HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2020

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

☑ YES
☐ NO
☐ Partially, only the following forms:

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ H ☐ I ☐
- PROTOCOL V -

FORM A: Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

Through 57 preliminary demining projects, ERW threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 38.8 km² while additional 7 km² was reduced through Technical and Non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted in the total decrease of the Suspected hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of 45.8 km² (+298,880 m² demined territory by MoD). Suspected hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2019 totalled 309.7 km² (excluding the MoD areas).

In 2019 the largest share in demined areas were the areas planned for different economic activities like forest area and especially agricultural land which the local and regional governments have stated as their priority, crucial for the revitalization of agricultural production and other activities where demining is a precondition. This means that at the end of 2019, 1.1% of the MSAs were categorized as agricultural areas, 98.6% as forest areas and the remaining 0.3% as the other areas (swamp, rocky etc. soils). All of this clearly displays the efforts of the Republic of Croatia to resolve SHA on agricultural soil, after which and in even parallely, forest, nature 2000 and protected areas areas will be prioritized. The remaining forest areas hinder not only nature protection activities but also serious aspects of economic development as well.

Table 2: Number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Anti-personnel Mines</th>
<th>Anti-vehicle Mines</th>
<th>UXO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019.</td>
<td>2,415 (+12 MoD / +102 MoI)</td>
<td>2,864 (0 MoD / +38 MoI)</td>
<td>3006 (+929 MoD/442,578 MoI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any other relevant information:

During the implementation of quality control and quality assurance measures, CROMAC quality control supervisors and QC/QA staff, have found that in 7 mine clearance operations/projects polygons the performed activities have not met the prescribed quality requirements so the repetition of the demining activities in an area of 11.385 m² has been ordered. Moreover, during the implementation of the final quality control and quality assurance, in 15 cases, the Commission for the final QC has established that demining activities have not been performed in accordance with the regulations and it was ordered to repeat the activities in these areas amounting to 87,755 m² in size.

Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of 44 demining companies that were authorized by Croatian Ministry of Interior to perform demining activities in 2019. All the employees that work in mine clearance are wearing PPE or protective equipment that consists of flak jacket with apron protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. Following equipment is in usage for humanitarian demining activities: metal detectors, demining machines of all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and mine detection dogs. In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine detection dogs. Aside from the Act on Mine Action, there are several Regulatory bylaws which prescribe the entire methodology of demining activities. In addition, frequent use of demining machines puts Croatia among the leading states with mechanical mine clearance, but the usage of MDDs is also present and widely used.

Certain amount of the Croatian military facilities including barracks, air bases, training areas, radar stations and storage sites are still partially contaminated with land mines, cluster munitions remnants and other UXO's. The Pioneer battalion of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all mentioned military facilities.

In the course of 2019, an area of 298,880 m² was searched and cleared, 12 AP mines were found and destroyed with 929 pieces of UXOs eliminated as well. AV landmines were not discovered during the process. In the same reporting period during the regular course activities of the EOD team and annual public awareness campaign “Less
arms, less tragedies” the MoI collected 103 AP and 38 AV landmines with different 442,578 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells, SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm), explosives such as TNT and other ERW). This amount was destroyed as well.
**FORM B:** Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

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**High Contracting Party:** THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Reporting for time period from:** 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

At the beginning of 2019, 55 towns and municipalities in 8 out of 21 counties were affected by mine problem. Total mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia at the beginning of the 2019 amounted to 355.5 km². On December 31, 2019 the total suspected hazardous area was marked with 12,280 mine warning signs that are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) which is available on the web page of the MIS and also shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested maps on the SHA situation.

Annual Mine Action Plan is based on priorities and requests of counties that are compliant to their development programs, programs of reconstruction and return of displaced people, needs and requests of public companies and other demining beneficiaries, defined mined and mine suspected area and financial means secured. The Plan is approved by Croatian Government and adopted by the Croatian Parliament.


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Any other relevant information:

The new National Mine Action Strategy in the Republic of Croatia was approved by Croatian Parliament in mid-September 2009 and it consists of all relevant information on mine action since 1991, current status of suspected hazardous area (size, positioning, structure and impact on society and economy), a description of available capacities for mine action execution and their performance and basic goals to be achieved in the period 2009 to 2019, with an established method and preconditions for their realization. The revised National Mine Action Strategy of the Republic of Croatia has been prepared during the 2019 and will be ready for implementation in 2020.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) to the APMBC, Republic of Croatia was officially approved of the extension deadline regarding Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention (previously set at March, 2019). The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Croatia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026. In granting the request, the Meeting acknowledged that Croatia had declared that it would finalise all operations and verification by 31 December 2025 and hence fulfil its Article 5 obligations in line with the aspiration of the States Parties.
FORM C: Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:

Different Mine risk education activities, continuous marking of Mine suspected areas, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of MSA maps as well as using 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, during 2019 Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) has further developed a Web Application named MINE.info which can be downloaded onto smartphones (both android and iOS based) and accessed for free. The application includes information on the location of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas on the Croatian territory and can track the user’s distance to the closest contaminated area. If a user happens to be in a mined area, the relevant police department can be notified immediately by selecting the “SOS Call”-option, which will automatically transmit the geo-data on the location of the caller to the police. The application also contains the option to report suspected explosive devices to the police by uploading photos and a short description of the encountered device. Further, the app contains a list of the most common ERW to be found in Croatia. For each item, there is a photo, the name and a brief narrative of the objects, as well as the most common locations where particular explosive remnants could be encountered. The application offers a user-friendly and educational tool to inform the Croatian population about the potential dangers of mines/ERW.

