



ROMANIAN FIREFIGHTERS

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GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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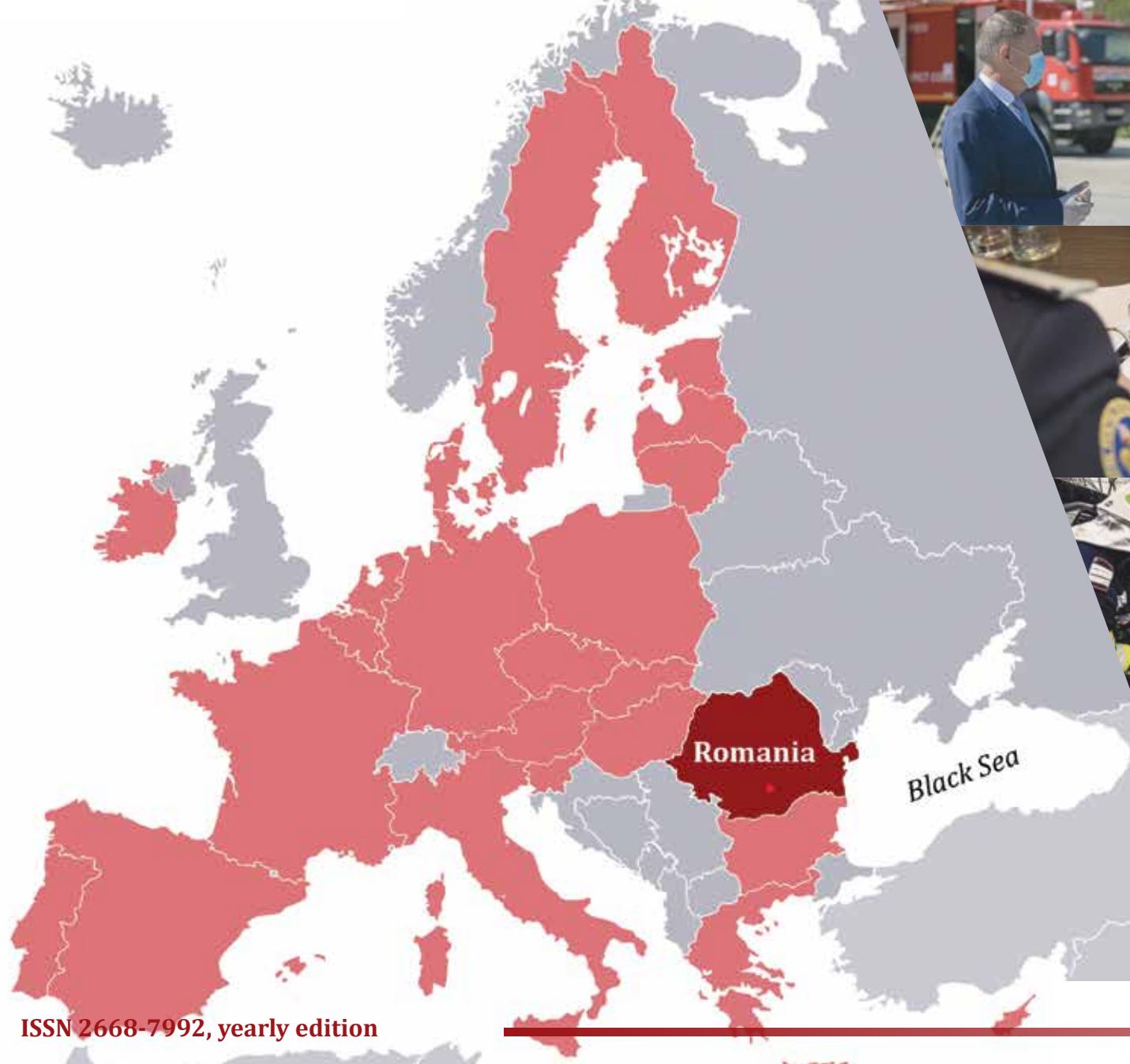


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GIES

evaluation



author: Colonel Mihai-Mirel GUȚĂ, GIES

“We will invest in all components of the emergency response system because we must and it is a normal state of affairs to take all measures to ensure quality services for citizens.”

