



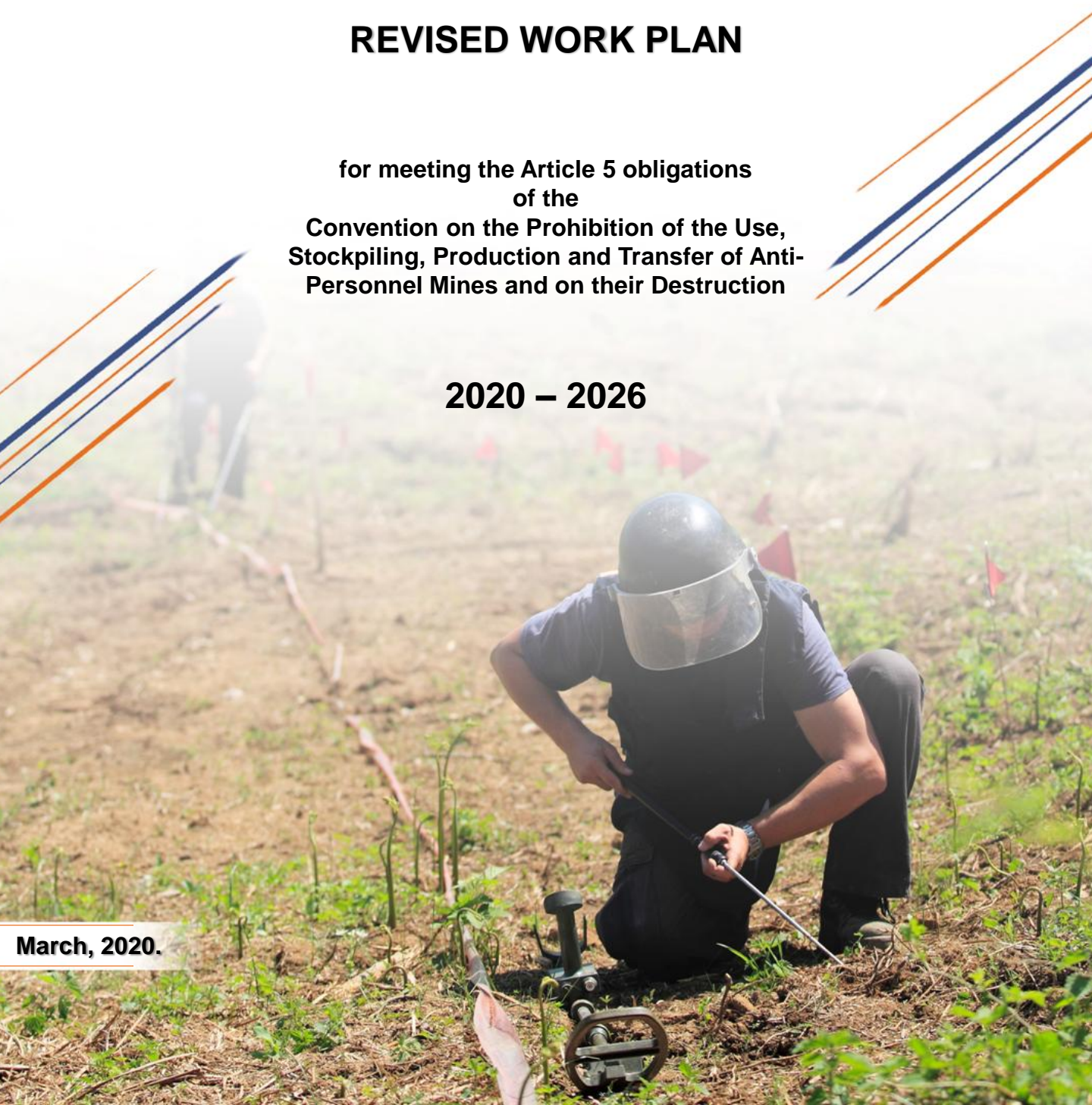
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

MINE ACTION REVISED WORK PLAN

for meeting the Article 5 obligations
of the
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use,
Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-
Personnel Mines and on their Destruction

