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Rome, 17 October 2016

PRESS RELEASE: Zagreb to host the Regional Field Exercise IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016



IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016

REGIONAL FIELD EXERCISE LOGO

The **IPA FLOODS Consortium** is proud to announce that **IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016**, the Programme regional field exercise, is going to take place in **Zagreb from 17 to 21 October 2016**. The event, organised under the **auspices** of the **National Protection and Rescue Directorate (NPRD)** of Croatia, is aimed at **testing** the functionality and interoperability of the **multinational Civil Protection Modules (CPMs)** of the type **Floods Rescue Using Boats (FRB)** established under **IPA FLOODS**.

IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016 will involve around three hundred people: the national teams from **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo***, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey composing the **multinational CPMs** of the type **FRB**, will work closely with a **TAST** (Technical Assistance Support Team) from **Italy** and of a **FRB Module coming from Czech Republic**. Experts trained within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) will compose the **European Civil Protection Team (EUCPT)** that will help the Croatian authorities in the reception and coordination of international assistance; the **Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC)** will take part of the play and serve as permanent contact point for the EUCPT, NPRD, as well as for the Headquarters of the participating beneficiaries in the multinational modules.

High level experts coming from Civil Protection Authorities of **Austria, Croatia, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo***, **Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden** have been accurately selected by IPA FLOODS Consortium to compose the **ad hoc evaluation team** that will assess the event and provide with feedbacks and recommendations after the exercise.

In addition **Director Generals** from the beneficiaries Civil Protection Authorities, high level **Consortium** members, as well as representatives from **DG ECHO, Participating States to the UCPM, Embassies** based in Zagreb, including **the EC Representation** in Croatia, and from **regional initiatives** as DPPI SEE are welcome to take part as observers in the highlight of the event through the **Observers Programme**.

Finally voluntary firefighters, mountain rescue service, Red Cross, scuba-diving clubs, etc. are the **around 60 role-players involved** to support the realistic implementation of the different scenarios while representatives from **Croatian Non-Governmental Organisations** will cooperate in order to ensure that **safety and security rules** are respected during the exercise.

IPA FLOODS - CRO 2016 will start on **17 October** with a **Table Top Exercise (TTX)** with command post features (CPX) aimed at practising the procedures regarding the request, offer and acceptance of international disaster assistance. On **18** the attention will move to selected areas of **Zagreb County** where participants will start the **exercise** itself. Set up to look as realistic as possible, the exercise scenario will simulate a major disaster involving severe floods, whose intensity, dimension and impact will force to trigger a request for international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. On this occasion IPA FLOODS beneficiaries will also have the opportunity to use the **water rescue equipment and boats donated by the Programme** last June. Indeed this field exercise comes after almost two years of regular activities among the beneficiaries, whose civil protection staff has been engaged in workshops and trainings with the purpose of improving the coordination capacity of the national teams, their knowledge of border-crossing procedures and the function of the **UCPM** in the context of an international deployment.

For updated information and follow up on IPA FLOODS – CRO 2016, visit the event web page

<http://ipafloods.ipacivilprotection.eu/regional-exercise>



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