic security, economic development and environmental pollution, the current Croatian Government decided to strengthen the existing system of mine action by creating its own Office for Mine Action as a focal point in 2012. Office for Mine Action was established as a governmental body in charge of expert, analytical, counseling, and coordinative and other activities regarding the mine action in the Republic of Croatia. As such, the Office also monitors the work, activities and operations of the Croatian Mine Action Center.	21/12)

Together with the participation in intergovernmental cooperation in the field of mine action, the Office also cooperates with different authorities in implementation of obligations under international treaties and conventions on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain types of conventional weapons that have unacceptable humanitarian impact, such as landmines, cluster munitions and other.	
The Act on Mine Action has been declared on 21 October 2015 and incorporates: Governing the wider scope of activities (ERW victims assistance, information and education about the dangers of mines, UXO and their parts, socio-economic integration of the demined areas), introduction of a new procedure – Supplementary general survey, enabled exclusion of SHAs which have undergone technical survey, SOPs have been removed, CROMAC no longer performs the assessment activities of authorized legal entities for conducting demining operations and other changes in QA/QC procedures, accreditation of legal entities and misdemeanor law regulations.	21 October 2015
In 2016, pursuant to the new Law on Mine Action, which entered into force Oct. 21, 2015, on 21 May 2016, "Regulations on how demining, quality control, non-technical and technical surveys and marking of suspected hazardous areas" have entered into force, and on 29 June 2016, "Regulations on personal supervisory booklet and ID card of mine action employees and record forms" have entered into force.	

As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Governmen Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior.	g Action (OG No. 118/2018), Act on amendment to the Act on the Government t (OG No. 116/2018) entered into force on 1
The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act or Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act or amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate - under the Ministry of the Interior.	
In July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EC left over after the end of war operations.	War (OG No. 84/21) https://www.zakon.hr/z/2851/Zakon-o- civilnim-stradalnicima-iz-Domovinskog-rata

Form B Stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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Туре		Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		-		

The Republic of Croatia destroyed its entire stockpile of anti-personnel landmines according to Article 4 of the Convention (with the exception of a small quantity retained under Article 3 of the Convention). The last amount of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was destroyed at the Military Exercise Area "Crvena zemlja" near Knin on October 23, 2002 and was observed by a number of international observers. More detailed explanation is contained in Form "F".

Form C Location of mined areas

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, antipersonnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much details as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

	ate The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time Period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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1. Achievements of the Mine action in 2021

Achievements of the Mine action in 2021:

- Land released: 45.8 km²
 - By clearance: **34.1** km² (80 demining projects, 94% realized completely)
 - By survey: **11.7 km**²
 - ERW found and destroyed by Mine Action authorities (Civil Protection Directorate; CROMAC sector):

1.214 AP mines, 48 AT mines, 810 UXOs

In addition, an area of 643.764 m² under the authority of the Ministry of Defense (military areas) was searched with 375.961 m² cleared resulting with 18 AP mines that were found and destroyed and 1.328 pieces of UXOs eliminated as well. AV landmines were not discovered during the process.

As of 1 August 2020 the Republic of Croatia is declared free of all known CMR contaminated areas.

Areas returned to the community for civilian use:

The size of areas returned to the community for civilian use during 2021	45.839.344 km ²
Mine clearance was conducted by:	
- Commercial demining companies	34.107.289 km ²
- Survey reduction conducted by CROMAC (NTS, TS, sNTS)	11.732.055 km ²
TOTAL:	45.839.344 km ²

As of December 31, 2021, the areas that were included into HA by the Civil Protection Directorate, sector of CROMAC non-technical survey activities reached 770.121 m² (0.8 km²).

