



## 7th TIEMS WORKSHOP CROATIA 2010 – CONCLUSIONS

The two-day International Workshop 'TIEMS – CROATIA 2010 - *Operating amid Chaos – Standard Operative Procedures and Post-Disaster Recovery*' took place in Split on 28–29 September 2010. The workshop was organized by the Regional Centre for Assistance and Disaster Relief (RCADR) in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences from Velika Gorica and supported by Split-Dalmatian County. The whole event is taking place under the auspices of the Government and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia. Our special thanks and appreciation goes to PAPRAC (Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre).

48 experts in various fields and scientists from 12 countries, representatives of a number of European institutions dealing with protection and rescue actively participated in the Workshop giving presentations and taking part in discussions.

- The objective was to improve the emergency management system and the protection, search and rescue system in general, giving special emphasis to the international cooperation and procedure harmonization in that area.
- In accordance with TIEMS goals, it underlined the need to improve emergency management techniques and the application of modern technologies, so as to raise preparedness level, facilitate operation management, mitigate disaster consequences and hasten post-disaster recovery.
- Majority of the presentations and discussions were dedicated to the current risks imposed by hazardous waste, transport of hazardous substances and new biological threats arising where a natural disaster interlocks with a technological incident. All of these increase the problem of a regular health care and first-aid treatment, particularly in cases of large-scale incidents and disasters.
- Special consideration should be given to the likelihood of outbreak of new epidemics or spread of infectious diseases and other biological threats still impossible to cure or eradicate (avian influenza, swine influenza, various types of cattle infection, and infiltration of invasive species into marine or land environment).
- Not only biological but chemical and radiological threats are increasing, due to industrial development and growing population density. War threats and threats caused by potential terrorist acts shouldn't be neglected either.
- In order to efficiently respond to all the challenges imposed by living in modern high-tech societies, with intense circulation of hazardous substances and millions of people regularly commuting and creating new contacts, with means of transport going at high speed through various human environments and eco-systems.

- it is necessary to ensure close cooperation between politics and profession. It is not just political decision-makers who should be highly aware, informed and educated on the issue, it is also agency representatives and competent ministry experts who are expected to seek appropriate means and methods to educate political structures and the public in whole, including preschoolers and school children as well.
- Besides the above mentioned cooperation between profession and politics, we also need to promote networking between various agencies, services, private and public companies which deal with different operative segments within disaster management. Networking and multidisciplinary cooperation ought to exist at national and international levels alike.
- Special attention should be given to the cooperation between national institutions, and regional and international organizations. This kind of cooperation is necessary in order to standardize planning processes, direct management and operative procedures, which in turn facilitate joint operation in case of trans-border disasters, the reception and administration of assistance within the country and among different states (issues requiring international and intercontinental assistance, solidarity and common action).
- The importance of real-world planning and implementation of objectively feasible preparations deserve to be pointed out as well. It is impossible to effectively respond to every single event – certain disasters sometimes disable all emergency services and other protection and rescue forces on the territory.
- Not even the most developed and highly equipped services and teams can respond to such large-scale disasters as they often get destroyed or severely reduced during the event. Therefore, a system of interstate and international assistance is required, while planning one owns capacities in accordance with the event which can be responded to and is rather likely to happen.
- In order to successfully achieve all of the above, it is necessary to reinforce the role of science, scientific institutions and competent government bodies. They should be granted greater participation in all segments of emergency management, particularly in risk assessment and resistance techniques. Competent bodies for science and education have an indispensable role in educating the public, especially children and the young, enabling them to become aware individuals who care about their own and other people's safety and the environment and who are ready and able to help whoever and whenever is needed.