

# THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

## UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2020  
1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

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## 1. National implementation measures

Measures	Supplementary information
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b><i>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) entered into force on 1 January 2019</i></b></p>
<p>No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention. Please see the report submitted in 2019 for information that has been provided by the Republic of Croatia on measures that have been taken in the past.</p>	

## 2. Stockpiled Anti-personnel mines

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.

### Total stockpiled amount of AP mines that was destroyed during three phases

Type of AP mine	Quantity (pcs)
PMA-1	14.280
PMA-2	44.876
PMA-3	59.701
PMR-2A, 2AS	74.040
PMR-3	4
PROM-1	6.102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199.003</b>

Please see more detailed explanation contained in the previous year's reports.

### 3. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes

As of 31 December 2019, the Republic of Croatia retained **4.851** anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention, specifically:

a) Retained for training in 2020 (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
Mines are stored at the Croatian Armed Forces storage site "Borik" Velika Buna	PMA-1A	534	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
	PMA-2	585	SRB 6741, 6743, 6745, 6746, 6748, 6749, 6750	
	PMA-3	1.074	SRB 8702	
	PMR-2A	835	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
	PMR3	70	PIG-8900	

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	PROM-1	1.753	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	
<b>TOTAL</b>	----- -----	<b>4.851</b>		

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between Croatian Mine Action Center and Center for Testing, Development and Training (CROMAC-CTDT) on October 30, 2003 CROMAC-CTDT 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 2019 in accordance with Article 3 is the following:**

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Used in Military training for deminers	Total used in 2019
CROMAC CTDT Ltd. used AP mines for testing in 2019, and Training company of the Engineering Regiment used APMs for trainings in 2019	PMA-1A	32	0	32
	PMA-2	32	0	32
	PMA-3	32	0	32
	PMR-2A	6	1	7
	PROM-1	6	0	6
<b>TOTAL:</b>		108	1	109

**During 2019, the Training Company of the Engineering regiment conducted regular training and education for deminers, and they used 3 pieces of APM following types; PMR-2A - 1 piece.**

b) Estimate of the use of mines in year 2020

In year 2020, the number 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. Only small amounts of live APMs will be used by Pioneer battalion for regular training of its demining personnel.

#### 4. Information on Hazardous areas and progress in the reporting period

##### 4.1. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines

As of 31 December 2019, there were 53 Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia that were suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. The whole hazardous area (HA) remains on the 309.7 square kilometres of land. (Excluding the MoD areas)

Segregation of the data is 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 suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square metres)	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)
Karlovac County	1	KA	Cetingrad	1.681.195	0	1.681.195
	2	KA	Josipdol	10.115.195	4.748.014	5.367.181
	3	KA	Plaški	26.005.581	20.751.116	5.254.465
	4	KA	Rakovica	919.848	548.042	371.806
	5	KA	Saborsko	2.947.285	2.683.857	263.428
	6	KA	Tounj	2.656.111	1.964.545	691.566
Lika-Senj County	7	LS	Brinje	688.160	288.283	399.877
	8	LS	Donji Lapac	15.015.775	6.599.920	8.415.855
	9	LS	GOSPIĆ	38.306.821	10.326.450	27.980.371
	10	LS	Lovinac	8.233.217	3.368.449	4.864.768
	11	LS	OTOČAC	24.697.808	5.746.109	18.951.699
	12	LS	Perušić	4.103.139	1.068.398	3.034.741
	13	LS	Plitvička Jezera	6.359.891	658.187	5.701.704
	14	LS	Udbina	1.592.121	1.131.317	460.804