During clearance operations, within the reporting time period, the following devices were found and destroyed:

Anti-perso	onnel mines	Anti-vehi	icle mines	Unexploded lethal ordnan		TOTAL
Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC (+ EOD Mol)	Ministry of Defense (MoD)	Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC (+ EOD Mol)	MoD	Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC (+ EOD Mol)	MoD	EOD Mol/CPD and MoD
1.214 (+230)	18	48 (+31)	0	810 (+5.198)	1.328	1.541 mines / 7.336 UXO

The Annual Mine Action Plan was realized using the following funding sources - State Budget funds and EU funds. It is important to mention that, like in the previous reporting year, in 2021, funds acquired for the demining operations from the EU contribution were significant. In 2021 the state budget had the biggest financing share with 69.8 % of the realized funds while EU funds contributed with 30.2%. Parallel with the implementation of the non-technical and technical survey activities and clearance operations, the control of marking and, if necessary, additional marking of hazardous areas was conducted in order to create a clear boundary between safe and hazardous areas. The locations of mine danger signs are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is available to public via online platform and shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration units and individuals that have requested maps on the HA situation. On December 31, 2021 the total hazardous area of the Republic of Croatia was marked with **8.022 mine warning signs**, which means almost over 39 mine warning signs per square kilometer of HA.

Certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas, radar stations and storage sites are still partially contaminated by land mines and other UXO. The MoD Pioneer Company of the Engineering regiment is responsible for the clearance of all military facilities. During 2021 an area of **643.764 m**² under the authority of the MoD (military areas) was searched while clearing 375.961 m² which resulted with **18 AP** mines found and destroyed and **1.328 pieces of UXOs** eliminated as well. AV landmines were not discovered during the process.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2021, as a part of their regular activities, counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign "Less arms, less tragedies" (where the citizens are being educated as a part of EORE activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 230 AP and 31 AV landmines with different 5.198 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (416 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm - 587.524 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

2. Areas suspected to contain mines

Location	Туре	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA Total hazardous area at the end of 2021 was 204,4* km ² out of which:	Anti-personnel mines	13.856	records in CRON	ing to number of minefield /IAC database and annual nining report
136,8 km ² of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) 67.6 km ² of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs)	Anti-vehicle mines	921	Estimate according to number of minefield records in CROMAC database and annual demining report	

*Excluding the MoD areas with the additional 29.5 km² of HA recorded

Hazardous areas in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2021 remained on 37 Municipalities/ 7 Counties and amount to 204.4 km² (136.8 km² CHA, 67.6 km² SHA), excluding the MoD areas of an additional 29.5 km² of HA. Approximate number of AP/AT mines emplaced (Estimate according to number of minefield records in CPD/CROMAC sector database and Annual demining

report) on Dec 31, 2021 reaches 14.777 mines (13.856 AP mines and 921 AT mines), excluding the areas under the MoD jurisdiction.

3. Remaining challenges

Remaining challenges displayed by County and Municipality level for the SHA/CHA

COUNTY	No.	Total number of Municipalities/Towns known or suspected to contain anti- personnel mines	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti- personnel mines (square meters)	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines(square meters)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square meters)
Karlovac County	1	Cetingrad	1.051.775	1.051.775	0
	2	Josipdol	9.940.434	7.333.095	2.607.339
	3	Plaški	23.014.841	10.630.152	12.384.689
	4	Rakovica	548.042	0	548.042
	5	Saborsko	992.138	168.183	823.955
	6	Tounj	2.591.694	2.591.694	0
Lika-Senj County	7	Brinje	688.158	399.877	288.281
	8	Donji Lapac	15.015.775	8.415.855	6.599.920
	9	GOSPIĆ	32.186.879	22.276.556	9.910.323
	10	Lovinac	385.232	385.232	0
	11	OTOČAC	21.060.187	16.340.356	4.719.831
	12	Perušić	1.547.678	686.665	861.013
	13	Plitvička Jezera	3.830.284	3.830.284	0
	14	Udbina	1.592.121	460.804	1.131.317
	15	Vrhovine	10.407.700	10.407.700	0

