

**INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND**  
for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance



## **Regional Approach to Mine Action Experiences and Prospects**



*Gregor Sančanin*  
*Project Manager*

## ***REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MINE ACTION: ITF EXPERIENCE***



## Experiences: Regional Co-Operation in SE Europe and wider

### PRECONDITIONS

*Common and/or connected origin of landmine problem between two or more states, entities, communities within SEE;*

*Mine Action as a part of wider environment - political stability, consolidated peace-situation requirements, humanitarian, reconstruction and development efforts;*

*Awareness of “common” problems in the field of Mine Action;*

*Preparedness and willingness on all sides to eliminate landmine problem;*

*Established communication between national MACs in the region;*

*Neutral intermediary to facilitate meetings, work, negotiations, etc. on the regional level (role of Slovenia and ITF);*

*Strictly technical (non-political) level involved at the beginning of process of setting regional cooperation;*

*Sensitivity of post-conflict period requires cooperation and confidence building between stakeholders.*

## RATIONALE & BENEFITS

### **Wider Rationale & Impact:**

- *Humanitarian*
- *Development*
- *Commerce*
- *Border Delineation*
- *Border Management and Security*
- *Security and Confidence Building Measures between States or within the Region*
- *Impact on International Treaty Obligations, e.g. the Ottawa Convention*

### **Direct Benefits:**

- *Resource Aspect*
- *Coordination and Information Aspect*
- *Social Aspect*
- *Capacity Building Aspect*
- *Cross-cutting Aspect*

## OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS

- *Regional humanitarian demining projects - cross-border clearance*
- *Regional institutional capacities*
- *Regional trainings*
- *Regional workshops and conferences*

## OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (a)

### **Regional humanitarian demining projects:**

- “Mine clearance and technical survey projects in the borderline area between Croatia & Serbia & Montenegro”, 2003-2006
- “Support to Demining Activities in the Region of South-Eastern Europe – Clearance of Borderline Project”, 2003-2006
- “General Survey on the Border Area between Montenegro and Albania”, 2006

### **Regional institutional capacities:**

- Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC), Konjic, BH,
- Regional Underwater Demining Center (RCUD), Bijela, Montenegro
- Regional Center for Psycho-Social rehabilitation , Rovinj, Croatia
- CROMAC Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd.(CTDT), Topusko, Croatia
- "Geographical Information System for Mine Action in South-East Europe"

## OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (b)

### Regional trainings:

- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, Ig, Slovenia
- Monitoring and Quality Control/Quality Assurance
- UNDP Senior and Middle Management Training
- Underwater EOD Training
- GIS Training
- Training courses for rehabilitation specialists at the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation
- Orthopaedic Technicians University of Ljubljana study program
- Training for UXO Detection and Removal, Level 1-4 at CTD

## OVERVIEW OF ITF REGIONAL PROJECTS (c)

### Regional workshops, conferences and other:

- 1st and 2nd World Wide Mine Detection Dog Conference in Slovenia, 1999, and in the United States of America, 2002 (organized together with James Madison University)
- Symposium on Humanitarian Demining Quality, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006
- SEEMACC
- Mechanical Equipment for Mine-Clearance in the region of South-East Europe, 2002
- Regional workshop "Confidence building through mine action", Georgia, 2005 and Kazakhstan, 2007
- ITF & ICRC VA regional workshop, Georgia, 2009
- MVA Summer/Winter Workshops, 2003-2009

***SEEMACC – South Eastern Europe  
Mine Action Coordination Council***



**South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council  
(SEEMACC)**



## South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC)

- *Established in 2000*
- *Members and observers of SEEMACC*
- *ITF as secretary-coordination body*
- *[www.see-demining.org](http://www.see-demining.org)*



## **South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) (a)**

- **Established in 2000**
- **Members and observers of SEEMACC**
- **SEEMACC GOALS:**
  - Exchange of experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of South East Europe;
  - Promote the regional approach in the planning of demining programs;
  - Promote the regional approach in the fund raising for mine action;
  - Exchange experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of training of the deminers and managing personnel in the field of mine action;
  - Exchange information on testing of the new technologies in demining;
  - Promote the achievement of common standards and accreditation procedures in the field of demining in the region of South East Europe.