Minister of Internal Affairs, Ion Marcel Vela

Customarily, the evaluation of the relevant activities that the institution has carried out during this year, as well as the outstanding results obtained at national level, represent moments of special importance and reference. This year, on February 21st, the event took place in the Studio Hall of the National Theatre in Bucharest.

Ion Marcel Vela, Minister of Internal Affairs, took part in the meeting aimed at evaluating the activity carried out in 2019 by the Department for Emergency Situations, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (GIES), the General Inspectorate for Aviation, as well as by other institutions under the coordination of the department, together with Dr. Raed Arafat, Secretary of State and Head of DES, Police Chief Quaestor Bogdan Despescu, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Brigadier General Dan-Paul

Iamandi, Inspector General of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Commander Cătălin Dache, Inspector General of the General Aviation Inspectorate, Major General Eng. Ionel-Sorin Bălan, First Deputy Director of the Special Telecommunications Service, representatives of the structures under the coordination of DES, as well as other institutions, public authorities or non-governmental organizations DES collaborates with.

At the end of a particularly important and busy year in all areas of activity of GIES, the conclusions were the following :

OBJECTIVES

GIES actions were oriented and prioritized in accordance with the main areas of activity that the management of emergencies consists of, namely prevention, preparedness for intervention and response.



activities carried out in 2019

REGULATORY ACTIVITY

The regulatory activity was aimed at improving the legal framework and harmonizing legislation with applicable European directives in the fields of fire safety and disaster prevention. Thus, GEO (Government Emergency Ordinance) no. 21/2004 on the National Emergency Management System, Law no. 307/2006 on fire protection and Law no. 481/2004 on civil protection, three high level draft legal acts, will strengthen the authority of the institution and will simplify the institutional procedures in relation to the citizen.

ENDORSEMENT / AUTHORIZATION

In the field of emergency prevention, the actions taken have been mainly aimed at strengthening

protection and increasing the resilience of communities, so that the consequences of the types of risk may be minimized and the state of normalcy restored as soon as possible.

Citizen safety has remained a priority, with more than 33,000 fire safety and civil protection certificates being issued.

PREVENTION CONTROL

Last year, more than 47,000 inspections were carried out on investment sites, institutions, economic operators and localities. For the serious violation of the fire safety norms, in two situations there was taken the measure of stopping the operation or usage of the constructions or settlements.

"Demonstrating the same good collaboration and unitary coordination, the response offered to citizens will be prompt and professional."

**GIES Inspector General,
Brigadier General Dan-Paul Iamandi**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The support provided to the civil society also materialised in the specialized technical assistance following more than 37,000 requests, increasing by almost 20%, compared to 2018. Of these, over 15,000 were in the field of fire prevention.

PREVENTIVE NOTICE

An important direction for us was to continue the actions oriented towards the development of the preventive culture dedicated to the protection of the citizens. The actions materialised in continuation of the projects previously initiated with E-ON and DELGAZ GRID, with the support of the National Audiovisual Council.

The preventive message was multiplied in the online environment, through the "Safe Romania" page.

DISPATCHING

As a specialised response agency, GIES handled 17% of the total emergency calls received through the Single National System 112, respectively over 1 million calls, with a daily average of 3100 requests. What is relevant is the evolution of emergency calls, which increased by 18 times compared to 2006.

RESPONSE

To sum up, over 500,000 interventions (1380 on average/day) were carried out, their success being due to the integrated mode of action of the components of the National Emergency Management System.

The excellent way of cooperation with the structures of the Ministry of Interior, of the Ministry of National Defense, of the other institutions under the coordination of the Department for Emergency Situations, as well as of the prefect's institutions and central and local public administration authorities is highly appreciated.

Bucharest-Ilfov IES remains in the top of the operational units, with the highest number of interventions attended, with over 98,000 interventions last year.

TYOLOGY OF MISSIONS

Most missions focused on emergency medical care and firefighting actions, which accounted for 90% of all interventions. The range of missions within the area of responsibility has remained diverse, involving multiple specializations of operational staff and a thorough knowledge of intervention procedures.