In 2019, the Croatian Mine Action Centre coordinated a large number of activities related to informing about mine danger. Through 152 lectures and presentations, more than 20,000 citizens were educated in 2019. Majority of them were kindergarten and elementary school kids. Special education was given to the members of Hunting associations, Croatian mountain rescue service, hikers, farmers and tourists. Education was provided in the Capital of Zagreb and 16 other counties concluding the mentioned throughout the 87 Municipalities.

The largest number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the 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. All actions and activities in Mine Action in Croatia and worldwide were presented on web pages of CROMAC and Government Office for Mine Action.

Central ceremony for the April 4, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in the town of Zagreb with the presence of all relevant Mine Action stakeholders demonstrating all of the MRE activities as well (promo leaflets, showcasing ERW, books, mine warning sings, personal protective equipment, etc.). As part of commemorating International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the MoI Civil Protection Directorate has conducted a two-day training of 25 civil protection officers in the area of Mine risk education (how to properly behave near suspected hazardous areas and avoid risky situations in various daily activities). This training was conducted by licensed instructors - employees of the Civil Protection Directorate.

Any other relevant information:

Unfortunately, even with widely organized MRE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2019 there were accounted 2 mine incidents/accidents. During February 2019, in Karlovac County an AT mine was activated and one civilian had suffered heavy injuries. In addition, during July 2019, in Lika-Senj County, a deminer was injured and suffered heavy injuries during demining activities where AP mine PROM-1 had been activated. The Republic of Croatia has well-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 the ministries, different institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation.
FORM D: Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Every humanitarian mission or organization that is coming to Croatia with goal to help or to get involved in demining action in Croatia can get all relevant information in Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) who will provide information about ERW, Suspected Hazardous Areas, priorities and all other topics that could be point of interest of those organizations. That is one of the CROMAC’s sector main tasks as being a part of the Civil Protection Directorate, a central civil protection institution that acts as a Directorate inside the Ministry of the Interior.

Civil Protection Directorate tasks are as follows:
- Collecting and processing data about the SHA and database management,
- Planning of demining operations and providing information towards organizing public tenders for awarding demining operations,
- SHA marking,
- Drafting of demining and technical survey projects,
- Quality assurance and quality control over demining operations,
- Issuance of demining certificates,
- Co-ordination of MRE activities,
- International co-operation.

Any other relevant information:

N/A
FORM E: Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:

During January 2019, representatives of the Libyan Ministry of Defense visited Civil Protection Directorate and HCR-CTRO. The Libyan delegation included four Ministry of Defense officials from the Directorate of Engineering, and representatives of the Libyan Embassy in the Republic of Croatia which have also participated in the talks about knowledge exchange in the field of Mine action.

In March 2019, a representative of HCR-CTRO participated in a Round Table on Humanitarian Mine Action Challenges and Best Practices in Teheran, Iran, organized by the Iranian Mine Action Centre and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

During April 2019, in Dubrovnik-Neretva County, in Slano, the 16th International Symposium "Mine Action 2019" was held in organization of the Ministry of the Interior (Civil Protection Directorate) and CROMAC-Center for Testing, Development and Training, Ltd. At the mentioned Symposium, some 150 participants from 31 countries of the world were exchanging knowledge about the relevant Mine Action topics.

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

• the 9th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), held in Geneva in September 2019.
• the Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War and Disability Rights held in September in Jordan
• the 4th Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (APMBC), held in Oslo in late November 2019. This conference adopted the Oslo Action Plan 2020 - 2024, which accurately identifies the challenges ahead, while offering practical and applicable solutions for the implementation of the Convention.

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

Any other relevant information:

N/A
**FORM F:** Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance

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**High Contracting Party:** THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Reporting for time period from:** 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:**

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Center for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, HCR-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.

HCR-CTRO participates in a NATO SPS Project G5355 “Biological methods (bees) for explosive detection”, where it has a managing role. It is a three-year project which ends in November 2020. The project aims to develop innovative methods and technologies for detection of landmines. This will be achieved 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 will enable passive sampling of an area to confirm the presence of explosive materials, but also active pinpointing of landmine locations.

In January 2019, HCR-CTRO held a training course for MRE instructors for representatives of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center from Serbia.

During September 2019, HCR-CTRO held a training course for the staff of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center and the Mine Action Center of Serbia. The training included planning, prioritization, project development and quality management in mine action.

During September 2019, the research team of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb (FER), in cooperation with Vallon GmbH, conducted field tests at the HCR-CTRO test site in Benkovac. The tests were carried out as part of the METASHAPE research project, funded by the UK's Sir Bobby Charlton Foundation. The aim of the project is to develop and implement advanced methods for recognizing the shape of buried metal objects using commercial metal detectors for use in humanitarian mine action.

