



Romania

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Strengthening Romanian Government's capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters – Capacity Development for Emergency Situations (CDES)

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Project necessity

In the past several years, Romania was confronted with the severest floods in the past one hundred years. The Danube river defense system was destroyed and people living in the affected areas were evacuated. The impact of heavy rains was felt even in areas which were not known as risk zones. These events showed that emergency services, especially underwater operations, need to be improved, both from a technical point of view, and from the point of view of the equipment, so that public safety in case of disasters and emergencies is guaranteed.

Project presentation: objectives and results

In 2006, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES) implemented a common project, "Strengthening Romanian Government's capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters - Capacity Development for Crisis Situation (CDCS)". The project beneficiaries were the counties of Bacău, Ialomița, Iași, Ilfov, Cluj, Constanța, Dolj, Hunedoara, Mureș, Timiș, Vâlcea, Vrancea and Bucharest. The main results in 2006 were:

Case study: Cluj county

- January-May 2006: 0 interventions (no intervention capacity)
- June 2006: End of training session and endowment with diving equipment
- June-July 2006: 16 interventions solved 100%!

- Organization of theoretical and practical training sessions;
- Preparation of "Underwater Interventions and Rescue Operations Handbook";
- Acquisition of diving suits and other diving equipments;
- Endowment of Ciolpani, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova and Bacau training centers.

In the period 2007-2009, UNDP and GIES are implementing a second project, Strengthening Romanian Government's capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters – Capacity Development for Emergency Situations (CDES). More specifically, the project aims to achieve the following targets (short-term objectives):

1. Strengthen existing emergency response teams to natural disasters, by upgrading the intervention equipments and expanding personnel training and qualification;
2. Creation of new specialized emergency response teams, with emphasize on water-related disasters;
3. Development of intervention guidelines and procedures, in accordance with national requirements and international practices;
4. Improve intervention capacity of GIES at regional and local level.

The main results for 2007 were:

- Assessment of training and endowment necessities for underwater interventions and establishment of the beneficiary units;
- Initial selection and medical tests of staff selected for training;
- Theoretical training (68 graduates) and practical (51 graduates);
- Retraining of previously trained staff (36 staff);
- Exercise and media event (27.07.2007, Eforie Nord);
- Training seminar with county level operational centers chiefs;
- Selection of staff for training and endowment (25 staff);
- Participation at different media and public information events (N24-SedLex, CNN).

The main results for 2008 were:

- Initial selection of staff selected for training;
- Mandatory medical check up for 132 staff;
- International expert for procurement of equipment specific to W-SAR;
- Acquisition of diving equipment: wetsuits x 138 pcs, drysuits x 33 pcs, dive computers x 138 pcs, surface communication equipment x 2 pcs, underwater communication equipment x 12 pcs, sonar x 2 pcs, portable compressors x 30 pcs, first aid kit x 138 pcs, etc;
- Initiation of divers training center preparation at Constanta CIES.



Counties covered in 2006



Counties covered in 2007



Counties covered in 2008

Diving equipment

Following consultations with beneficiary counties representatives and based on the recommendations of the international expert, it was established that the main approach regarding equipment acquisition is:

- Acquisition of high-quality full sets for all divers in the beneficiary counties (138 staff);
- Acquisition of portable compressors, signaling reel and flags for all beneficiary counties;
- Acquisition of communication units (underwater and surface), facial masks and sonars for two specialized units in Bucharest and Constanta.

In order to ensure acquisition of the best equipment, UNDP launched an international bid in the spring of 2008. The company which was awarded the contract was chosen on the basis of best value for money principle. In addition, the company has a large portfolio and presence all over the world (e.g. the Turkish Navy, Irish Civil Defence, Lithuanian Navy, Belgium Coastguard, Icelandic Coastguard, Ecuador Navy, Chilean Navy, etc.).

Diving equipment received by each diver (wetsuit or wetsuit and dry suit)

No.	Name of equipment	Unit	Quantity	
			Wetsuit	Wetsuit and dry suit
1	Mask	Pc	1	1
2	Snorkel	Pc	1	1
3	Wetsuit	Pc	1	1
4	Hood	Pc	1	1
5	5mm gloves (winter)	Pair	1	1
6	2mm gloves (summer)	Pair	1	1
7	Boots	Pair	1	1
8	Fins	Pair	1	1
9	Regulator	Pc	1	2
10	Octopus	Pc	1	0
11	Pony-clamp	Pc	1	1
12	Dive computer	Pc	1	1
13	Dive console	Pc	1	1
14	Weight belt	Pc	1	1
15	Lead (2 kg)	Pc	6	6
16	Lead (1 kg)	Pc	4	4
17	Scissors	Pc	1	1
18	Main underwater light	Pc	1	1
19	Strobe/ torch	Pc	1	1
20	R&M kit	Pc	1	1
21	First aid kit	Pc	1	1
22	Bag	Pc	1	2
23	Reel	Pc	1	1
24	BCD	Pc	1	1
25	Tank (single)	Pc	1	0
26	Tank (double)	Pc	0	2
27	Dry suit	Pc	0	1
28	Undergarment	Pc	0	1
29	Dry socks	Pair	0	1
30	Dry gloves	Pair	0	1
31	Tank protector	Pc	0	1
TOTAL/ DIVER			\$ 3,061.00	\$ 5,146.00

Other equipment

No.	Name of equipment	Quantity
1	Facial mask	12
2	Surface communication unit	2
3	Underwater communication unit	12
4	Portable compressor	30
5	Signaling reel and flag	30
6	Sonar	2
7	Spare parts	
TOTAL		\$ 207,821.40