	15	LS	Vrhovine	10.396.274	0	10.396.274
<b>Osijek-Baranja County</b>	16	OB	BELIŠĆE	1.201.670	1.201.636	34
	17	OB	Bilje	14.548.133	37.646	14.510.487
	18	OB	Darda	1.772.055	1.771.810	245
	19	OB	DONJI MIHOLJAC	323.784	323.615	169
	20	OB	Jagodnjak	1.965.682	1.926.751	38.931
	21	OB	OSIJEK	1.927.944	0	1.927.944
	22	OB	Petlovac	8.812.480	7.892.322	920.158
	23	OB	Petrijevci	863.917	663.974	199.943
	24	OB	Šodolovci	7.419	5.943	1.476
	25	OB	VALPOVO	1.026.273	637.188	389.085
<b>Požega-Slavonija County</b>	26	PS	LIPIK	1.016.260	1.016.260	0
	27	PS	PAKRAC	13.600.874	4.468.516	9.132.358
<b>Split-Dalmacija County</b>	28	SD	Hrvace	9.073.314	5.660	9.067.654
	29	SD	VRLIKA	10.249.191	3.342.569	6.906.622
<b>Sisak-Moslavina County</b>	30	SM	Dvor	15.779.491	9.516.914	6.262.577
	31	SM	GLINA	3.146.779	1.072.636	2.074.143
	32	SM	Gvozd	35.762	0	35.762
	33	SM	Hrvatska Dubica	3.122.094	1.677.448	1.444.646
	34	SM	Jasenovac	1.561.235	3	1.561.232
	35	SM	NOVSKA	7.241.466	3.915.580	3.325.886
	36	SM	PETRINJA	12.685.322	3.649.601	9.035.721
	37	SM	SISAK	4.783.135	3.623.273	1.159.862
	38	SM	Sunja	4.539.902	901.555	3.638.347
	39	SM	Topusko	527.729	0	527.729
<b>Šibenik-Knin County</b>	40	ŠK	Civljane	248.771	0	248.771
	41	ŠK	DRNIŠ	6.342.203	815.345	5.526.858
	42	ŠK	Ružić	5.749.955	378.320	5.371.635
	43	ŠK	SKRADIN	3.365.652	2.523.458	842.194
	44	ŠK	ŠIBENIK	19.551	0	19.551
<b>Zadar County</b>	45	ZD	BENKOVAC	5.479.144	3.052.021	2.427.123

	46	ZD	Jasenice	7.130.580	4.581.166	2.549.414
	47	ZD	OBROVAC	2.868	0	2.868
	48	ZD	Pakoštane	4.418.262	2.592	4.415.670
	49	ZD	Polača	2.579.477	0	2.579.477
	50	ZD	Posedarje	12.628	12.628	0
	51	ZD	Stankovci	818.094	817.123	971
	52	ZD	Škabrnja	1.363	1.363	0
	53	ZD	ZADAR	2.137	0	2.137
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>309.701.017</b>	<b>119.717.603</b>	<b>189.983.414</b>

Certain legal and institutional changes have been implemented as of 1 Jan 2019 in the sense of Mine Action responsibilities and operational structure. The Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies in the mid-late 2018, 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 main purpose of this action was the establishment of a more relevant and operationally wider national institution (Civil Protection Directorate) that could more efficiently and effectively tackle all of the aspects of civil protection in the Republic of Croatia, including mine action activities.

CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. continued in 2019 to provide its specific mine action services and conducted 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.

The status of Mine action programmes has been continued in 2019 within the Ministry of the Interior - Civil Protection Directorate (Sector of Croatian Mine Action Centre) under which the Mine Action 2019 Plan had been created, with the consent of other relevant Croatian Ministries and authorities of all of the mine contaminated Counties in the Republic of Croatia.

Key results in 2019 show that through 57 preliminary demining projects, mine threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 38.8 km<sup>2</sup>, while additional 7 km<sup>2</sup> was released through technical (TS) and non-technical survey (NTS) activities. All these activities resulted in the total land release of the hazardous area (HA) in Croatia in the amount of 45.8 km<sup>2</sup> (+298.880 m<sup>2</sup> cleared areas directly performed by the MoD).