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**Any other relevant information:**

Overall, Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) and CROMAC- CTRO Ltd have actively, throughout 2019 offered and provided some of the following forms of assistance to the international Mine action community, stakeholders and MACs:
- Establishment of the National mine action centre,
- Legal, sub legal and normative regulations,
- Establishment of mine information system and geo-information system,
- Planning system – production of National strategies, annual and operative activity plans,
- Education of executors of humanitarian demining operations (deminers, auxiliary workers and management) and mine risk education,
- General survey, definition of suspected hazardous area and education of survey teams,
- Protective equipment and demining machines produced in the Republic of Croatia,
- Capacities and know-how of the Croatian demining companies,
- Capacities for testing demining machines, equipment and devices as well as new technologies of mine and UXO detection.

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CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
FORM F(a): Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

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.

All the relevant national wide mine action authorities and institutions continued to provide advisory support to mine victims and their families and to collect data on mine victims and their needs during the process of non-technical survey. Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Program through "Demining and Socio-economic Integration" project and correlated socio-economic component has a goal of establishing functional mine victims’ data base which will serve as a basis for developing further and strengthened policy actions for mine victims. The “Questionnaire on Mine Victims” has been finalized along with the public tender for the activities of collecting the data. The interviews of mine victims, which will then be used to fill in the database, are foreseen to begin in the first half of 2020.

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.

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.

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).

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

N/A
**FORM G:** Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

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**High Contracting Party:** THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**Reporting for time period from:** 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:

Correspondingly to MRE activities performed throughout the 2018, the Republic of Croatia has, as previously described, performed the following measures in affected territories, to reduce the risks posed by explosive remnants of war:
- survey and assess the threat posed by explosive remnants of war;
- assess and prioritize needs and practicability in terms of marking and clearance, removal or destruction;
- mark and clear, remove or destroy explosive remnants of war;
- take steps to mobilize resources to carry out these activities (in 2019 state budget has had the biggest financing share with 60.8% of the realized funds for demining in total (EU funds 38.9%, donations 0.3%).

Any other relevant information:

N/A
FORM H: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: [dd/mm/yyyy] to [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

a.) Munitions manufacturing management

Production of all types of arms and military equipment in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the law on the Production, Overhaul and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, adopted on 25 March 2002 (Official Gazette 33/2002). The law regulates safety and protection of methods of producing and refitting arms and military equipments.

b.) Munitions management

In order to ensure the best possible long-term reliability of explosive ordinance, Republic Croatia applies best practices and operating procedures with respect to its storage, transport, field storage and handling in accordance with the following:

- Explosive ordinance is stored in 26 secured facilities that are well-guarded and protected against fires and thunders.
- Explosive ordnance is stored and sorted in accordance with its condition. Out of date and faulty explosive ordnance is sorted out and stored separately. For explosive ordnance warehousing, tracking and testing procedures have been put in place in order to maintain its reliability.
- All facilities are made of concrete and with insulation in order to maintain temperatures under 5oC and humidity under not more then 75 %. Personnel working and handling explosive ordnance must be well pyrotechnically educated and certified in order to perform their duties.
- Storage and handling, transport, supply and maintenance, laboratory testing and observing Life Cycle Management of explosive ordnance in Armed Forces is regulated by Ministry of Defence and General Staff of Armed Forces of Republic of Croatia with:
  - Directive on storage protection and handling of explosive ordnance, MoD Zagreb dated 1998
  - Decree on transport of explosive ordnance, MoD dated 2006
  - Directive on chemical balance of gunpowder dated 2000
  - Directive on explosive ordnance quality control in MoD and AF dated 2005
  - Directive on maintaining of explosive ordnance in AF dated 2004
  - Directive on record keeping of out of date and faulty explosive ordnance dated 2005
  - Directive on managing with the existing quantities of explosive ordnance in AF dated 1997

Currently in the Croatian Armed Forces, process of implementation of NATO norms and standards in the area of explosive ordnance safekeeping is going on. Explosive ordnance experts from the Croatian Armed Forces are currently involved in work of NATO Committee AC/326 “CNAD Ammunition Safety group” responsible for development and improvement of norms and standards in the area of safe storage, transport and use of explosive ordnance.

Decision of the Defence Minister for the planning period to year 2018 defined:

- Types and quantities of usable explosive ordnance, their storage and maintenance;
- Types and quantities of usable and perspective classical rocket ammo that could be used for live-firing, quality control, life cycle oversight and its extension;
- Types and quantities of explosive ordnance that are not longer usable and needs to be removed by delaboration and destruction

Training:

Training:

One of the main fields of expertise of CROMAC-CTRO Ltd is training. Training courses are conducted in accordance with IMAS and Testing and Evaluation Protocols. During September 2019, HCR-CTRO ltd. held a training for the staff of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Center and the Mine Action Center of Serbia. The training included planning, prioritization, project design and quality management in mine action.
Any other relevant information:

N/A
FORM I: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019

Any other relevant information:

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 Ltd continued in 2019 to conduct testing and certification of mine detection and mine clearance equipment; 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.