Expressed in numbers, the operative response is edifying: 7,173 rescued people, 424,701 medically assisted persons and protected goods of over 4.9 billion lei. A key factor in protecting the community, as important as the effectiveness of the response, is social responsibility. The risk has its limits and requires the active involvement of the community to raise awareness of the dangers and negative effects generated by emergency situations.

FIRE INTERVENTION

Interventions in more than 41,000 fires recorded nationwide, with a daily average of 113 events per day, were a major challenge. The notable result is the 2531 people rescued from fires.

The fact that the number of fires has increased by 44% compared to 2018, certifies the need to continue efforts to strengthen the preventive climate among communities. It should be noted that the major difference in the number of fires compared to the previous year is represented by the large number of vegetation burns that took place during 2019.

SMURD INTERVENTION

The specific emergency medical assistance and qualified first aid missions still have a major share of response actions, with a daily average of 1,130 interventions. With the renewal of the ambulance fleet, it was possible to keep 340 SMURD crews in operational condition on a daily basis, with about 30 more crews, compared to 2018. It was also possible to operationalise another nine qualified first aid crews, operating even in rural areas.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

Regarding the intervention for the protection of communities, over 22,000 events were managed last year, totaling missions for environmental protection, animal rescue, for limitation and removal of the effects of adverse weather events or cleaning up the territory





of unexploded ordnance. To make life-saving missions more efficient, seven new offices became operational last year, with 91 such structures currently operating at national level.

In the same operational context, the implementation of the RO-ALERT system, designed to quickly alert the population in case of major emergency, has fully proven its benefits. Last year, for the implementation of self-protection measures, GIES dispatchers and subordinated units sent 1,106 such messages.

EXERCISES

The testing of the response capacity materialised in the organisation and development of over 3,200 exercises with forces in the field, another 15 being organised within the Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union.

In order to improve the reaction in complex situations and to test the intervention procedures, our institution participated with forces and means in 3 other

tactical applications organised by NATO and in other 11 organised by other components of the National Emergency Management System.

Also, for testing the response capacity, GIES planned and carried out 16 unplanned exercises in the operational units.

TRAINING IN CENTERS

The success of the rescue missions requires, besides the endowment with high-performance technique, a good training of the intervention crews, meaning that over 4,700 military personnel benefited from specialised trainings in training centers and polygons.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The training in the field of emergency management was delivered at the level of central authorities, respectively at the level of local decision makers. In this respect, 9 specialised training series were carried out in the National Center for Improving the Training for Emergency Management.



VOLUNTEERING - SAVIOUR OUT OF PASSION

The direct partnership with the civil society was attained by continuation at national level of the "Saviour out of Passion" programme, which has been opened to the general public for four years.

The 4,695 volunteer contracts, of which 1,968 new contracts concluded last year, as well as the number of missions in which volunteers participated, reconfirm the success of this project.

PRES RO 2019

Among the most relevant activities subsumed to the event occasioned by Romania's Exercise of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we can mention:

- Seminar on Preparedness for disasters with low probability of occurrence, but with major impact;
- meeting of EU Directors-General for Civil Protection;
- respectively the informal Summit of Heads of State or Government of the European Union.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Another relevant activity in the field of international relations is the Understanding Risk seminar, which benefited of a large participation from 70 countries, the outcome being of an excellent quality.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In terms of human resources, at the end of 2019, the staffing rate was 90.67%.

LOGISTICS

The activity in the logistics field is characterized by dynamism and sustained effort, during 2019 being received goods worth over 66.5 million euros in projects financed from non-reimbursable European funds and 5.4 million lei from budgetary funds.

The MULTIRISC I and VISION 2020 projects brought major benefits to the operational units: 6 arm-lifting cranes, 6 trucks, 3 backhoe loaders, 10 type C ambulances and 55 type B ambulances were purchased.

At the same time, the following goods and technical means worth about 57 million euros were purchased within the project with European non-reimbursable financing, ROP 2014-2020, as follows:

- 120 ambulances for county ambulance services;
- 75 type B 4x2 ambulances;
- 122 type C ambulances;
- 385 type B 4x4 ambulances.

