

1. ITF INTRODUCTION

1.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- Established on 12 March 1998 by Slovenian government as a Slovenian contribution to stabilisation of post-Dayton BiH
- ITF is humanitarian, non-profit organisation
- · Gradually widen geographical area of ITF activities
- Focus on South East Europe with aim of strengthening it's role outside SEE
- U.S. Matching Fund Mechanism for South East Europe

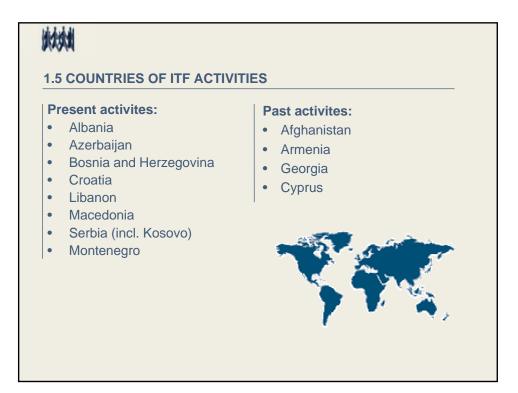
1.2 VISION

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ITF strives to free the region of South-East Europe from the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), and actively contribute to the eradication of the mine problem in other mine-affected parts of the world.







2. Regional cooperation in South East Europe

2.1 PRECONDITIONS

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- Common and/or connected origin of landmine problem between two or more states, entities, communities within SEE;
- Mine Action as a part of wider environment political stability, cosolidated peace-situation requirements, humanitarian, reconstruction and development efforts;
- Awareness of "common" problems in the field of Mine Action;
- Preparedness and willingness on all sides to eliminate landmine problem;
- Established communication between national MAC's in the region;
- **Neutral intermediary** to facilitate meetings, work, negotiations, etc. on the regional level (role of Slovenia and ITF);
- Strictly technical (non-political) level involved at the beginning of process of setting regional cooperation;
- Sensitivity of post-conflict period requires cooperation and confidence building between stakeholders.

2.2 ITF PAST EXPERIENCES IN SEE REGION (1)

Regional humanitarian demining projects:

- "Mine clearance and technical survey projects in the borderline area between Croatia & Serbia and Montenegro", 2003-2006 (EU)
- "Support to Demining Acctivities in the Region of South-Eastern Europe Clearance of Borderline Project", 2003-2006 (EU)
- "General Survey on the Border Area between Montenegro and Albania", 2006 (USA)

Regional institutional capacities:

- Mine Detection Dog Center (MDDC), 2003-2006 (USA)
- Regional Underwater Demining Center (RCUD), 2002-2006 (Slovenia, USA)
- Regional Center for Psycho-Social rehabilitation in Croatia, 2006 (USA, Czech Republic)
- "Geographical Information System for Mine Action in South-East Europe", 2000-2003 (EU)

2.2 ITF PAST EXPERIENCES IN SEE REGION (2)

Regional trainings:

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- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training at the Training Center for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (6) (EU, Slovenia, USA)
- Monitoring and Quality Control/Quality Assurance (3) (USA)
- UNDP Senior and Middle Management Training (2+2) (USA)
- Underwater EOD Training (2) (USA)
- GIS Training (2) (EU)
- Training courses for rehabilitation specialists at the Slovenian Institute for Rehabilitation (Slovenia, USA)
- Orthopaedic Technicians University of Ljubljana study program (France, USA)

Regional workshops, conferences and other:

- 1st and 2nd World Wide Mine Detection Dog Conference in Slovenia, 1999, and in the United States of America, 2002 (organized together with James Madison University) (USA)
- Symposium on Humanitarian Demining Quality, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006 (USA);
- SEEMACC, 2000-2006 (USA)
- Mechanical Equipment For Mine-Clearance in The Region Of South-East Europe, 2002 (USA)
- Regional workshop "Confidence building through mine action", Georgia, 2005





Established in 2000 Members of SEEMACC:

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8 fully entitled members: AMAE (Albania), BHMAC (Bosnia and Herzegovina), CROMAC (Croatia), MAC Serbia (Serbia), RCUD (Montenegro), Protection and Rescue Directorate (Macedonia), ANAMA (Azerbaijan), and ITF (Slovenia)

>3 members with observer status: MDDC (Konjic, BIH), CTDT (Croatia), UNMIK/KPC (Kosovo)

• SEEMACC GOALS:

> Exchange of experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of mine action in the region of South East Europe;

- > Promote the regional approach in the planning of demining programs;
- > Promote the regional approach in the fund raising for mine action;
- Exchange experience, expertise and knowledge in the field of training of the deminers and managing personnel in the field of mine action;
- > Exchange information on testing of the new technologies in demining;
- Promote the achievement of common standards and accreditation procedures in the field of demining in the region of South East Europe.

2.4 CASE STUDY: South-Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) (2)

• Results:

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Regular SEEMACC meetings to harmonize regional activities and exchange information, knowledge and experience on mutual basis;

Acknowledgement of the accreditation of the mechanical equipment for mine clearance by Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the region;

Acknowledgment of the testing procedures;

> SEEMACC pool of experts (directory);

Regional pool basis – sharing of resources (physical, material and human);

Establishment of regional institutions: Regional Center for Underwater Demining in Bijela, Montenegro and Mine Detection Dog Center for SEE in Konjic (BiH), Regional Center for Psycho-Social Rehabilitation in Croatia;

> Adoption of the SEEMACC Strategy 2003-2010.

www.see-demining.org

3. ITF ROLE IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

3.1 ITF PERCEPTION OF IT'S ROLE

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- mobilize funding and providing financial resources for regional projects, programs (i.e., acting as a trust fund mechanism);
- raising awareness, creating, consolidating, and disseminating knowledge and information on regional cooperation in SEE and lessons learned (i.e., acting as a knowledge bank);
- helping national and regional bodies to build their institutional capacity (i.e., building capacity in the region);
- acting as catalyst and coordinator of regional mine action activities for the interested stakeholders (i.e., **serving as an mediator**).

ITF percieves these roles as mutually supportive and reinforcing, enabling ITF to serve as an effective facilitator in supporting and promoting regional approach and mine action activities.