Osijek-Baranja County	16	Bilje	9.069.312	9.031.666	37.646
	17	Darda	223.420	102.348	121.072
	18	Jagodnjak	371.638	0	371.638
	19	Petlovac	1.390.362	491243	899.119
	20	Šodolovci	7.419	1.476	5.943
	21	VALPOVO	41.152	41.152	0
Požega-Slavonija County	22	PAKRAC	6.288.848	4.432.452	1856396
Split-Dalmacija County	23	Hrvace	8.592.346	8.586.686	5.660
	24	VRLIKA	9.496.177	6.153.608	3.342.569
Sisak-Moslavina County	25	Dvor	15.372.081	5.983.109	9.388.972
	26	GLINA	1.906.304	1.089.567	816.737
	27	Gvozd	35.762	35.762	0
	28	Hrvatska Dubica	733.583	359.782	373801
	29	Jasenovac	252.417	252.417	0
	30	NOVSKA	3.817.361	1.690.925	2126436
	31	PETRINJA	5.905.561	3.968.254	1.937.307
	32	SISAK	4.422.376	872.435	3.549.941
	33	Sunja	2.322.655	2.106.289	216.366
	34	Topusko	38.506	38.506	0
Šibenik-Knin County	35	DRNIŠ	4.205.723	2.942.071	1263652
	36	Ružić	3.617.273	3.296.949	320.324
	37	SKRADIN	1.422.448	330.579	1.091.869
TOTAL			204.385.662	136.785.504	67.600.158

Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia has been defined by well-established priorities and sustainable development throughout the three major components: Economic growth, Environmental stewardship and Social inclusion. After the Homeland War, Republic of Croatia had prioritized the clearance of the areas that are crucial for the safety and economic growth / development of the war affected Counties, establishing preconditions for any economic activity whatsoever. After this had been finalized, priorities have turned towards the agricultural production and environmental protection. If we look at the Hazardous area land structure at the end

of 2021, it can be seen that **1.11%** of the HA were categorized as agricultural areas, **98.7%** as forest areas and the remaining **0.19%** as the other areas (swamp, rocky etc. soils). This means prioritization has changed towards the remaining challenges, so mine action activities and clearance projects have been incorporated in the last decade into various larger and sustainable society efforts. Example of these actions are especially highlighted within the clearance projects that are financed from the EU Cross border cooperation or Cohesion fund, targeting nature protected parks or Nature 2000 areas. Such projects, such as "Naturavita", "Fearless Velebit" and "Karlovac Karst" have been and are performed within the highest possible EU and National nature protection regulations, e.g. defining the strict time frames when the clearance activities and certain methods are allowed to be performed, so the various species and habitats are not to be aggravated in any means whatsoever. Sustainable development and environmental stewardship are one of the core purposes of these projects and the remaining four year challenge focuses on the protection of forests, incorporating preservation, rehabilitation and development in the ecological and economic sense as well.

Location	Туре	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Barracks	ΑΡΜ	5864	1991-1995	Barracks are contaminated partially.
(Total: 1 barrack)	AVM	37	1991-1995	
Training Sites	ΑΡΜ	9746	1991-1995	Training sites are contaminated partially.
(Total: 3 training sites)	AVM	970	1991-1995	
Storage Sites (Total: 3 storage sites)	АРМ	9673	1991-1995	Storage sites are contaminated partially, and some of them completely.
	AVM	33	1991-1995	
Radar station	АРМ	-	WW II,1991-1995	

4. Military facilities containing mines

(Total: 1 radar station)	AVM	-		
Shooting range	АРМ	-	1991-1995	
(Total: 1 shooting range)	AVM	-		
Other object	АРМ	-	1991-1995	
(Total: 1 other object)	AVM	-		
TOTAL	APMs (anti- personnel mines)	25276	1991-1995	
(Information is related to the mined area and MSA in the size of 29.5 km ²)	AVMs (anti vehicle mines)	-	1991-1995	
In 2021 Croatian Army units cleared an area of i	TOTAL	643.764 m ²		

Thanks to the Civil Protection Directorate CROMAC **Mine-Information** -System portal https://misportal.hcr.hr/HCRweb/faces/intro/introduction.jspx every Internet user can through this web application have an insight into suspected hazardous areas and positions of mine danger sings. This kind of SHA display through web application is unique in the world. Users are also informed through detailed maps provided with locations of mine danger signs and mobile application MINEfields.info. CROMAC MIS portal is available to all Internet users within a public access and suspected hazardous areas can be browsed by counties, municipalities, towns or settlements.