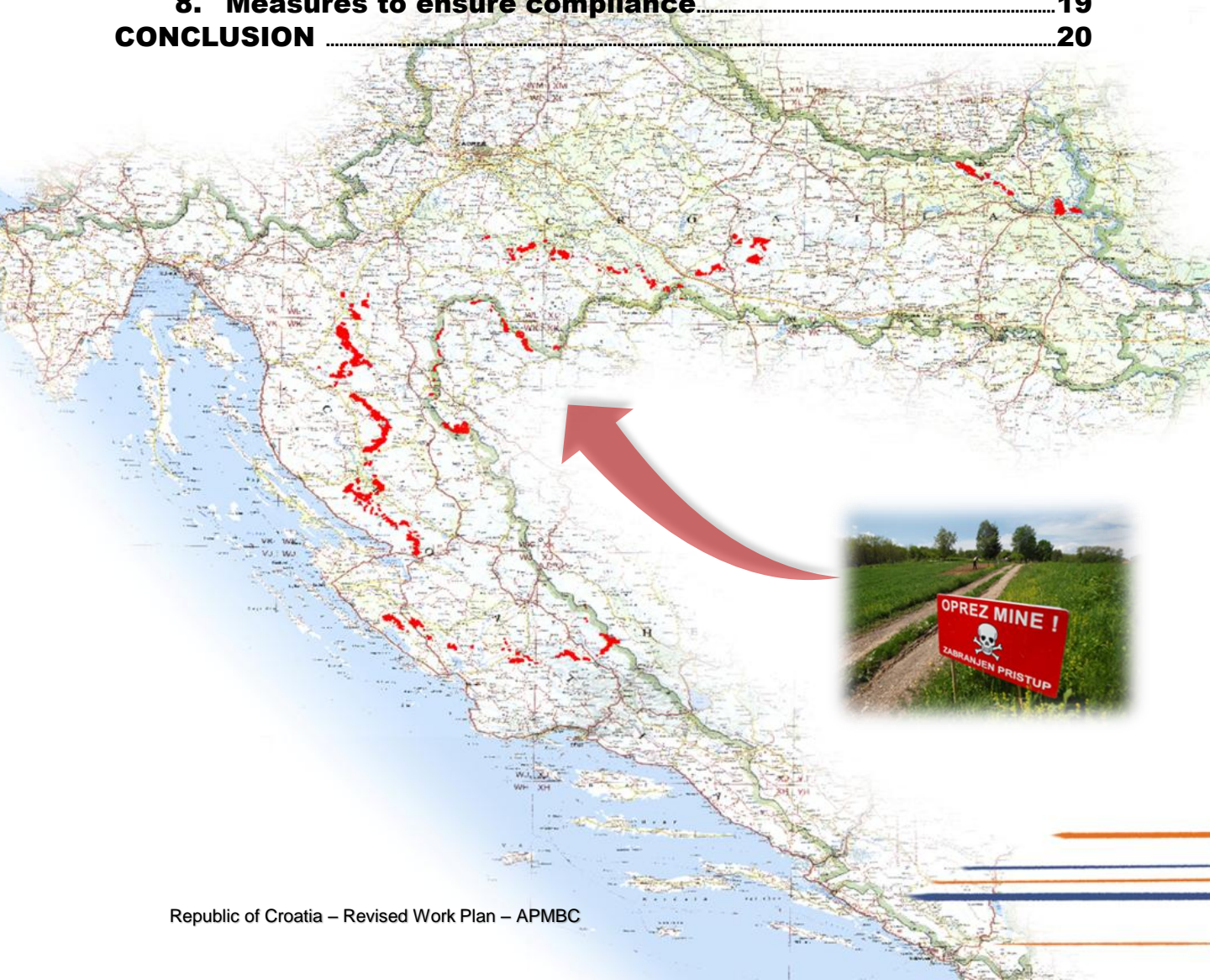
2020 – 2026

March, 2020.



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INTRODUCTION

This Work plan for meeting Article 5.1 obligations of the Convention on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (hereinafter: the Convention) for the period of 2020 – 2026 (hereinafter: the Plan) is being submitted on the basis of the decision by the States Parties to approve the 2nd request of the Republic of Croatia for extension of the deadline for completing the stated obligations by 1st March 2026.

The Plan has been developed by the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and it is harmonized with the proposal of the National Mine Action Program of the Republic of Croatia for the period of 2020 – 2026.

In accordance with paragraph (iii) of the Decision on the request, this Plan contains an updated, detailed list of all known and suspected areas contaminated with mines (Anti-personnel mines), in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) terminology, with annual projections of the land release of the established hazardous areas (hereinafter: HAs) during the remaining period covered by the request along with a revised detailed financial forecast. The plan also contains other activities of the Croatian mine action system for the remaining period adopted at the 4th Review Conference of the States Parties to the APMBC, held in Oslo, in November 2019 (hereinafter: OAP).

In the period since the adoption of the Decision of the States Parties, the Republic of Croatia has submitted annual reports in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention (for 2018 and 2019), while in the said period Croatian delegations participated in relevant meetings of the States Parties and at the 4th Review Conference. The progress of the Republic of Croatia in relation to the Plan was presented to the members, as well as the forthcoming challenges for the fulfillment of the Article 5 of the Convention.



In accordance with paragraph (VI) of the Decision granting the extension, the Republic of Croatia shall regularly report to the States Parties through annual reports (Article 7 of the Convention) on:

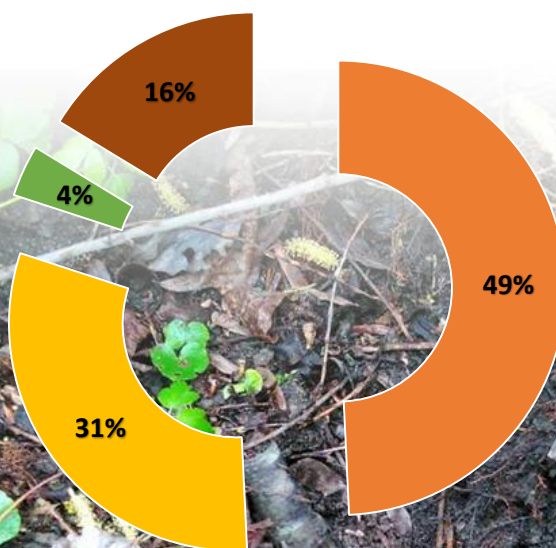
a) *progress in the continuous land release relative to the commitments made in the Croatia's annual work plans*

Progress made since 2nd extension (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2019)