Moreover, 82 vehicles were purchased, out of state budget, to cover the travel needs of the staff in missions, amounting to 5.4 million lei.

Last year, 4,800 means of land mobility and about 400 naval mobility ensured the optimal fulfillment of the missions. Thus, the degree of provision with fire trucks is 51%, with CBRN trucks - 21%, and 62% with ambulances.

The renewal of the car park was another priority of GIES given that the operational units still have intervention technique with exceeded service life, especially for fire trucks.

ENDOWMENT ADMINISTRATION

Regarding the activity of endowment administration, it is noticeable that after many years of efforts, in 2019, 15 works were carried out or continued, worth over 5.6 million lei. These consisted of thermal rehabilitation, attic and garage constructions.

ADMINISTRATION

The protection of staff was another priority, and in this respect, specific procedures were carried out in order to purchase equipment items to cover the needs of staff.

The acquisitions were carried out exclusively from funds provided from the state budget, the expenditures of this nature not being eligible for financing from European funds.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

From a financial point of view, the institution's budget increased compared to 2018, which allowed for the start of actions of endowment with strictly necessary goods and cover staff costs for the efficient functioning of the institution. The budget execution was 99.98%.

EUROPEAN FUNDS

Regarding the non-reimbursable financing, in 2019 an important project was completed - MULTIRISC MODULE I, worth approximately 157 million lei.



POR 2014 - 2020

GIES conducts seven ongoing projects in order to improve the capacity to intervene in medical emergencies. So far, the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations and the County Ambulance Services have received 1,122 ambulances.

Furthermore, GIES has 16 more projects worth about 600 million euros in various stages of implementation, 2 projects in the pre-contracting phase targeting the construction of training and preparation polygons for firefighting and search&rescue missions.

At the same time, steps were initiated to acquire, from non-reimbursable funds, land means of transport, multi-role ships for intervention in the Black Sea, helicopters to ensure missions on land and sea, as well as the establishment of the National Disaster Response Center.

MULTIRISC MODULE II

The MULTIRISC - Module II project, worth 75 million euros, will ensure the building up of training and

preparation centers in the fields of firefighting, search-rescue, preparation and training of divers.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Looking to the future, GIES’s objectives are to continue actions aimed at strengthening the role of authority, improving response capacity, increasing community resilience, improving competence, improving staff policy and participating in ensuring European response capacity, in line with national commitments.

In conclusion, Minister Ion Marcel Vela stressed out that all the results in 2019 were possible due to the joint effort of firefighters, paramedics from the Ministry of the Interior, mountain rescuers, staff of the General Aviation Inspectorate and the Ministry of Health, as well as non-governmental associations and organizations.

The Minister of Internal Affairs drew attention to the fact that citizens expect overachievement and professionalism and, therefore, there is a need for flexibility and openness to adapt the services to the real needs of society.



author: Colonel Marian ILIE, GIES

In order to achieve the objectives set as a result of the priorities and needs identified at the level of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, the policy of attracting non-reimbursable external funds was continued. Currently, there are several projects under implementation aimed at achieving goals on: responsiveness, optimizing resources to strengthen disaster resilience, increasing the quality of services, increasing safety and protection of the population and strategic partnerships.

Large Infrastructure Operational Programme

The project “Integrated Modern Concept for Emergency Management - VISION 2020 - I” has as general objective the optimization of GIES resources to strengthen resilience to disasters, by improving the ability to respond to emergencies generated by the following types of risk: earthquakes, landslides, the failure of public utilities, technological accidents, floods and fires. The total value of the project is 215,872,852.01 lei.

In 2019, there were received and distributed 18 mobile camps for disasters victims who were accommodated in a containerized system with a lodging capacity of 200 people. The project will be completed by 30th September 2020.

Regional Operational Programme

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations carries out 7 ongoing projects, in order to improve the capacity to intervene in medical emergencies in the Central, South, West, South-East, South-West, North-East and North-West Development Regions.

The total value of the projects is 120 million euros, and the implementation duration for each project is 24 months. The deadline for the implementation period is 30th September 2020.