Form D APMs retained or transferred

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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1. Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Туре	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
Mines are stored at the	PMA-1	494	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
Croatian Armed Forces	PMA-2	509	SRB 6741, 6743, 6745,	
storage site "Borik"	528	528	6746, 6748,6749, 6750	
Velika Buna, and are used or going to be used	PMA-3	103	SRB 8702	
by the Croatian Mine Action Centre	PMR-2A	826	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
	PMR3	70	PIG-8900	

Institution authorized by State Party	Туре	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	PROM-1	1.745	KV 00/64, 01/64, 05/65,	
			06/65, 07/65, 08/65, 11/65,	
			12/65, 03/65, 04/65, 02/66,	
			01/68, 02/68, 03/70, 03/70	
			03/76	
TOTAL		3.766		

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between Croatian Mine Action Center and Center for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO Ltd.) on October 30, 2003 HCR-CTRO Ltd. took over the activities and projects focused on performing administrative and technical tasks related to testing of machines, dogs and detectors, as well as scientific and research activities.

Total number of anti-personnel mines used in 2021 in accordance with Article 3 is the following:

Institution authorized by State Party	Туре	Quantity	Used in Military training for deminers	Total used in 2020
	PMA-1	26	0	26
	PMA-2	38	0	38
HCR-CTRO Ltd. used AP mines for testing in 2021	PMA-3	15	0	15
	PMR-2A	9	0	9
	PROM-1	4	0	4
TOTAL:		92		

2. Estimate of the use of mines in year 2022

In year 2022, the amount of anti-personnel landmines that will be used (and consequently destroyed) will be based on the needs for testing of demining machines. CAF will use only "inert" APMs for training purposes.

Form E Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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Indicates if to "convert" or "decommission"	Status (indicates if "in process" or "completed")	Supplementary information
-	-	-
-	-	-

The Republic of Croatia did not produce any anti-personnel landmines.

Form F Status of programs for the destruction of APMs

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

The Republic of Croatia met its commitments by destruction of all its stockpiled anti-personnel landmines, except those retained under Article 3.	
Description of the status of programs including:	
Location of destruction sites: Military training area "Oštarski dolovi" near Slunj and "Crvena zemlja" near Knin.	Details of:
- Mines destroyed by:	
- Explosion (PMA-3, PMA-2, PROM-1)	Methods
- Disassembling (PMA-1, PMR-2A)	
National safety standards are applied according to Ministry of Defense regulations, taking into account international standards for humanitarian demining.	Applicable safety standards
Mines were destroyed at military training areas away from inhabited areas (minimal distance 5 - 8 kilometers).	Applicable environmental standards

The destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was conducted in three phases and the following quantities of anti-personnel landmines were destroyed:

No	Туре	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001, and earlier)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	AP landmine PMA-1	7.875	3.831	2.574	14.280
2.	AP landmine PMA-2	9.979	21.032	13.865	44.876
3.	AP landmine PMA-3	19.372	23.667	16.662	59.701
4.	AP landmine PMR-2A, 2AS	21.364	32.027	20.649	74.040
7.	AP landmine PMR-3	-	4	-	4
8.	AP landmine PROM-1	2.144	3.382	576	6.102
	TOTAL	60.734	83.943	54.326*	199.003

* During the Phase III, 53.908 anti-personnel landmines were initially destroyed. Additional 418 anti-personnel landmines were delivered by the Ministry of Interior after the successful completion of their "Farewell to Arms" campaign whose aim was to collect weapons and other explosive remnants of war. The total number of destroyed stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in Phase III was 54.326.

Apart from anti-personnel mines, during Phase III, the following additional quantities of fuses for anti-personnel landmines were destroyed:

No	Туре	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	AP landmine fuse UPMR-2A, 2AS	2.390	13.063	23	15.476
2.	AP landmine fuse UPMR-3	1.840	11.136	280	13.256
3.	AP landmine fuse UPROM-1	1.474	10.250	146	11.870
4.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-1	1.086	1.328	100	2.514
5.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-2	936	830	194	1.960
6.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-3	237	133	133	503
	TOTAL	7.963	36.740	743	45.579

The process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was observed by international monitors/observers on September 12 and 25, 2001 and on October 22/23, 2002. During the observation, the Republic of Croatia was praised for meeting its commitments pursuant to the Ottawa Convention. After an extensive overview, the increased number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was evidenced chronologically as follows:

First notified amount of stockpiled APMs	189.251
Collected after first MI action "Farewell to Arms"	3.531
TOTAL	192.782
Collected after second MI action "Farewell to Arms"	3.098
TOTAL	195.871
Military stocks inventory check evidenced a larger number of stockpiled APMs	9.460
TOTAL	205.331
Collected after third MI action "Farewell to Arms"	418
TOTAL	205.749
Total amount of APMs possessed by the Republic of Croatia	205.749
Total amount of destroyed APMs	199.003
Amount retained under Article 3 of the Convention ²	7.000

² 268 anti-personnel landmines were destroyed during 2003 for the purposes according to Article 3 of the Convention.

The cost of destroying stockpiled APMs is provided (in Euros) as follows:

No	Purpose	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	Daily payment to technicians	3.821	5.879	3.135	12.835 €
2.	Daily payment to supervisors	1.274	980	523	2.777 €
3.	Additional payment to technicians	3.821	5.879	3.135	12.835€
4.	Accommodation costs for technicians	4.039	6.213	4.843	15.095 €
5.	Accommodation costs for supervisors	1.346	1.036	807	3.189€
6.	Daily payment for drivers	1.274	1.952	1.045	4.271 €
7.	Costs of machines and vehicles	15.984	24.575	13.115	53.674 €
8.	Costs for explosive ordinance for ignition	2.175	3.346	446	5.967 €
	TOTAL*	33.734 €	49.860 €	27.049 €	110.643 €*

*Salaries for all personnel involved in the process are not included in the abovementioned.

The cost of destruction per anti-personnel landmine was 0.56 €.

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including: Location of destruction sites	Details of:
	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

Form G APMs destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Туре	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
/	/	/	/
TOTAL			

Information is provided in Form "F".

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Туре	Quantity	Supplementary information
PMA-1	3	
PMA-2	439	
PMA-3	101	
PMR-2A	324	

PMR-2AS	34	
PROM-1	42	
MRUD	2	
Other	269	
TOTAL	1214	

*Apart from destroyed APM, during 2021, additional 48 AT mines and 810 pieces of UXO have been destroyed as well, under the responsibility of Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.

Form H Technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

h) The technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Party, giving, where reasonably possible, such categories of information as may facilitate identification and clearance of anti-personnel mines; at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, color photographs and other information which may facilitate mine clearance"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2021	to	December 31, 2021
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Technical characteristics of each APM-type currently owned or possessed

_			Explosive	e content	Metallic	Colour photo	Supplementary information to	
Туре	Dimensions	Fusing	Туре	Grams	content	photo attached	facilitate mine clearance.	

At the end of 2020, the Republic of Croatia was in possession of **3.766** anti-personnel landmines retained under Article 3 of the Convention, as described in form "D".

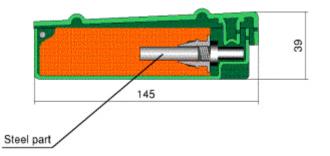
Name : PMA-1A

Type : Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description : Antimagnetic anti-personnel landmine, colored olive drab, no markings. Activated by the pressure of approx. 3 kp. Can be buried to the depth of 3-5 cms. Often an additional TNT charge (TM-200) is placed under it to increase the lethality. Causes heavy injuries to the person activating it.







Length :	145 mm
Width :	68 mm
Height :	39 mm
Mass :	400 g
Explosive charge :	200 g TNT
Body :	Plastic
Colour :	Olive-drab
Fuse type :	Chemical
Mode of activation:	Pressure
Sensitivity :	3 – 18 kps
Detectability :	Very hard to detect by the magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)
Mode of operation :	The pressure of 3-18 kps on the lid of the mine will break the fuse containing the chemical compound sensitive
	to friction, which will incinerate and activate the detonator cap by spark. The detonator cap, in turn, will
	detonate the explosive charge of the mine. The effect of the mine is the direct blasting effect to a person
	stepping on it.