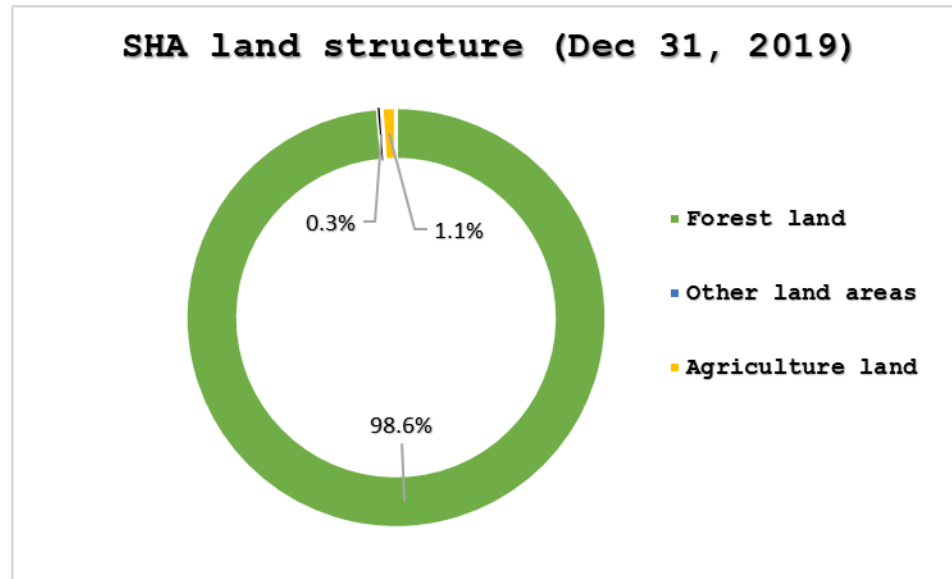
**Areas cancelled/reduced by survey activities in 2019**

County	Performed by	Area cancelled by NTS (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area reduced by TS (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area included by NTS (m <sup>2</sup> )
Osijek-Baranja County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1.407.133	1.010.290	1
Sisak-Moslavina County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	1.236.673	191.180	187.530
Lika-Senj County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	198.522	691.412	23.099
Šibenik-Knin County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	493.666	430.229	10.399
Požega-Slavonija County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	0	438.642	0
Zadar County	Ministry of the Interior, Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC	0	1.132.690	2.137
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.335.994</b>	<b>3.894.443</b>	<b>223.165</b>

**Areas returned to the community for civilian use during 2019 (Land release)**

- Commercial demining companies - clearance	38.859.668 m <sup>2</sup>
- Survey reduction conducted by CPD/CROMAC - TS/NTS	7.007.272 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>45.866.940 m<sup>2</sup></b>

In 2019, the largest share of released areas were the areas planned for different economic activities like forest areas and especially agricultural land which the local and regional governments have stated as their priority crucial for the start of any agricultural production. This means that at the end of 2019, 1.1% of the HA were categorized as agricultural areas, 98.6 % as forest areas and the remaining 0.3% as the other areas (swamp, rocky etc. soils).



During the mine clearance activities total number of 8285 mines and UXOs was found and destroyed, out of which, 5279 mines and 3006 UXOs. These numbers do not include the MoD activities that resulted with further 12 AP mines and 929 pieces of UXO that were discovered and destroyed.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2019, 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 (MRE) and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War.) collected and destroyed 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) and other ERW such as different types of explosives (370 kg). 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.

ERW that were found and destroyed during 2019

Anti-personnel mines		Anti-vehicle mines		Unexploded lethal ordnance	
CPD/CROMAC	Ministry of Defense (MoD) and Ministry of the Interior (MoI-EOD)	CPD/CROMAC	MoD and MoI (EOD)	CPD/CROMAC	MoD and MoI (EOD)
2.415	12 + 103	2.864	0 + 38	3006	929 + 442.578
2.530		2.902		446.513	

Most of the found and destroyed ERW were accounted inside the Osijek-Baranja and Sisak-Moslavina Counties. Majority of which, by the type of ERW, are the anti-personnel mines (AP) of type PMA-2 and PMA-3 and anti-tank mines (AT) of type TMM-1 and TMA-3. Of the total UXO found and destroyed, 13% relates to KB-1 cluster bombs and the remaining 77% to various other types of SALW or shell ammunition.