INSTITUTIONAL PROJECTS

The projects aim to increase the quality of pre-hospital medical services by improving the level of endowment with transport equipment and other specific equipment for providing emergency medical care and qualified first aid and by operationalizing new emergency response crews, by equipping them with some of the new equipment purchased. Also, the efficiency of the interventions in search and rescue missions in the mountain area will be ensured through equipment for patients' transport.

By the end of 2019, there were purchased a total number of: 120 A2 ambulances; 375 type B 4x2 ambulances; 505 type B 4x4 ambulances; 122 type C ambulances.

Administrative Capacity Operational Programme

In 2017, the MIA (Ministry of Internal Affairs) and AMPOCA management signed the project financing contract which aims to implement the quality management tools CAF, ISO 9001: 2015 and BSC, in the management of emergency services within the MIA, more precisely at the level of the Department for Emergency Situations, General Directorate of Medical Emergency Management, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, General Inspectorate of Aviation, Medical Directorate, Minister's Control Corps and Center for Psychosociology.

The project has as general objective the development of a unitary framework of efficient management at the level of operational and coordination structures with responsibilities regarding the management and intervention in case of emergencies and medical emergencies.

The implementation period of the project according to the Financing Agreement is 2017 - 2021, and the total value of the project is 14,577,845.74 lei.

At the GIES level, the 3 tools of quality management will be implemented, as follows:

- CAF = GIES, 40 IES, IES B-If, BL, Boldești, USISU, Ciolpani;

- ISO 9001: 2015 = GIES, 40 IES, IES B-If;
- BSC = GIES, 40 IES, IES B-If, BL, Boldești, USISU, Ciolpani.

Joint Operational Programme Romania - Republic of Moldova

On June 27th, 2019, the financing contract for the SMURD-2 project was signed - "CBC Romania - Republic of Moldova a safer area, by improving the operational infrastructure of SMURD, by increasing the level of training and maintaining the capacity of professional staff to intervene in emergency situations", financed through the Joint Operational Programme Romania - Republic of Moldova 2014-2020. The total budget of the project is 10,026,409.71 euros. The implementation period of the project is 28.06.2019 - 13.09.2022.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the safety and protection of the population by improving the preparedness and maintenance capacity of professional emergency services in the cross-border area.

Within this project, "Mihail Grigore Sturdza" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Iași County acts as a partner and will manage a budget of approximately 4.4 million euros. Thus, in Iași, IES Iași will build a training ground for search and rescue and extinguishing missions, as well as two landing platforms.

The expected results are: revision of the common set of procedures for cross-border emergencies, training of staff intervening in emergency situations, construction of three landing platforms and a training ground for training of personnel intervening in emergency situations; and increasing the capacity for joint intervention.

In 2019, two Steering Committees and a workshop were organized to review the Joint Intervention Plan and related procedures.

Romania - Ukraine Joint Operational Programme

Within the Romania-Ukraine Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014 - 2020, on June 27th, 2019, GIES signed the financing contract related to the BRIDGE project - "Improving the level of safety and security of the population in the cross-border area by intensifying joint training actions and cooperation in the field of emergency management", amounting to 7,416,592.50 euros. The implementation period of the project is 28th June 2019 - 13th September 2022.

The general objective of the project is to increase the level of security of the population by increasing the level of training and by maintaining the intervention capacity of professional structures for emergencies and for the structures responsible for carrying out interventions in mountain areas.

Within this project, "Bucovina" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Suceava County (IES SV), as a partner, manages a budget of 4,255,457.77 euros. Thus, in the city of Siret, IES SV will build a training range for firefighting and search and rescue missions, as well as a landing platform.

The main expected results are the elaboration of a common set of procedures for cross-border emergencies, the construction of a training ground and a landing platform in Siret locality - Suceava county, the training of personnel intervening jointly in emergency situations and the increase of joint intervention capacity.

Romania-Bulgaria Interreg V-A Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

The project "STREAM - Stream lining the joint response actions to emergency situations" was submitted by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in collaboration with the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Fire Safety of the Republic of Bulgaria. The project runs from 2018 to 2021 and has a total budget of 1,008,946.32 euros.