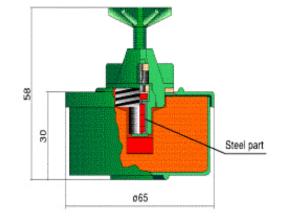
Name : PMA-2

Type : Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description : Non-metallic anti-personnel mine the size and shape of the liver paste tin, hence the popular name "liver paste." Recognizable by the characteristic star-shaped fuse. Mostly colored olive-drab, but there are white ones. Activated by approx. 5 kps pressure. Can be placed upside down to hide the fuse. Causes grave injuries to the person activating it.

Technical data





Diameter :	65 mm
Height :	58 mm (with fuse)
Mass :	135 g
Explosive charge	70 g paraffin-protected TNT
Casing :	Plastic
Colour :	Olive-drab
Fuse type :	Chemical
Mode of activation:	Pressure
Sensitivity :	5 – 15 kps
Detectability :	Very difficult to detect by magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)
Mode of operation :	Pressure of 5 and more kps to the pressure star will cause the needle to penetrate the membrane, penetrate through the incendiary compound causing the incineration by friction. Pulse of flame will be carried to the detonator cap, which in turn carries the detonation to the explosive charge. The effect of the mine is the blast of the explosive to the person stepping on the mine.

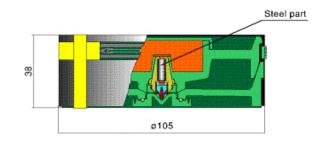
Name : PMA-3

Type:

Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description: Antimagnetic anti-personnel mine, activated by pressure to the upper round pad in any direction. The body of the mine is cylindrical and made of plastic. It consists of the upper and lower part connected in the centre, and forming a swivel along the rim. Both parts are connected along the edge by rubber. The lower part contains the fuse well. The mine is waterproof and is therefore often placed on the riverbanks and in shallow waters, and can remain live for many years after it is placed. The explosive charge is in the upper part of the body and effects are considerably stronger than with e.g. blast of PMA-2.





Technical data

Diameter :	105 mm
Height :	38 mm
Mass :	183 g
Explosive charge	35 g TNT
Casing :	Plastic / rubber
Colour :	Olive / black
Fuse type :	Chemical
Mode of activation:	Pressure
Sensitivity :	3 - 15 kps
Detectability :	Very difficult to detect by the magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)
Mode of operation :	Pressure of 3 and more kps to the upper part of the mine one of the sides of the upper part will bring closer to the
	bottom part, breaking the circular carrier of the initial (incendiary) compound, causing it to incinerate. The impulse of flame is transferred to the detonator cap, which transfers the detonation to the main explosive charge of the mine. The blast effect is aimed at the person activating the mine.

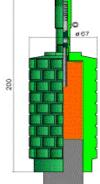
Name : PMR-2A

Type : Anti-personnel fragmentation mine – tripwire activated

Description : The body of the mine is cylindrical, made of cast steel, prefragmented on the outer surface for more regular fragmentation, and smooth from the inner side, containing the explosive charge. It is placed on top of the wooden or metallic post stuck into the ground. One or more tripwires are connected to the fuse on top of the mine. The pulling force of 3 kps or more on the tripwire activates the mine. When the mine is activated, fragments are lethal within 25 m radius in any direction, and cause injuries in the radius of up to 100 m. depending on the desired effects of the mine, two types of fuses can be used. If, together with the main blast effect of the mine illumination of the field around it is desired, instead of the UPM-2a fuse, UPM-2AS fuse with illumination flare can be used.

Technical data





Diameter :	66 mm
Height :	140 mm (body only), 200 mm with fuse
Mass :	1.7 kps
Explosive charge :	100 g TNT
Made of :	Cast steel
Colour :	Olive-drab
Fuse type :	Mechanical – pulling (standardized for this type of mine)
Activation mode :	Pulling of tripwire (no delay)
Sensitivity :	3 kps (depending on the condition of the safety feature of the firing pin and firing pin in the fuse)
Detectability :	Visual, as it is placed on the post
Lethal radius :	25 m
Danger radius :	100 m
Mode of operation	By pulling the tripwire with the force of 3 or more kps, safety feature is pulled out of the fuse body, releasing the firing
:	pin which, driven by the spring, hits the initiating part and activates it. The detonation pulse is transferred to the
	detonator cap, which detonates, into the main explosive charge of the mine. The blast breaks the body of the mine into
	small pieces (fragments) directed radially from the place of activation of the mine and which achieve lethal or maiming effect.

