

On another note, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following achievements:

In the period from 23-25 November 2020, SMAC was visited by representatives of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). After the visit, it was concluded that the GICHD could provide support to SMAC in the development of national standards for mine action, training, information management, as well as strengthening regional cooperation.

In the period June 28 to July 2, 2021, the GICHD Information Management team visited SMAC in order to use the Information Management Capacity Development Framework to assess SMAC's information management capabilities and needs, as well as to offer detailed recommendations to SMAC to advance their information management processes and systems.

During the week of 4-9 July 2021, as part of the Study conducted by the GICHD on the difficult terrain in mine action, which focuses on the countries in the Balkans, the GICHD representative had the opportunity to visit "difficult terrain" in Serbia, together with the representatives of SMAC.

The primary objective of the study is to support national authorities in their efforts of remediating explosive hazards contamination, and returning land to safe and productive use in 'difficult terrain'.

In August and September this year, SMAC representatives attended Non-Technical Survey Course and Technical Survey Course organized by the GICHD.

On September 16, 2021, in the premises of defence industry factory Sloboda, Čačak, in cooperation with SMAC, presentation of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) of the GICHD was held. On the occasion, AMAT presented their work and possibilities related to the accident that happened in June this year in this factory.

SMAC has also established cooperation with the EU Delegation in Belgrade. On the 23rd July 2021 within the project "Improving the capabilities of the Republic of Serbia in the field of demining and destruction of unexploded ordnance" funded by the EU Delegation, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Serbia and SMAC, organized helicopter tour of mine contaminated sites in the Municipality of Bujanovac, together with the Head of EU Delegation in Belgrade and their Military Attaché.

On October 25, 2021, commenced the implementation of the Project - Training of trainers for conducting explosive ordnance disposal training course level 1 (EOD level 1) and level 2 (EOD Level 2).

The project is being implemented within the cooperation of SMAC with the MoD and the financial support of the EU Delegation in Belgrade.

To conclude, Serbia is making efforts to solve the problems related to mines and other explosive remnants of war and the Serbian Government, within its modest possibilities, allocates funds for demining operations, but given the extent of the problem of mines and other explosive remnants of war, this is not enough to solve the overall mine problem. Given the above, Serbia needs international funds and time to complete the task at hand.

Thank you for your attention.