No	County	Cancelled area by NTS (km ²)	Reduced area by TS (km ²)	Cleared area (km ²)	TOTAL (km ²)	No of Mines and ERW destroyed	No of Town/ Municipality cleared
1.	Karlovac	-	0.48	5	5.5	1.045	1
2.	Lika - Senj	0.20	0.69	28.3	29.2	798	
3.	Osijek - Baranja	2.5	1	19.7	23.2	4.971	2
4.	Požega-Slavonia	0.44	1.6	7.8	9.9	24	
5.	Split - Dalmatia	-	0.00049	0.91	0.91	45	1
6.	Sisak - Moslavina	1.3	0.19	16	17.4	975	
7.	Šibenik-Knin	0.6	1.8	4.2	6.6	191	2
8.	Zadar	1.9	3	5.6	10.6	236	1
9.	Brod-Posavina	-	-	0.2	0.2	-	1
Total CPD		7	8.8	88	103.5	8.285	8
Total MoD		0.17	0	0.48	0.66	969	n/a
Overall		7.17	8.8	88.48	104.16	9.254	8

b) *methods of excluding areas from the MSA (manual, mechanical, MDDs) 1.1.2018-31.12.2019*

■ Manual ■ Machine+Manual ■ MDD+Manual ■ Machine+MDD+Manual

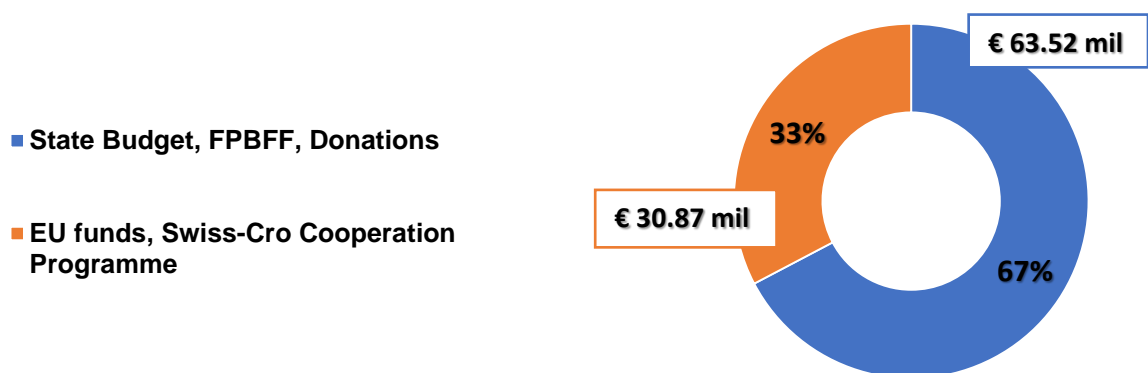


c) *progress regarding the adoption of the National Mine Action Plan 2020-2026*

The proposal of the draft National Mine Action Plan has been finalized and, in accordance with the Mine Action Act, submitted to the relevant state administration bodies for an opinion. After receiving the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the draft document will be submitted to the Croatian Parliament for adoption.

d) *achievements in securing sufficient financial resources in the amounts provided in the request for extension of obligations (state budget, European Union funds)*

Funding sources 1.1.2018-31.12.2019



e) *information on the structure of the Croatian Mine Action Program, including existing and new organizational and institutional capacities for responding to pollution after completion*

Highlighting the cooperation that was continued during 2019 between the Croatian Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC and The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the research activities, which resulted with the study published in August, 2019 (<https://www.gichd.org/en/resources/publications/detail/publication/national-capacities-and-residual-contamination-croatia/>), we can emphasize that the important step to efficiently deal with the residual risk and liability in the Republic of Croatia had begun with the integration of the CROMAC within the Mol (2019). This meant that the challenges of the residual risk contamination will be handled within the responsibilities of the Mol itself – Police Directorate EOD teams and Civil Protection Directorate.



A VISION STATEMENT

The Republic of Croatia without the mine threat by 1st March 2026, enabling a safe life for all its citizens, more balanced and faster economic development and environmental protection in the entire state territory, where mine victims, integrated into society, will be able to fully exercise their rights.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

1

SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF THE HAZARDOUS AREAS (DESTRUCTION OF ALL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES)

OTHER OBJECTIVES

2

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION

3

PERSISTING ON ENSURING THE FULL UNIVERSALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION

4

MAINTAINING THE STATUS OF COMPLETELY DESTROYED STOCKPILES AND THE CONTROL OVER THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES RETAINED

5

MINE RISK EDUCATION

6

MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

7

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

8

OBEYING THE MEASURES FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE OTTAWA CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS



1. SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OF HA

HAZARDOUS AREA IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

The hazardous area (HA) in the Republic of Croatia as of 31st December 2019 covers 309.7 km², as a result of the activities of demining and non-technical and technical surveys. It has been established that the area intended for demining (CHA) covers 210.4 km², while an area of 99.4 km² is classified as an area intended for non-technical and technical surveys (SHA). HA (CHA + SHA) stretches through 8 Counties and 53 Towns and Municipalities.