Name : PMR-3

Type : Anti-personnel fragmentation mine

Description : The body of the mine is cylindrical, made of wrought iron and prefragmented – cut for easier disintegration into small pieces, while the inner side is smooth. On the side of the body there are two carriers for attachment of the mine to the appropriate stake (provided with the mine). To keep the tripwire as close to the ground as possible this mine is often placed upside down. The central part of the fuse can be rotated and five tripwires can be attached to it. This mine is colored olive-drab and often the name is stenciled in black on the body. It is activated by the pressure of 9 kps on the top of the mine or pull of 3 kps to the tripwire. Fragments are lethal in the radius of 50 m, and dangerous in the radius of 100 m.



Technical data

Diameter :	75 mm
Height :	240 mm
Mass :	1.7 kgs
Explosive charge :	410 g TNT
Material :	Wrought steel
Colour :	Olive-drab
Fuse type :	Radial pull – pressure type
Sensitivity :	Pressure 9 - 15 kps, pull 3 - 8 kps
Detectability :	Visual, the mine is placed on the stake
Lethal radius :	25 m
Danger radius :	50 m
Mode of operation :	By pulling at the tripwire with the force of

500

ode of operation : By pulling at the tripwire with the force of 3 kps and more the carrier of the firing pin releases the firing pin which, influenced by the spring, strikes the initializing part of the detonator and activates it. The spark is carried to the detonator cap, which activates the main explosive charge. The blast breaks the body into small fragments directed radially from the spot of detonation, and achieving lethal or maiming effect.

Name : **PROM-1**

Type : Anti-personnel bounding fragmentation mine

Description Olive-drab mine with smooth body placed underneath the surface to the neck of the fuse. The body is prefragmented from the inner side. It is recognizable by the safety device with four ends protruding from the ground. The ring on the top of the central part facilitates the attachment of five tripwires simultaneously. When activated, the mine bounces from its layer in the ground to the height of 0.7 - 0.8 meters and detonates. Explosive charge is most commonly 425 grams of cast TNT that is sufficient for the lethal radius of 50 meters, and danger radius of 100 meters. It is often found placed as a boobytrap on paths, forest roars, entrances in industrial plants and elsewhere.



Technical data

Diameter :	75 mm
Height :	264 mm (body and fuse)
Mass :	3 kps
Explosive charge :	425 g cast TNT
Material :	Wrought steel
Colour :	Olive-drab
Fuse type :	Pressure - pull (radial)
Sensitivity :	Pressure 9 kps, tripwire 3 kps
Detectability :	Visual identification of the tripwire or protruding assembly, considerable metallic mass
Lethal radius :	25 m (360 degrees)
Danger radius :	50 m (360 degrees)
Mode of operation:	Pulling of the tripwire or pressure to the crown of the fuse releases the firing pin, which strikes the initiating cap. The initiating cap lights the delay, which carries the pulse to the powder charge, which ejects the mine from the ground. After
	the mine had been ejected from the ground, due to the pull of the wire on the internal fuse, the fuse activates and the
	detonation is carried to the main explosive charge which blasts the body and scatters the fragments radially from the mine. The effect is expressed through the explosive blast and strike of the fragments.

Form I Measures to provide warning to the population

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

Remark: In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

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The activities by Croatia to disseminate information about the Convention and the Protocols to the civilian population take place at several levels. The texts of the Convention and all Protocols to the Convention ratified by the Republic of Croatia were published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia (International Agreements Section) and are hence available to public as a bulletin in printed version and on website: www.nn.hr.

Dissemination of information about the CCW Convention and its Protocols to civilian population also includes mine risk education (MRE) activities. Croatian ministries, government and state administrative offices as well as professional groups working with and for adults and children in Croatia, including NGOs and international organizations, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols. Croatian Red Cross with its branches (in local communities), Civil Protection Directorate of the MoI and the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War are active in events and lectures where MRE messages are given. The lectures always bear in mind that mine risk education is effective in terms of reducing the number of mine casualties. Interesting presentations (lectures) on mine/UXO risk education were organized for children, adults, and especially for target groups (hunters, fishermen, farmers, public companies employees etc.). The purpose of mine/UXO risk education was to learn and spread knowledge on danger of mines.

