



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINE ACTION CENTRE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADVANCING VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

27 - 29 August 2024

Ljubljana, Slovenia



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINE ACTION CENTRE

Scope of Works:

- Survey
- Development of projects
- Project implementation monitoring
- Quality assurance and quality control
- Issuing clearance certificate
- EORE
- **Victim Assistance**
- Conducting trainings
- Achieving international cooperation

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Republic of Serbia has mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction.

Focal point

**Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy of
the
Republic of Serbia**

Initiating changes
in laws

Rulebooks

Strategy and by-
laws

Convention on
Human Rights

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Republic of Serbia acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009



Ottawa Convention

In 2004, the Republic of Serbia signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)



The Law on the Rights of Soldiers, Disabled Veterans, Civilian Disabled Veterans and their Family Members ("Official Gazette of the RS", No.18/2020)

- ▶ The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy is responsible for providing protection, rights and financial support to civilian disabled veterans, family members of civilian disabled veterans and family members of civilian war victims
- ▶ Local self-government units submit data on the number of users to the Ministry in accordance with the law

Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities ("Official Gazette of the RS", No.36/2009, 32/2013, 14/2022 – other law)

The status of a disabled person is granted to:

- ▶ disabled war veteran,
- ▶ peacetime disabled veteran
- ▶ civilian disabled veteran;

It is based on the principles that regulate the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis, in all spheres of social life - in accordance with the professional abilities they possess.

STRATEGIES AND BY-LAWS

- Strategy for improving the position of persons with disabilities for the period 2020-2024
- Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for adopting all measures and activities in professional rehabilitation
- Administrative board of the National Employment Service adopted Rulebook of methods and criteria for implementing an active labor market of persons with disabilities
- Obligations of an employer employing fifty (50) workers to hire one person with disability.

BASIC TYPES OF FEES

Civilian disabled veterans are entitled to several different benefits:

- ▶ **orthopedic supplement;**
- ▶ **health care and other rights related to health care;**
- ▶ **spa climate recovery;**
- ▶ **professional rehabilitation and**
- ▶ **financial assistance during professional rehabilitation.**

GOALS

- ▶ **The Government of Serbia finances the project activities of associations of persons with disabilities, associations of disabled veterans, as well as associations of civilian disabled veterans. Through such activities, associations organize trainings aimed at promoting the strengthening of the capacities of women and men, as well as improving the psychological and social situation of survivors.**
- ▶ **Financing as many project activities as possible of associations of persons with disabilities, associations of disabled veterans, as well as associations of civilian disabled veterans from national funds of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the inclusion of potential assistance from various international organizations.**
- ▶ **Stronger coordination between the representatives of the associations that deal with the problems of mine victims and the Government is envisaged.**
- ▶ **Improving the availability of services and deficiencies, assessment of needs due to disability, education in health, employment activities, development and poverty reduction with goals to be achieved through the implementation of national policies, plans and legislative frameworks, as well as potential assistance from various international organizations**

COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERAN AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SERBIAN MINE ACTION CENTER AND ITF ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE RELATED PROJECT

- ▶ The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the Serbian Mine Action Centre, with the financial support of the Republic of Korea, through ITF Enhancing Human Security, implemented a victim assistance related project –rehabilitation and medical care at the University Rehabilitation Institute of Soča in Slovenia



ISU VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERT VISIT TO SERBIA

- ▶ In the period from April 18 to 19, 2022, the SMAC was visited by Implementation Support Officer from the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, Mr. Firoz Alizada, as part of his visit to the countries in our region that are signatories to this convention, in order to provide them with technical assistance in connection with the fulfillment of their obligations regarding victim assistance.



THIRD GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF AP MINES AND OTHER EO IN A DISABILITY RIGHTS CONTEXT

- ▶ Representatives of SMAC participated at the Third Global Conference on the Assistance to Victims of AP Mines and other EO in a Disability Rights Context, that took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in October 2023
- ▶ This important conference was hosted by the Cambodian national mine action and victim assistance authority, with financial support provided through a global project sponsored by the Council of the European Union.
- ▶ The delegation of the Republic of Serbia consisted of the Serbian Mine Action Centre representatives, as well as the Executive Director of the Association "Assistance. Advocacy. Access of Serbia".
- ▶ SMAC representative, as a moderator, participated in a thematic workshop whose goal was to consider inputs for a new action plan based on the experiences and challenges of European countries in fulfilling the existing Oslo Action plan.
- ▶ Association "Assistance. Advocacy. Access of Serbia,, representative participated as a panellist in a session dedicated to socio-economic equity for mine victims.



SMAC AND MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Agreement

on Cooperation in the Field of Mine Action with Reference to Victim Assistance (to be adopted)

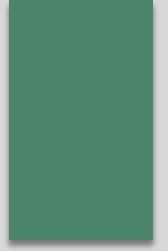
- ▶ **The subject of this agreement is the cooperation between the Serbian Mine Action Centre and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia in the field of mine action with reference to victim assistance, which will be implemented through:**
 - joint participation of the signatories in survey projects and collection of data on explosive ordnance victims in the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
 - joint participation of the signatories in the projects of mine action related training of personnel, as well as victim assistance related training and issuing of certificates;
 - updating and exchanging data from the unified database on beneficiaries of rights in the field of veteran and disabled people's protection for the purpose of coordination and implementation of projects that will cover the entire spectrum of assistance, from rehabilitation to socio-economic inclusion of victims;
 - exchange of information, knowledge and experiences in the field of victim assistance;
 - joint participation of the signatories in the development of regulations in the field of mine action, in the part of victim assistance;
 - the joint engagement of the signatories in the implementation of projects and project tasks related to victim assistance;
 - joint monitoring and implementation of international standards and regulations in the field of victim assistance.

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS



- The Republic of Serbia is making efforts to find donor funds for the creation of a new database or updating the old database, with the aim of improving the records keeping of beneficiaries of rights
- In addition to financial resources provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, inclusion of potential assistance from various international organizations for financing project activities of associations of persons with disabilities, associations of war veterans, as well as associations of civilian war victims is desirable

LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING THE OSLO ACTION PLAN



- State must maintain an awareness that mine action programmes are intended to exist for a fixed period, while mine victims and survivors require long term support; and prepare or adapt appropriately with commitments to an integrated approach.
- Psycho - social support to be strengthened and included from the beginning.

QUESTIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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Email: czrs@czrs.gov.rs



Web: <https://www.czrs.gov.rs>