Summary of area clearance and ERW found/destroyed, 1 January - 31 December 2019

No.	COUNTY	AP/AT mines found and destroyed		UXO found and destroyed	ERW found and destroyed	Clearance Jan 1 - 31 Dec 2019 (km <sup>2</sup> )
		AP mines	AT mines			
1	Karlovac County	119	3	923	1045	1,7
2	Lika-Senj County	388	4	406	798	8,3
3	Osijek-Baranja County	1512	2853	606	4971	17,9
4	Požega-	13	0	11	6	0,9

	Slavonija County					
5	Split-Dalmacija County	0	0	45	45	0,4
6	Sisak-Moslavina County	110	3	861	975	3,7
7	Šibenik-Knin County	54	0	137	191	1,5
8	Zadar County	219	0	17	236	4,4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.415</b>	<b>2.864</b>	<b>3.006</b>	<b>8.285</b>	<b>38,8</b>

The status of performed methods for the destruction of anti-personnel mines (in mined areas under the State Party's jurisdiction or control) can be seen in the previous reports or the 2nd Extension request and has remained unchanged. All applicable safety and environmental standards were implemented as usual during the 2019. This was especially highlighted within the projects that are financed from the EU Cohesion fund, targeting Nature 2000 areas, that have been performed within the highest possible EU and National nature protection regulations defining the strict time frames when the demining activities and certain methods are allowed to be performed, so the various species and habitats are not to be aggravated in any means possible.

Demining activities were performed by 44 accredited commercial companies that conducted demining operations throughout the 2019, while survey activities were performed by the Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC sector deminers.

**Clearance capacities of the Republic of Croatia per methods (31 Dec, 2019)**

CLEARANCE CAPACITY PER METHOD	AMOUNT
Deminers	534
Work site leaders	147
Auxiliary workers	107
Mine detection dogs	108
Demining machines	42

Data that displays the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines/anti-vehicle mines under the State Party's jurisdiction or control and when they were emplaced, can be seen in the following table<sup>1</sup>:

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement
Karlovac County	Anti-vehicle mines	46	1990-1996
	Anti-personnel mines	1.277	
Lika-Senj County	Anti-vehicle mines	1.100	1990-1996
	Anti-personnel mines	8.744	
Osijek-Baranja County	Anti-vehicle mines	862	1990-1996
	Anti-personnel mines	1.024	
Požega-Slavonia County	Anti-vehicle mines	11	1990-1996
	Anti-personnel mines	621	
Sisak-Moslavina County	Anti-vehicle mines	59	1990-1996
	Anti-personnel mines	8.381	

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<sup>1</sup> Given information is an estimation according to mine-field records in CPD/CROMAC's sector database and Annual demining report

Split-Dalmatia County	Anti-vehicle mines Anti-personnel mines	0 496	1990-1996
Šibenik-Knin County	Anti-vehicle mines Anti-personnel mines	10 891	1990-1996
Zadar County	Anti-vehicle mines Anti-personnel mines	8 578	1990-1996
<b>Total number of anti-personnel mines:</b>		<b>22.012</b>	<b>1990-1996</b>
<b>Total number of anti-vehicle mines:</b>		<b>2.096</b>	<b>1990-1996</b>

Overall, the total hazardous area at the end of 2019 was 309,7 km<sup>2</sup> out of which 189,98 km<sup>2</sup> of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and 119,71 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs). Approximate number of AP/AT mines emplaced (Estimate according to number of minefield records in CPD/CROMAC sector database and Annual demining report) reaches 22.012 AP mines and 2.096 AT mines, excluding the areas under the MoD jurisdiction.

## 4.2. Military facilities containing mines

Certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas, radar stations and storage sites are still partially contaminated by land mines, cluster munitions remnants and other UXO. The Pioneer battalion of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. During 2019, an area of 298.880 m<sup>2</sup> was searched and cleared. 12 AP mines and 929 pieces of UXO were discovered and destroyed; while AV landmines were not found during the process.

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Barracks (Total: 1 barrack)	APM	5864	1991-1995	Barracks are contaminated partially.
	AVM	37	1991-1995	
Training Sites (Total: 3 training sites)	APM	9746	1991-1995	Training sites are contaminated partially.
	AVM	970	1991-1995	
Storage Sites (Total: 3 storage sites)	APM	9673	1991-1995	Storage sites are contaminated partially, and some of them completely.
	AVM	33	1991-1995	
Radar station (Total: 1 radar station)	APM	-	WW II, 1991-1995	
	AVM	-		
Shooting range (Total: 1 shooting range)	APM	-	1991-1995	
	AVM	-		
Other object (Total: 1 other object)	APM	-	1991-1995	
	AVM	-		