The general objective of the project is to streamline the joint response in emergency situations, in the cross-border area Romania - Bulgaria, by conducting joint training in specialized polygons, purchasing equipment and improving the common operational framework for emergencies.

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations has a budget of 554,882.18 euros and will purchase a mobile water purification system, equipment consisting of two high-capacity mobile water purification units that will ensure a flow of 225,000 liters per day, a mobile water storage unit as well as a mobile water treatment laboratory.

In 2019, together with the project partners, the Joint Training Curriculum on 3 specialized areas (firefighting, rescue from heights and rescue from the aquatic environment) was completed.

The project "JVSL - Joint Volunteering for a Safer Life" aims to improve the training of staff within voluntary emergency services. The project is designed to improve the responsiveness of emergency services, focusing entirely on strengthening the theoretical and practical capacities of volunteers. The project activities aim at improving preparedness and streamlining emergency response actions, being the first to react in the event of a disaster.

The aim of the project is to improve the theoretical and practical training of volunteer services within emergency situations and to increase effective coordination and response in the event of a disaster in the cross-border area.

Within this project, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations will purchase a mobile training tower and a number of 80 sets of protective gear. The project will run for a period of 36 months and will have a budget of 995,323.08 euros.

In 2019, following the meetings of the project partners, the Risk Analysis in the cross-border area was elaborated by the Bulgarian partner. Also, at the GIES level, the technical specification for the mobile training tower was developed.

Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021

Within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, GIES is a project promoter on Axis no.23: "Disaster Prevention and Intervention". As part of the project entitled "Increasing Resilience to Disasters by Improving Preparedness for Search and Rescue Missions and Recovery of Unexploded Ordnance" - RESILIENCE, GIES will build a training ground for search and rescue actions and one for pyrotechnic actions and will conduct a series of preparatory activities subsumed to the project objective, the amount allotted being 5 million euros.

The financing contract was signed in April, and since then some of the IT materials needed for project management and stationery items have been purchased. Also, the intervention equipment for didactic use was received by SSPPC Boldești.

At the same time, the procurement contract was signed for the service of elaboration of the Feasibility Study for the training polygon.

*“The visions we offer
our children shape the
future.”*

Carl Sagan

ERASMUS + programme 2014-2020

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations participates, as a partner, in the “Digital Support for Volunteer Firefighters” project, funded by the ERASMUS + Program 2014-2020, Key Action no.2 - Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices.

The main objective of the project is to build a transnational strategic partnership in the field of adult education for the development of the skills of volunteer firefighters through digital means.

The partnership consists of seven institutions/associations from four states (Turkey, Romania, Spain and Germany). The main results of the project are: digital educational materials; development of the project site and the e-learning portal.

The General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations is a partner in this project, with a budget of 23,495.00 euros, the entire amount being provided by non-reimbursable European funding. The project is designed to run for a period of 24 months, the total budget being 172,594.00 euros.

In 2019, three of the five planned Transnational Meetings were organized in the cities of Bursa (Turkey), Madrid (Spain) and Bucharest. At the same time, the foundations of the e-learning platform were laid for the development of the knowledge of volunteer firefighters through digital means.

Integrated modern concept for emergency management

Vision 2020-I

author: Colonel Marian ILIE, GIES
photo: GIES



“Type II - multi-risk” logistical support container



“Type IV - lighting” logistical support container

On 30th September, 2020, the project Integrated Modern Concept for Emergency Management - VISION 2020 - I was completed, a project co-financed by the Cohesion Fund through the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020, which benefited from a total budget of 215,872,852.01 lei, out of which 183,491,924.01 lei represented non-reimbursable financing from the Cohesion Fund.