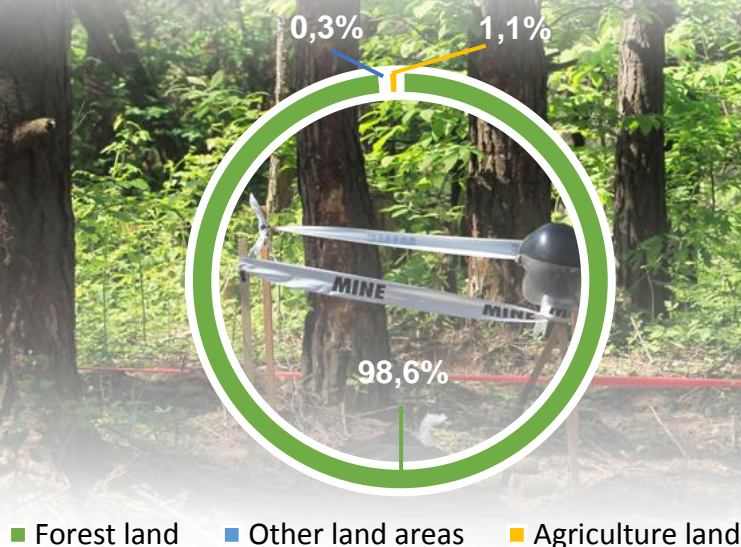
Based on the minefield records available to MoD CPD, the HA is contaminated with 24,108 mines and a high number of UXOs, scattered in the areas of intense combat activities during the Homeland War.

The overall HA of the Republic of Croatia is marked with 11,540 mine warning signs.

Based on the records and authorities of the MoD, as of Dec 31, 2019, the hazardous area containing military locations and buildings covers 31.4 km².

County	Total HA (km ²)	Confirmed Hazardous Areas (km ²)	Suspected Hazardous Areas (km ²)	Number of CHA/SHA areas	Quantity of AP mines	Quantity of AT mines	MoD Total HA (km ²)
Karlovac	44,3	26,5	17,8	6	1.277	46	29.82
Lika-Senj	109,4	83,2	26,2	9	8.744	1.100	0
Osijek-Baranja	32,5	18,0	14,5	10	1.024	862	0
Pozega-Slavonia	14,6	9,1	5,5	2	621	11	0
Sisak-Moslavina	53,4	29,0	24,4	10	496	0	0.51
Split-Dalmatia	19,3	16,0	3,3	2	8.381	59	0
Sibenik-Knin	15,7	12,0	3,7	5	891	10	0
Zadar	20,5	16,6	3,9	9	578	8	1.05
TOTAL	309,7	210,4	99,3	53	22.012	2.096	31.4
TOTAL (+ MoD)	341.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Table 1. Hazardous area of the Republic of Croatia as of Dec 31, 2019



Graph 1. HA structure (Dec 31, 2019)

The largest portion of the HA of the Republic of Croatia are forest areas with 305.4 km² or 98.6% of the total HA, than come agricultural areas with 3.5 km² or 1.1% of the HA and other areas with 0.8 km² or 0.3% of the total HA.

Table 2. Types of mines deployed

COUNTY	Minefield records quantity	QUANTITY OF MINES / MINE TYPE		
		AP	AT	TOTAL
Karlovac	76	1.277	46	1.323
Lika-Senj	413	8.744	1.100	9.844
Osijek-Baranja	50	1.024	862	1.886
Pozega-Slavonia	123	621	11	632
Split-Dalmatia	39	496	0	496
Sisak-Moslavina	241	8.381	59	8.440
Sibenik-Knin	31	891	10	901
Zadar	54	578	8	586
TOTAL	1.027	22.012	2.096	24.108

In addition to the above listed types and quantities of mines, the mine situation is characterized by the following facts:

- not all mines have been deployed according to adopted military mine deployment systems (marking, maintenance and deployment recording standards);
- movement of minefields, as well as their unrecorded multiple replenishing;
- existence of a number of mines without corresponding minefield records;
- military demining conducted without mine clearance records;
- dense vegetation and long-standing neglect of the HA;
- UXOs scattered over a large number of micro-locations, as a consequence of explosions of military depots or abandoning during withdrawal from military positions

RESOURCES

Analyzing the achieved efficiency of accredited demining resources, an estimate was made that through mine clearance and technical survey activities, approx. 56.5 km² of HA may be released per year.

RESOURCES	As of 1st January 2020
Deminers	534
Worksite leaders	147
Auxiliary workers	107
Mine detection dogs	108
Demining machines	42

Table 3. Demining/non-technical and technical survey resources in the Republic of Croatia

RESOURCES	Quant.	Daily efficiency	Work days	TOTAL
Deminers	534	400	210	44.856.000
Worksite leaders performing tasks of team leaders or deminers	75	400	210	6.300.000
Mine detection dogs	54	1.000	100	5.400.000
Demining machines	42	3.500	100	14.700.000
Annual total m ²				56.556.000

Table 4. Efficiency of the accredited resources

Demining of military sites and / or buildings is carried out by the Pioneer Company of the engineering regiment of the Croatia Armed Forces according to a specific plan under the MoD.

RESOURCES	Quant.	Daily efficiency	Work days	TOTAL
Deminers	65	100	200	1.300.000
Worksite leaders performing tasks of team leaders or deminers	17	100	200	340.000
Mine detection dogs	0	0	0	0
Demining machines	3	800	200	480.000
Annual total m ²				1.640.000

Table 5. Efficiency of the MoD capacities

The MoD will not be able to carry out demining of its perspective military sites and / or structures solely. In accordance with Article 60, paragraph 2 of the Mine Action Act, with the prior approval of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, will request the demining of individual perspective military sites and / or structures in accordance with the provisions of the Mine Action Law, as has already been implemented in certain cases.