T O T A L (Information is related to the mined area and MSA in the size of 31.4 km <sup>2</sup> )	APMs (anti-personnel mines)	25276	1991-1995	
	AVMs (anti-vehicle mines)	-	1991-1995	
In 2019 Croatian Army units cleared an area of military facilities			T O T A L	298.880 m <sup>2</sup>

Total HA left for clearance in the jurisdiction of MoD amounts to 31.4 km<sup>2</sup>. The accurate size of the suspected hazardous area was established after determining of geographic surfaces and the detailed definition of the boundaries of the military installations. Majority of the reported HA of 30.00 km<sup>2</sup> belongs to the military training sites.

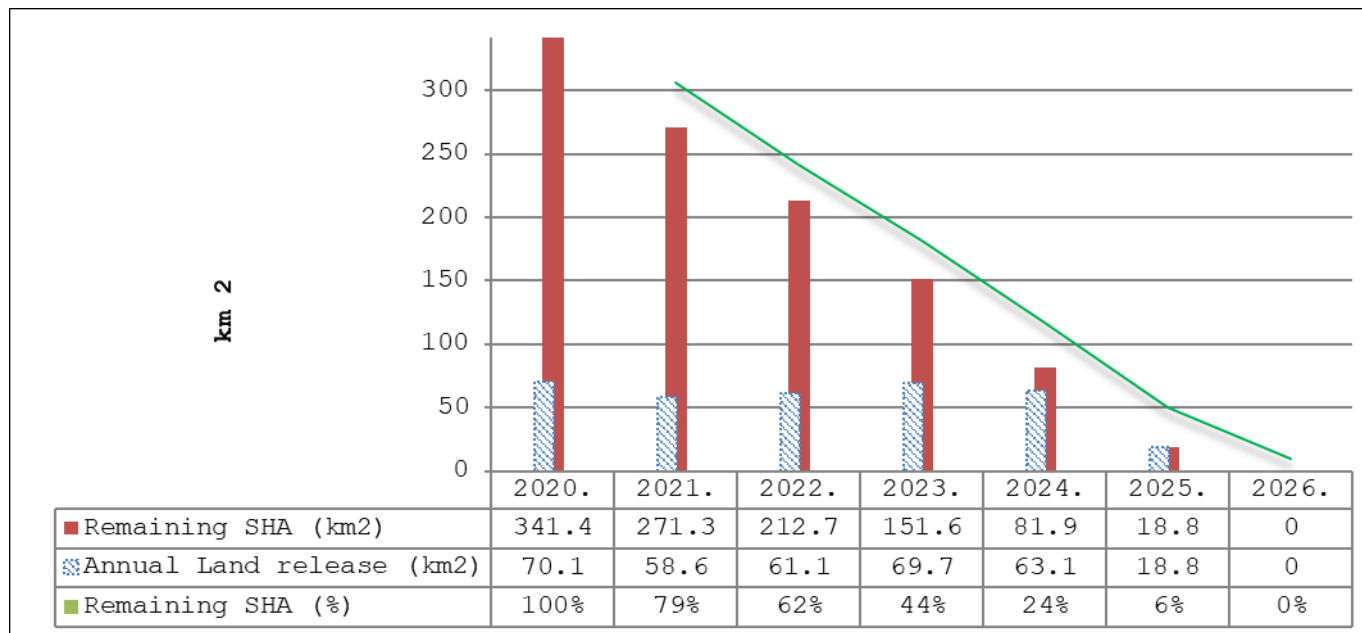
#### 4.3. Adjusted work plan milestones (Action 20 – Oslo Action Plan)

In its request for an extended deadline, which was submitted in 2019, the Republic of Croatia made time-bound commitments to enhance efforts to implement Article 5 of the Convention. With respect to these commitments, in 2019, the relevant institutions prepared an updated Work Plan which will be delivered as a separate supplementary document and publicly available to the Mine Action community.

Key points or milestones of the mentioned revised Work Plan are focused on the fulfilling the commitment in the 2020-2026 period using all available means and capacities to eliminate 341.4 square kilometres of HA in the Republic of Croatia. Remaining challenge consists of 309.7 km<sup>2</sup> of known HA active in the Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC MIS (Mine Information System) database as well as the 31.4 km<sup>2</sup> of HA under the Ministry of Defence jurisdiction.