Promotion to the public and the media is an especially important way to directly spread safety messages on the dangers of ERW, which seeks to inform as many citizens at local and national level. Creating and distributing posters, flyers, brochures, etc. and publishing news stories in print and electronic media (radio and TV spots) includes a significantly larger number of citizens, and further points to the still present danger of landmines in Croatia.

Different Mine risk education activities, marking of Mine suspected area, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC web portal had a positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition to usual EORE methods CROMAC with its partners developed the Minefields.info application for Android and iOS smart phones, to further tackle and increase the availability of mine warning information towards the general public. The applications main purpose is to warn the user of a life-threatening danger caused by entering or approaching the vicinity of SHA. It works on a basis of distance and GPS tracking so if user gets closer to a suspected hazardous area the application will alert him immediately. The application also has "Call for Help" option and to report and take a photo of unknown potential ERW, along with a database of known ERW in the corresponding country, which further provides MRE available through smartphones.

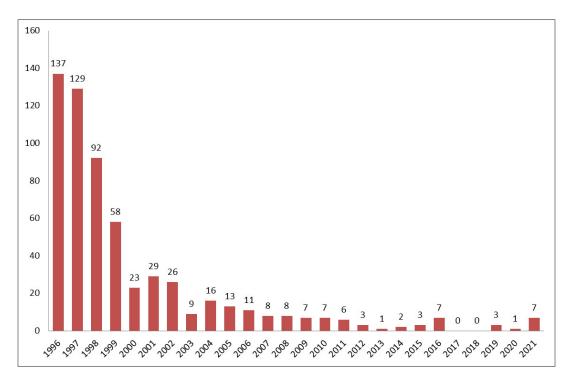
1. Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in 2021

In 2021, in accordance with the Covid-19 measures, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational center of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2021, a total of **89 mine risk educations** were held in 5 Counties and 21 cities and municipalities. The EORE activities covered a total of about **4,165 people**, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. Portion of the elementary school EORE was provided as a part of project activities in "Naturavita" project financed from the EU Cohesion fund, along with creation of specific children educational books, coloring books and brochures along with EORE leaflets including around 700 children in the project vicinity of the HA danger County. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. Unfortunately, as a consequence of Covid-19 pandemic EOREs were conducted in 2021 in a reduced volume and with a smaller number of people. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations.

Central ceremony for the April 4, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was not held in the usual capacity due to Covid-19 measures which focused the promotion and awareness campaigns to media and web channels.

2. Mine accidents / incidents in 2021

Unfortunately, even with widely organized MRE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2021 there were **2 accounted mine accidents**, with only one of them recording victims. Mentioned EO incident occurred in the Karlovac County, when seven illegal migrants were injured after activating PROM-1 bounding fragmentation AP mine in the <u>marked hazardous area</u>, resulting with one fatality, two heavy injuries and four light injuries. The lightly injured persons received the emergency health assistance, while the heavy injured persons had to be urgently transferred to Ogulin General Hospital where they underwent surgery and received further medical assistance.



Overview of Mine victims in the 1996-2021 period

From 1996 (end of the Homeland war) till the end of 2021, the Republic of Croatia had accounted mine accidents or incidents where **606** people were harmed, out of which **204** with a fatal outcome. These unfortunate numbers also include **131** injured deminers, out of which **38** were fatalities.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: State Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victim.

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Highlights of Mine victims' assistance in 2021

The Republic of Croatia has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centers, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. All persons being involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. These rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations. Relevant state administration authorities are involved in solving the problems of mine victims relating to medical rehabilitation, socio-economic empowerment and other needs.

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. After significant demining results, one of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities. Further project activities continued in 2021 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings that will continue in 2022. In addition, a thematic brochure has been (https://civilna-

zastita.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/CIVILNA%20ZA%C5%A0TITA/PDF_ZA%20WEB/20220105_MUP_brosura_small.pdf), which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. The

project activities will continue in 2022 and 2023, also enabling small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed to increase their economic welfare.

The Republic of Croatia has highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a **new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War** ended by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This means the Law will provide the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.