FINANCIAL MEANS

One of the basic prerequisites for achieving the objectives set out in this Plan is securing funding. Considering the remaining HA and its structure, as well as the available manpower and material and technical resources and the annual reduction of the HA, it is estimated that an overall amount of ca **299.6 mil EUR*** should be secured.

(*exchange rate of the Croatian National Bank on March 31, 2020, 7.6 HRK = 1 EUR)

Table 5. Funding sources planned for the period of 2020 – 2026

FUNDING SOURCE	FUNDING RATIO (%)
STATE BUDGET	45.12 %
FPBFF ¹	13.17 %
EU (ESI) FUNDS	41.71 %
TOTAL	100.0 %

¹ Pursuant to the Rules and Regulations on the Amendment of the Rules and Regulations on the Right to Financial Means from the Forest Public Benefit Function Fee on the Economic Activities in the Forests (NG No. 46/18) - 30% of the financial means from that fee are earmarked for demining of forests and forest land (FPBFF)

The basis for planning the funding needed to reach the 2020-2026 target:

- for 2020, on the basis of the State Budget approved for 2020.,
- for 2021, on the basis of the projections of the State Budget for 2021 and an application form for a project from the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion named „Karlovac Karst”,
- for 2022, 2023 and 2024, a unit price of mine clearance of 8.50 HRK/m² or 1.11 EUR/m² (average demining price in recent years) was applied,
- for 2025, a unit price of mine clearance of 9.50 HRK/m² or 1.25 EUR/m² was applied, since this is the final year of demining, in which demining operations in inaccessible and demanding areas are planned, and it is assumed that the existing resources (supply) will be reduced, which will result in the increase of the unit price of mine clearance.

The funding will be precisely defined in annual mine action plans, in accordance with the Law on Mine Action (National Gazette Nos. 110/15, 118/18, 98/19).

	Year							Total
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Hazardous area (km ²)	51,1	41,7	41,0	44,4	40,4	9,8	0	228,4
Financial means (VAT excluded)	43,9	42,9	45,9	49,7	45,2	12,3	0	239,9
Financial means (VAT included)	54,9	53,5	57,3	62,1	56,5	15,3	0	299,6

Table 7. Overview of planned financial means needed (mil €)

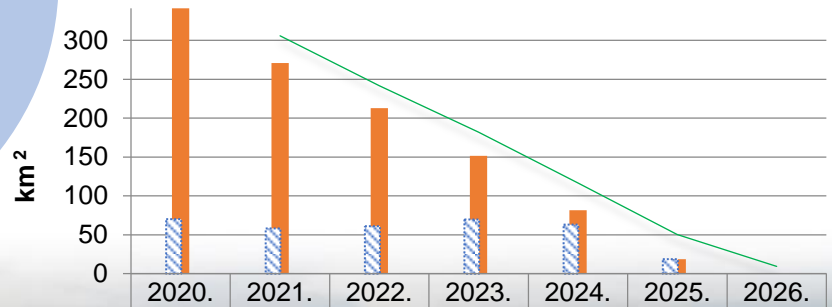
Funding for the implementation of the Mine Action Plan for Military Sites and / or Structures for 2020 is provided in the State Budget at the Ministry of Defense section, and covers the total expenditure for the demining of military sites and / or structures.

ROADMAP IN REDUCING THE HAZARDOUS AREAS

In the period of 2020 – 2025, the HA is planned to be reduced by 341.1 km², which includes 309.7 km² recorded in the mine information system of the MoI CPD, and 31.4 km² of hazardous areas comprising military sites and structures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence. These activities are planned to be completed by the end of 2025, while in the first quarter of 2026, administrative activities will be conducted regarding the final fulfilment of the obligations.

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

Graph 2. Land release plan in the 2020-2026 period (km²)



Remaining HA (km2)	341,1	271	212,7	151,5	81,8	18,8	0
Annual Land release (km2)	70,1	58,3	61,2	69,7	63	18,8	0
Remaining HA (%)	100%	79%	62%	44%	24%	6%	0%

	km ²	Land release by clearance, survey cancellation/reduced by Civil Protection Directorate for the 2020 - 2026						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Clearance	210,4	51,1	39,1	37,1	38,3	35,0	9,8	0
TS	48,0	5,0	7,6	8,9	11,1	10,4	5,0	0
NTS	51,3	9,0	6,2	9,2	14,3	12,6	0,0	0
SUBTOTAL (CPD)	309,7	65,1	52,9	55,2	63,7	58,0	14,8	0
Land release MoD	31,4	5,0	5,4	6,0	6,0	5,0	4,0	0
TOTAL	341,1	70,1	58,3	61,2	69,7	63	18,8	0

Table 8. Land release plan in the 2020-2026 period (km²)

ROADMAP IN REDUCING THE HAZARDOUS AREAS

Table 9. Planned land release of HA in the remaining period (clearance)

County	CHA km ²	Clearance plan (km ²) 2020 – 2026						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Karlovac	26,5	1,2	17,1	2,7	2,0	3,5	0,0	0,0
Lika-Senj	83,2	16,4	5,0	14,7	20,3	17,0	9,8	0,0
Osijek-Baranja	18,0	10,4	4,1	1,5	2,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Pozega-Slavonia	9,1	0,5	2,3	6,3	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Sisak-Moslavina	29,0	10,4	2,9	4,2	6,0	5,5	0,0	0,0
Split-Dalmatia	16,0	0,0	0,5	4,5	5,0	6,0	0,0	0,0
Sibenik-Knin	12,0	2,2	0,6	3,2	3,0	3,0	0,0	0,0
Zadar	16,6	10,0	6,6	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
TOTAL (CPD)	210,4	51,1	39,1	37,1	38,3	35,0	9,8	0,0
MoD	31,4	5,0	5,4	6,0	6,0	5,0	4,0	0,0
TOTAL	242,1	56,1	44,8	43,1	44,3	40	13,8	0,0