Land release plan in the 2020-2026 period (km<sup>2</sup>)



\*projection of the number of areas and the amount of area to be addressed annually to achieve completion  
(Action 19 - Oslo Action Plan)

#### 4.4. Financial commitment towards the Mine Action

The Annual Mine Action Plan was realized using the following funding sources - State Budget funds, EU funds and donations. It is important to mention that, like in the previous reporting year, in 2019, funds acquired for the demining operations from the EU contribution were significant. In 2019 state budget had the biggest financing share with 60,8 % of the realized funds in total (EU funds 38,9 %, donations 0,3%) which again proves the high levels of national ownership and commitment of the Republic of Croatia towards the 2025 goal. Financially, The Annual Mine Action Plan amounted to slightly over 399 mil HRK, which reassembles to approximately 53,2 mil EUR.

#### 4.5. Mine Risk Education

The Republic of Croatia has had a highly developed system of continuous Mine risk education, which over two decades, resulted with a strong decline in the number of mine accidents or incidents. The educational efforts were over the years encouraged by a dedicated and comprehensive marking of the suspected hazardous areas, so these two components highly contributed to the fact that the Republic of Croatia hasn't had a civilian casualty since 2014.

In the course of 2019, the efforts in marking of suspected hazardous areas and activities that were conducted in order to create a clear boundary between safe and suspected hazardous areas were continued. 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. On December 31, 2019 the total mine suspected area was marked with 11.540 mine danger signs, which means slightly over 37 mine warning signs per square kilometre of the hazardous areas. In relation with the Mine Information System (MIS) - MIS web application portal has been developed as well (<https://misportal.hcr.hr/HCRweb/faces/intro/introduction.jspx>) which has, over the years, proven itself as an important source of information for general public due to its wide accessibility by every internet user.

As modern technologies reached to a point in extensive smartphones usage, an additional effort in MRE has been developed in the Republic of Croatia. In partnership with designers, CROMAC developed the Minefileds.info application for Android and iOS smartphones, to further challenge and increase the availability of mine warning information and mine awareness towards the general public. The application 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 a user gets closer to 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 provides supplementary MRE available through smartphones. This application was demonstrated during the course of "Mine action Symposium 2019" held in Slano, Dubrovnik - Croatia as well as during the 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisers (NDM-UN23) held in Geneva in 2019.

In line with the Action 29 of the Oslo Action Plan, Republic of Croatia continued to pursue efforts in providing MRE in line with the context-specific framework and reduction programmes to all affected population and groups at risk. In 2019, the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior coordinated a large number of activities related to mine danger awareness. Through 152 lectures and presentations, more than 20.000 citizens were educated in 2019. Majority of them were kindergarten and

elementary school kids who have received specially tailored lectures. Distinctive education was given to the members of Hunting associations, Croatian mountain rescue service, hikers, farmers and tourists. Education was provided throughout the 17 Counties and 87 Municipalities in line with the risk / gravitation towards the HA. The largest number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXOs were done in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedies" public campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with City and Municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations. All educational programmes and methodologies applied have been developed and performed to ensure that they are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account.

Previously mentioned is also in line with the specific educational programmes that train the educators to be proficient in MRE activities but also with the efforts of using the mass media to raise the awareness about the mine risks. Encouraging the media to pass the messages towards the general public 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 levels. 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 continuously warns about the still present danger of landmines in Croatia. Keeping that in mind, central ceremony for the April 4, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, which is an annual event widely covered by all of the relevant online and offline media, was held in the town of Zagreb with the presence of all relevant Mine Action stakeholders and high level officials. This event combines the demonstration of all of the MRE activities as well (promo leaflets, showcasing ERW, books, mine warning sings, personal protective equipment, etc.). Furthermore, as a part of commemorating International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the MoI Civil Protection Directorate has in 2019 conducted a two-day training of 25 civil protection officers in the area of Mine risk education (how to properly behave near hazardous areas and avoid risky situations in various daily activities). This training was conducted by licensed instructors - employees of the Civil Protection Directorate.