The objective of the project is to optimize GIES resources to strengthen resilience to disasters, by improving the ability to respond to emergencies caused by the following types of risk: earthquakes, landslides, failure of public utilities, technological accidents, floods

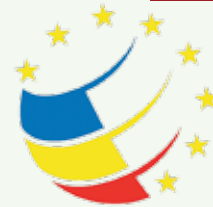
and fires. In this regard, the following were purchased:

- 55 “Type II - multi-risk” logistical support containers used for interventions in emergency situations regardless of their specificity, when the first responders do not have enough equipment and accessories to perform the intervention in optimal conditions;

- 37 “Type IV - lighting” logistical support containers that provide lighting at the site of the intervention as well as the temporary supply of electricity to localities, in case of failure of the public electricity supply network;



EUROPEAN UNION



STRUCTURAL INSTRUMENTS
2014-2020



Mobile camp for victims



Hydraulic hooklift trucks with loading-unloading system

- 2 Special vehicles for hyperbaric treatments and oxygen therapy used for the specialized training of divers by simulating the conditions of immersion or immersion work, but also for treatment with oxygen administration to persons intoxicated with carbon monoxide or who have suffered diving accidents;

- 36 mobile camps for disaster victims, in a containerized system used for the temporary accommodation of victims or evacuees and the provision of subsistence goods for them;

- 3 Special vehicles for temporary storage and refrigerated transport for the transport, in hygienic conditions, of large numbers of victims of a disaster;

- 60 hydraulic hooklift trucks with loading-unloading system used for transporting containers. The technical means acquired in this project have the role of providing logistical support in order to increase the degree of resilience and increase the awareness of the population about the risk of disasters.



Special vehicles for temporary storage and refrigerated transport



Special vehicle for hyperbaric treatments and oxygen therapy

INTEGRATED

author: Colonel Alina MOISOI, GIES
photo: Romanian Presidency



*"We are only as strong as
we are united!"*

Ralpf Waldo Emerson

COORDINATION

THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS



On 18th March c.y., shortly after the first case of infection with the new type of coronavirus in Romania, the National Center for Coordination and Management of Intervention - NCCMI, located in Ciolpani, was activated. It has been operational since 2008, being conceived out of the need to increase the response capacity of the institutions responsible with managing the types of risk and the unitary coordination of the responsible factors.

With the opening of this Integrated Special Emergency Management Center, the authorities ensure greater efficiency in responding to exceptional events at national level and, implicitly, rapid intervention in order to support communities and save lives, property and the environment.

The location was not chosen at all by chance. Located 40 km from the Capital, far from the urban noise, the Center provides, in addition to the spaces necessary for staff activities, camping of intervention equipment and operational crews (mobile camps, tents etc.) during actual missions or organized and planned exercises for testing procedures and intervention concepts applicable to emergencies of particular magnitude and intensity.

From a strategic point of view, the Center is

located near Otopeni Airport, so that the takeover of international humanitarian aid can be optimally ensured, once the European Civil Protection Mechanism is activated.

Through communication facilities and IT platforms, inter-institutional interconnection is achieved and this allows for the real-time ownership of existing capabilities at national level and the immediate establishment of directions for action, the need for support and effective solutions to save lives, goods and the environment.

In practice, the NCCMI can be called the “brain” of planning and organizing operations that call for the involvement of public administration authorities, local and central institutions or structures with the national defense and security system designed to effectively manage situations that may endanger people’s life.

The strategic level decisions are established following the working meetings hosted within the headquarters which bring together at the discussion table all the factors involved in managing complex types of risk. The staff of NCCMI consists of professionals, from different structures of ministries responsible for managing the types of risk, their working programme being 24/7.



The endowment of the NCCMI staff was a high one in 2008, but now, after more than a decade, the need to modernize the center was obvious. Evolution implies progress in all branches of activity, and further improvements to cover IT standards imposed by the evolution of technology and to support optimal cooperation with national and international institutions with responsibilities in managing civil protection situations, was really necessary in the conditions imposed by the confrontation, this time, with a real situation, COVID-19.

The contribution of the representatives of the civil society and of the business environment led to the fulfillment of this desideratum, so that, on 20th May this year, the National Center for Coordination and Management of Intervention was endowed with state-of-the-art equipment, vital equipment for emergency situations personnel, thanks to a donation made through the "Donate for the front line" platform, initiated by eMAG, Banca Transilvania, Mobexpert and Bitdefender. The value of the equipment exceeds 500,000 lei, and the equipment contributes to the improvement of the reaction and analysis time, which can make the difference in limit situations.