County	SHA km ²	Plan for cancelled/reduced areas by survey activities (km ²) 2020 – 2026						
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Karlovac	17,8	2,7	0,0	3,0	6,0	6,1	0,0	0,0
Lika-Senj	26,2	0,5	2,0	4,9	8,4	7,4	3,0	0,0
Osijek-Baranja	14,5	4,5	4,6	1,9	3,5	0,0	0,0	0,0
Pozega-Slavonia	5,5	1,3	1,0	3,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Sisak-Moslavina	24,4	2,1	3,2	4,1	6,5	6,5	2,0	0,0
Split-Dalmatia	3,3	0,0	0,0	1,0	1,0	1,3	0,0	0,0
Sibenik-Knin	3,7	2,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,7	0,0	0,0
Zadar	3,9	0,9	3,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
TOTAL	99,3	14,0	13,8	18,1	25,4	23,0	5,0	0,0
<i>Technical survey</i>	<i>48,0</i>	<i>5,0</i>	<i>7,6</i>	<i>8,9</i>	<i>11,1</i>	<i>10,4</i>	<i>5,0</i>	<i>0,0</i>
<i>Non-technical survey cancellation</i>	<i>51,3</i>	<i>9,0</i>	<i>6,2</i>	<i>9,2</i>	<i>14,3</i>	<i>12,6</i>	<i>0,0</i>	<i>0,0</i>

Table 10. Planned land release of HA in the remaining period (survey reduced / cancelled areas)

In line with the stated priorities, especially by local self-government bodies and users (owners) of hazardous areas, on the basis of the Act on Mine Action, the Croatian Government will establish precise Annual mine action plans in accordance with the funding secured.

Preconditions for achieving the stated goals:

- maintaining the level of financing from the State Budget,
- retaining high level of funding through EU funds,
- maintaining the available resources for demining and non-technical and technical surveys,
- establishing a more efficient legislative framework governing the area of mine action.



2. PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

In the remaining period of its mine action implementation, the Government of the Republic of Croatia will, in accordance with the actions established by the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) as well as by the National Mine Action Programme, fulfil its obligations by the established deadline, in the Convention's traditional spirit of co-operation and transparency, taking all actions on which the state parties are focused, especially:

Strong national ownership of mine action in the Republic of Croatia will be based on the Mine Action Act and by-laws adopted on the basis of the same, as well as current amendments that will be adopted in view of any change in circumstances. Proposal of the National Mine Action Program for the period 2020-2026 was drafted and in legal procedure that precedes the adoption of the document by the Croatian Parliament. Annual mine action plans, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, shall be approved within the deadlines prescribed by the Act, as well as annual reports on the implementation of annual plans submitted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia to the Croatian Parliament.

Since the Republic of Croatia is a member of the EU, an inclusive approach is considered imperative in all activities, and therefore in mine action. The Republic of Croatia has a well-established and comprehensive level of policies, programs and projects that are based on and promote gender equality at all levels.

The Republic of Croatia will, through its representatives in the relevant IMAS bodies, maintain the harmonization of national mine action standards with the latest international mine action standards (IMAS).

All stakeholders in the Croatian mine action system will continue to recognize and develop special partnerships with relevant international partners such as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the relevant MBC and CCM bodies and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, as well as domestic and international representatives and non-governmental sector.

The Republic of Croatia will maintain openness and readiness to provide support and assistance to all Member States and other relevant stakeholders in the APMBC community, actively participating in meetings, conferences and other platforms intended for experts and exchanging experiences. Also, the intention is to continue in organizing an annual symposium on mine action, which has traditionally brought together interested partners for 16 years now.

Based on more than two decades of experience, the Republic of Croatia will continue the processes of collecting and systematizing contextual information relevant to successful mine action. Established numerous databases (on the structure and distribution of HAS, marking of HAS with mine warning signs, land release activities, mine victims, capacities, etc.) will be maintained and improved and transparently available to the public and interested parties.

Republic of Croatia has and will contribute towards the Convention goals and continue to pay assessed contributions.

3. PERSISTING ON ENSURING THE FULL UNIVERSALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

The Republic of Croatia, through all its levers of action, in particular the legislative and executive branches of the national and international framework, will continue to promote the universalization of the Convention and strengthen its norms, in particular by:

Using the existing practice of promoting accession to the Convention

Continuing to promote universal observance of the Convention's norms and objectives

Persisting in condemning the violation of the Convention's norms and taking appropriate steps to end the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines by any actor



4. ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES RETAINED OR TRANSFERRED FOR PERMITTED PURPOSES

The Republic of Croatia has destroyed its stockpiled anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention, except for a small quantity retained under Article 3 of the Convention. Final quantities of armed anti-personnel landmines were destroyed at Red Land military site near Knin, at the end of 2002, in the presence of numerous international observers. During the observation, the Republic of Croatia was commended for fulfilling its obligation under the Convention.