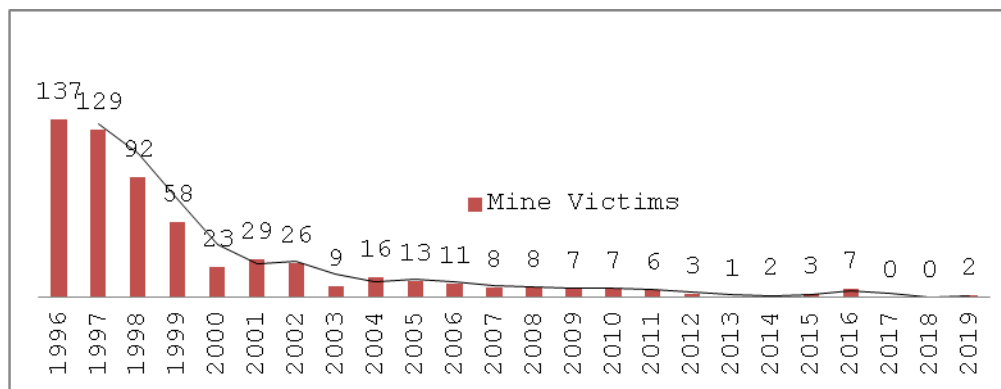
Aside from annual and planned activities it is important to emphasize that the Republic of Croatia has a well-established and comprehensive level of policies, programmes and projects that determine and promote gender equality aspects at all national levels including Mine Action and specifically MRE as well. The central Governmental body, The Office for Gender Equality, has reported in its 2019 review ([https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Croatia.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Croatia.pdf)) that a certain progress has been achieved in the last five years in most of the critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action in terms of the constitutional and legal principles of gender equality. For the first time, the Government of the Republic of Croatia specified gender equality as a separate objective of its 2016 to 2020 term of office.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia has included the goal of “eliminating gender discrimination and creating conditions for substantive equality between women and men in society” in all its annual strategic distribution plans for the 2016-2022 period. Positive changes and progress have been recorded in various areas, including raising public awareness of the human rights of women and the unacceptability of discriminatory behaviour based on gender, protecting women against violence and domestic violence, education, political participation, labour and employment, and reconciling work and family life. A large number of activities have been organised to inform the public and target groups of the Gender Equality Act and other anti-discriminatory legal and strategic frameworks. Along with civil society organisations, and often in cooperation with them, in the past few years all national and local institutional gender equality mechanisms, as well as the responsible ministries have organised numerous public events geared towards the advocacy of women’s human rights. In doing so, particular consideration has been given to women exposed to multiple forms of discrimination, such as ethnic minority women, women with disabilities, rural women, women who are victims of violence, and other vulnerable groups of women.

Unfortunately, even with all previously mentioned, comprehensively and widely organized MRE activities and marking efforts in the Republic of Croatia, during 2019 there were 2 mine incidents/accidents which have negatively impacted the trend where no mine related accident or incidents were accounted in the 2017 and 2018.

During February 2019, in Karlovac County, an AT mine (evidence suggests TMM-1 type of AT mine) was activated during field work with heavy machinery 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.

**Mine Victims in the 1996-2019 period**



Correspondingly, from 1996 till the end of 2019, the Republic of Croatia had accounted mine accidents or incidents where 597 people were harmed, out of which 203 with a fatal outcome. These unfortunate numbers also include 131 injured deminers, out of which 38 were fatalities.

#### **4.6. Evidence-based and costed national strategy and work plans**

2nd REQUEST for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of antipersonnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction had been presented to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation at the end of March 2018.

Republic of Croatia requested a 7 year extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of all antipersonnel mines in mined areas (i.e. until 1st March 2026) on the basis that this is a realistic but not unambitious amount of time given the extent of the remaining problem and the human, material and financial resources available or expected, and the demining and survey capacities currently available. In the first six years, all known minefields would be cleared, and in the remaining (final) one-year period, entire hazardous area would be released.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) to the APMBC, Republic of Croatia was officially approved of the extension deadline regarding the Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. 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 finalize all operations and verification by 31 December 2025 and hence fulfil its Article 5 obligations in line with the aspiration of the States Parties in the Maputo + 15 Declaration.