**South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council  
(SEEMACC) (b)**

- Results:
    - **Regular SEEMACC meetings** to harmonize regional activities and exchange information, knowledge and experience on mutual basis;
    - **Acknowledgement of the accreditation of the mechanical equipment** for mine clearance by Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region;
    - **Acknowledgment of the testing procedures;**
    - Regional pool basis – **sharing of resources (physical, material and human);**
    - **Establishment of regional institutions:** Regional Center for Underwater Demining in Bijela, Montenegro and Mine Detection Dog Center for SEE in Konjic (BiH), Regional Center for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation in Croatia; CROMAC Center for Testing, Development and Training Ltd.
    - **Adoption of the SEEMACC Strategy 2010.**
- [www.see-demining.org](http://www.see-demining.org)

***CAMACC - Central Asian Mine Action  
Coordination Council***



**PERSPECTIVES – CAUCASUS & CENTRAL ASIA (a)**

- **OSCE political commitment** - the Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBM) and Regional Cooperation through Mine Action
- **ITF recognized as reliable partner:**
  - ✓ Workshop “Mine Action as a Confidence Building Measure” in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 2005
  - ✓ Workshop “Mine Action as a Confidence Building Measure” in Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 2007
  - ✓ Project “Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action”, April-November 2009



**Regional Conference**  
**“Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action”**  
**Dushanbe Tajikistan, 16-18 November 2009**

**Development of Regional Co-operation in CA**

	Activity
Phase 0 (2009)	Project “Facilitation of Central Asian Regional Co-operation in Mine Action”  <b>Milestone: Regional Conference, (Autumn 2009)</b>
Phase 1 (early 2010)	Set up of Central Asian Mine Action Coordination Council (CAMACC)  <b>Milestone: Define common agreement on CAMACC</b>
Phase 2 (late 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Initiate CAMACC activities</li><li>• Initial Pilot Regional Project (e.g. training, cross-border demining)</li></ul> <b>Milestones: Formal establishment of CAMACC, reg. projects initiated</b>

## ***ITF – Role Perception/Lessons Learned***



## **ITF ROLE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION**

### **ITF PERCEPTION OF ITS ROLE**

- mobilize funding and providing financial resources for regional projects, programs (i.e., ***acting as a trust fund mechanism***);
- raising awareness, creating, consolidating, and disseminating knowledge and information on regional cooperation in SEE and lessons learned (i.e., ***acting as a knowledge bank***);
- helping national and regional bodies to build their institutional capacity (i.e., ***building capacity in the region***);
- acting as catalyst and coordinator of regional mine action activities for the interested stakeholders (i.e., ***serving as an mediator***).

***ITF perceives these roles as mutually supportive and reinforcing, enabling ITF to serve as an effective facilitator in supporting and promoting regional approach and mine action activities.***

## ITF LESSONS LEARNED IN REGIONAL APPROACH (a)

**Measure against duplication of resources and efforts** – financial, physical, material and human;

**Optimum use of resources** (derived from the first one);

Sharing of expertise and experience in **solving unique mine problems** in the field of Mine Action in whole region;

Exchange of staff and joint projects **foster experience through working in various environments**;

Regional cooperation through joint projects (training, demining etc.) enables **building a social network** in the region;

**Necessity to build on existing capacity** in the region and that the **strong institutions help the weak ones**;

## ITF LESSONS LEARNED IN REGIONAL APPROACH (b)

**Regional pooling of resources pays out** – such as sharing of expensive technologies in region, which can reduce the cost of programs;

The **younger programs can benefit** from the lessons learned and use the existing knowledge;

**Identification of Mine Action priorities**, which can only be solved effectively with regional cooperation;

**Close link-up of Mine Action regional activities with other regional issues** such as poverty, border control, management of environment, development etc.;

**Mine action activities on regional level contribute to confidence building.**



**THANK YOU!**

---