AP mine type	Quantity
PMA-1	14.280
PMA-2	44.876
PMA-3	59.701
PMR-2A, 2AS	74.040
PMR-3	4
PROM-1	6.102
TOTAL	199.003

For permitted purposes, the Republic of Croatia has retained 4,851 anti-personnel mines. These mines are used for testing and evaluation of demining machines by the authorized CROMAC – Centre for Testing, Development and Training Ltd. Zagreb, and for regular training and education of deminers.

With regard to this objective,
The Republic of Croatia will:

✓ Report transparently on the use of the retained mines and their destruction

✓ Seek to explore alternatives to the use of live anti-personnel mines for training and research purposes

5. MINE RISK EDUCATION

Based on the synergetic cooperation between state administration bodies, local (regional) self-government units and the non-governmental sector (especially the Croatian Red Cross, the Association for Supporting and Promoting Unity - Croatia Helps, the Croatia without Mines - a Croatian humanitarian demining foundation, etc.), MoI CPD as the operating body, will:



Continue to implement existing programmes of mine and ERW risk education, adapt and improve them



Continue to direct mine risk education activities towards targeted vulnerable groups; primarily children, hunters, fishermen, hikers, forest workers, firefighters and other citizens that often pass through the areas close to HA



Continue with enhanced education activities during April, the month dedicated to the protection against mines, and specifically mark 4th April, the International Mine Awareness and Mine Action Assistance Day



Conduct mine risk education through public information channels, through all types of public media, through professional lectures and by organizing public events at national and local levels

In the period covered by this Plan, according to the statistics from the previous period, it is estimated that a total of 700 mine risk education activities will be held, that will include approx. 90,000 people, primarily in mine-contaminated Counties, but also in other regions of the Republic of Croatia, especially in larger populated areas (towns).




In order to achieve the stated goal, the Republic of Croatia will, in accordance with the OAP guidelines, primarily:

Improve established national resources operating in the field of mine risk education


Update and adapt mine risk programs and education to the new technology era (in addition to existing e-services develop additional ones, make them available to citizens and visitors via online platforms)

Implement educational programs, as in the previous period, without exception, in accordance with the principle of gender equality, fully accessible to girls, boys, women and men

Report on mine risk education activities conducted



The integration of CROMAC in the Civil Protection Directorate from 1 January 2019 has contributed, among other things, towards the improvement of the established national resources operating in the field of mine action, and thus in the field of mine risk education. This structural reform has enhanced the coordination of mine risk education at the national level through the National Teaching Center for Civil Protection, which is organized through 5 regional offices and 15 additional branches. In order to establish additional capacities, in 2019 the CPD conducted training of an additional 25 civil protection officers in the field of mine risk education.



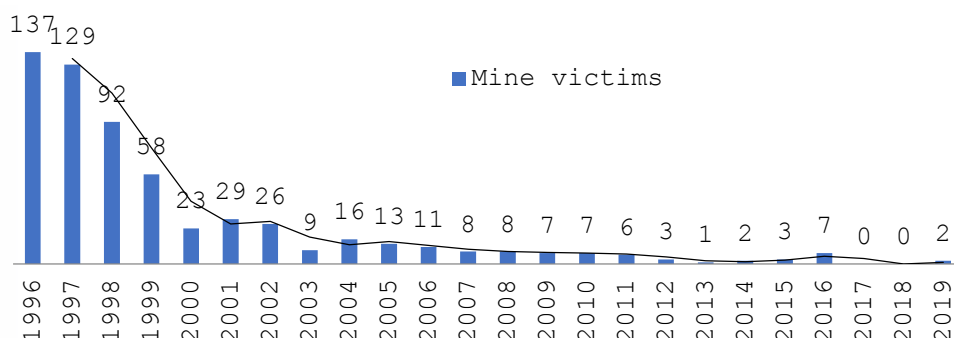
The use of already established, but also additionally developed e-services has and will in the future contribute to this field. While the already established MIS portal web application provides every Internet user with a detailed insight into HAs in the Republic of Croatia, additional mobile application MINE.info.hr was developed in cooperation with designers for smartphones to further increase the availability of mine risk information to the general public. The application works on the basis of GPS, so if the user approaches the HA, the application will warn him with a sound signal of the danger of mines, or approaching the HA. The application also has the option of an emergency call for help and the ability to take photos and report potential ERW because it also contains a database of photos of the same. The application can be downloaded for free from mobile application stores.

A tailored approach to the most vulnerable groups was presented as an inclusiveness model for the first category of 100 per cent disabled veterans of the Homeland War in the Republic of Croatia ("Train the Trainers"). The education was conducted by the civil sector and the Ministry of Croatian Veterans, where the project aims to educate veterans of the Homeland War, some of whom are mine victims, in order to make them able to independently conduct mine risk education, which gives it additional importance and credibility.

In line with the OAP, the Republic of Croatia continues with the efforts in providing the MBC and Mine Action community in reporting on Mine Risk Education activities conducted annually.

6. MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

In the Republic of Croatia from the time period between 1996 till the end of 2019 in mine accidents / incidents there were 597 people harmed, out of which 203 fatally.