According to the previously stated and approved, the Republic of Croatia efforts continued to be focused and extensive. During 2020, a new National Mine Action Programme for the 2020-2026 will be established as well as a revised Work Plan with means and projections of the number of areas and the amount of areas that would be addressed annually to achieve completion in line with the Action 19 of the Oslo Action Plan.

In addition, Article 7 report for the 2019 was updated with additional and more detailed data of land release activities in comparison with the requested and previous ones, all with an effort to provide even more transparency towards the Committee and Member states.

## **5. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

The Republic of Croatia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed. See the report submitted in 2019 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Croatia on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed.

## **6. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities**

The Republic of Croatia did not produce any anti-personnel landmines in 2019 and has no additional information on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities. See the report submitted in 2019 for the information that has already been provided by the Republic of Croatia on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

## **7. Victim Assistance**

The Republic of Croatia has proven itself in maintaining interest at a high level in fulfilling Convention obligations. Along with other elements, this commitment has led towards a highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing 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 and professional and economic rehabilitation. All of this is comprehensively defined as a part of several legislatures so we can conclude that the integration of 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 Oslo Action Plan.

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 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).

In this reporting period, the Republic of Croatia would like to emphasise the on-going project related to providing assistance to the mine victims within the praiseworthy "Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme" framework. The project entitled "Demining and socio-economic integration" combined the finalized activity of demining the protected forest area and mine victim assistance and empowerment in the terms of their successful integration. During 2019 the project started with the second phase which included public tender contracting of a service provider that would perform the questionnaire field survey of mine victims. Within this project phase it is planned to establish a comprehensive data base on mine victims, needs assessments and implementation on training courses and other forms of support.

In addition, the Ministry of the Interior plans to further pursue the efforts to strengthen the incentive of a Coordination body at the national level, legally predefined by the Act on Mine Action. The mentioned Coordination body would be composed of representatives of ministries competent for home affairs, health and war veterans, Croatian Pension Insurance Institute, Croatian Institute of Public Health and other bodies and non-government organizations whose scope of competence includes the issue of victims of explosive remnants of war.

## **8. Cooperation and assistance**

As in previous years, Republic of Croatia continued its availability to provide extensive support towards the Mine Action community in 2019. Cooperation and assistance in this reporting period have been concentrated regarding the regional and bilateral cooperation with other States, including mutually supporting and exchanging information about the hazardous border areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and, in line with Article 6, exchanging equipment, material and scientific and technological information in order to promote the implementation of the Convention.

It would be important to highlight the cooperation that was continued during 2019 between the Croatian Civil Protection Directorate and The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the research activities that resulted with the study published in August, 2019 (<https://www.gichd.org/en/resources/publications/detail/publication/national-capacities-and-residual-contamination-croatia/>). This case study publication, entitled "National Capacities and Residual Contamination (Croatia)" documents Croatia's experience of developing national systems and capacities to address residual contamination and to identify and present good practices and lessons learnt. In

addition, this case study highlights the importance of a participatory and transparent long-term strategic planning process, including a comprehensive and properly implemented exit strategy.

Other means of cooperation that have been mutually directed by the Civil Protection Directorate and CROMAC-CTDT ltd. in 2019 include:

During January 2019, representatives of the Libyan Ministry of Defence visited Civil Protection Directorate and CROMAC-CTDT ltd. The Libyan delegation included four Ministry of Defence 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.

Also, during January 2019, CROMAC-CTDT ltd. held a training course for the MRE instructors for the representatives of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Centre from Serbia.

In March 2019, a representative of CROMAC-CTDT 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-Centre 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.

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

During September 2019, CROMAC-CTDT ltd. held training for the staff of the Serbian-Russian Humanitarian Centre and the Mine Action Centre of Serbia. The training included planning, prioritization, project design 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 CROMAC-CTDT ltd. 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.

Furthermore, CROMAC-CTDT ltd. 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 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), GICHD, EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

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CROMAC Mine information System portal: <https://misportal.hcr.hr/HCRweb/faces/intro/introduction.jspx>

CROMAC - CTDT Web site: [www.ctro.hr](http://www.ctro.hr)