On the basis of the principles of respecting human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination, the Republic of Croatia will, as in the previous time period, continue to provide comprehensive assistance both to survivors and to the families of the persons killed by mines. The achievement of the stated goal in the remaining period is planned through defined and established key forms of assistance to mine victims, in the implementation of which both governmental and non-governmental sectors of the Republic of Croatia are involved through a range of organizations and individual initiatives;



Realization of this goal is under the responsibility of the Coordination body, in accordance with the Act on Mine Action, and it will be implemented by the MoI and state administration bodies authorized for health care, social care, Croatian Homeland war veterans and other state administration bodies, local and regional self-government bodies, as well as NGOs that can contribute to the implementation.



Upon the completion of the second stage of the project “Demining and socio-economic integration”, which has been funded by the donation of the Swiss Confederation, on the basis of the Swiss-Croatian Co-operation Programme, after completing field identification and interviewing of landmine survivors, a database of their identified socio-economic and psychological needs will be established, which will be the basis for planning educational courses and rendering psychological and socio-economic support to mine victims as well as targeted investments.



MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

In the upcoming period, the Republic of Croatia will follow OAP guidelines in the implementation of this goal, primarily:

Establish a coordinating government body intended to provide assistance to survivors, consisting of relevant institutions

Implement existing national policies, plans and legal frameworks that include assistance to mine victims

Effectively address the needs and rights of mine victims through the national policy and legal framework of the Republic of Croatia

Complete the establishment of a centralized database with relevant data on identified survivors' needs

Advance the established key forms of mine victims assistance

Ensure social and economic inclusion of mine victims

Include safety and protection of mine victims in risk situations in national plans of humanitarian response and readiness, in accordance with relevant international humanitarian and human rights and international guidelines

Ensure active and equal participation and contribution to mine victims and their associations

7. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

The Republic of Croatia fully implements the provisions of the Convention and provides efforts to uphold its activities of international co-operation and assistance. Over the past twenty years, the Republic of Croatia developed a well respected mine action system with internationally valued technical resources and educated, qualified and motivated personnel.

In order to achieve the stated objective, in accordance with the OAP guidelines, the Republic of Croatia will;

Maintain and improve resources needed for fulfilling the obligations undertaken by the Convention

Continue to develop the established national coordination platform of all the system stakeholders (MoI CPD, other state administration bodies, employers, deminers' associations and unions, private sector involved in mine action, equipment producers, civil sector and others)

Share the achieved accomplishments of its mine action system and activities that are defined by future challenges

Assist other state parties in the areas where it has made progress

Share its best practices, knowledge, experiences, equipment and results of scientific and technological projects

8. MEASURES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE

In the upcoming period, the Republic of Croatia will be committed to ensuring the compliance of the obligations under the Convention and to achieving all of its objectives.

At the 4th Review Conference held in Oslo in 2019, political obligation of the Republic of Croatia towards the Convention has been renewed and it was highlighted that the Republic of Croatia and its Government will employ all available human and financial resources as well as knowledge and experience gained to date, in order to fully implement the OAP actions and guidelines into national frameworks and into the National mine action strategy.

Reaffirming its obligation to promote the compliance and to implement the obligations under the Convention, the Republic of Croatia will focus all its efforts primarily on fulfilling obligations under Article 5 of the Convention, in order to achieve the mine free state territory within the deadline. In the same time, it will generously and actively engage in other areas of mine action as well, especially so in mine victim assistance, mine risk education and international co-operation and universalization.

As a country which has overcome many challenges building its mine action system independently and persistently, the Republic of Croatia is in a position to show dedication and responsibility in every aspect of mine action, both nationally and internationally.

On the basis of the OAP guidelines, in realization of these objectives, the Republic of Croatia will primarily:



Consult with other states parties with regard to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and co-operate in order to facilitate compliance with the obligations of the Convention to the State Parties



Update the status of the implementation of the obligations under Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, i.e. report on the progress of implementation of the obligations in a timely, comprehensive and transparent manner, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention



Persist in national enforcement measures and sanctions embedded in national positive regulations that prevent and suspend activities prohibited by the Convention





CONCLUSION

The Republic of Croatia continues with the activities according to all components of a mine action system, which has been founded for over two decades on best practices essential for successive implementation of the obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, other contextually relevant international contracts and national legislature based on them.

In the forthcoming period, the Republic of Croatia will keep mine action at a high level of interest, will empower implementation bodies of state administration and other system stakeholders with human, financial and material resources; will articulate measures for implementing undertaken obligations in a most effective and most appropriate manner, and with optimum planning will strive to overcome all the challenges that need to be met by 2026.

In the context of this document, special efforts will be made to fully clear the defined HA of the Republic of Croatia by the deadline established by the decision of the States Parties - by the end of 2025. By doing so, it will actively engage in other mine action components, in order to fulfil the obligations of the Convention, in particular on mine victim assistance, mine risk education, international co-operation and universalization.

All the stakeholders of the Croatian mine action system will continue to acknowledge and develop special partnerships with relevant international partners like United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, as well as with national and international representatives of civil and non-governmental sectors.

Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia will continue to be based on a strong national ownership, will be planned on a realistic basis and civilizational principles, it will be led by an effective use of available resources, it will include application of latest methodologies, as well as the partnership, coordination and co-operation between the stakeholders.

In addition, on the basis of the National Mine Action Programme, transparency and sharing of high quality and accurate information will be fostered, as well as strong and sustainable national information management systems.

The Croatian mine action system continues to actively and persistently mitigate the effects of mine contamination, as well as to create conditions in which each of its residents and guests will be able to move and live safely, without the fear of mines.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINE ACTION
REVISED WORK PLAN