"This epidemiological situation has subjected us to several tests that we have been able to manage well up to this point. We have received a lot of support from several companies and associations, which are working to help us get access to all the resources we need at the moment. The new equipment is already up and running and we especially thank the over 60,000

people and the over 4,000 companies who donated on the Donate platform for the front line. Thanks to the new equipment, we will be able to work more efficiently, so as to save as many lives as possible", said Dr. Raed Arafat, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, during the activity carried out in the presence of journalists, at the Center's headquarters.

In his turn, the Inspector General of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Brigadier General Dan-Paul Iamandi appreciated this initiative, noting that "today's modern endowment of this important Center ensures the decision-making support of the management factors".

In order to facilitate the efficiency of the coordination processes, through the donation offered, the center was equipped with computing units, video projectors, laptops, printers, monitors, sound system, televisions, peripherals, available for all staff involved in managing and coordinating crisis situations.

"Donate for the front line" is a project that raised donations of tens of millions of lei from companies and individuals. The sums of money were invested in millions of three-ply protective masks to family doctors, police, gendarmes and the military, hundreds of thousands of N95 masks (FFP2), with a high degree of protection donated to hospital doctors, high-performance ventilators Mindray SV600 that arrived at Suceava County Hospital and at "Victor Babeş" Clinical Hospital in Bucharest and many other materials necessary to fight against the new type of coronavirus - COVID-19.



*“Coming together is the beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success!”*

Henry Ford

We all have the power to make a common effort to overcome any challenge and any setback that might hinder the future that we want better and more secure. Through solidarity and participatory attitudes, we prove our involvement and responsibility, and we reconfirm that together, with effective coordination, in an integrated system, we successfully cover the entire range of missions for those around us!

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



Vision 2020

author: Captain George PIERȘINARU, GIES

On 11th March c.y., the opening conference of the "VISION 2020" Project took place at the GIES headquarters. Its general objective is to develop and strengthen the capacity of the responsible authorities to respond to disasters and HILP (High Impact Low Probability) events, by developing the following pillars: land, sea, air, command and control.

The first pillar, the strategic one, refers to the terrestrial part and aims at the acquisition of technical means and equipment in order to replace those with the normal duration of operation exceeded and to cover the deficit.

Through this pillar, the following technical means and multi-risk equipment have so far been purchased: insulating devices with increased autonomy provided with alarm system in case of lack of movement - 310, insulating devices provided with alarm system in case of absence of movement - 7100, technical lines for maintenance of personal protective equipment - 42, 16 + 1 seats special intervention crew transport trucks - 38, height intervention and rescue trucks - 64, high-capacity towing motor pumps - 27, type B ambulances - 55, type C ambulances - 10, heavy intervention technique (backhoe loader) - 5, cranes with lifting arm and platform for transporting accessories and materials - 4 and hydraulic hooklift trucks with loading-unloading system - 14.

Moreover, in the following period of time there will be purchased: specially equipped fire trucks for forest fire intervention - 30, Extrication trucks - 60, Containers with personal protective gear - 49, 4000 liters Firefighting trucks with water and foam tank - 276, 10000 liters Water and foam firefighting trucks - 200, PMA I - 42, Flood trucks - 2, bomb disposal materials containers - 30, modular barrack containers - 14, Radio trucks - 4, Communication Centers for National Mobile Command Point - 1, Communication Centers for Medium Mobile Command Point - 33, Shortwave Radio Vehicles - 2, UAV Systems - 3, Type A Ambulances - 20, Passenger and Multiple Victims Vehicles 5, Ambulances for transport of newborns in critical condition - 2, Self-propelled platform trucks - 18, Large fans - 20, Small fans - 29, Firefighting trucks with hydroperforation system 42, Robot trucks - 4, Camping electric power generators - 14, Camping toilets -

40, Camping showers - 40, Pyrotechnic trucks - 19, Pyrotechnic containers - 10, Person decontamination containers - 2, field decontamination container - 1, Container for air transport of highly contagious patients - 1, Medical container (logistical support) - 1, hydraulic hooklift trucks with loading / unloading system - 49, heavy intervention technique (backhoe loaders) - 11 and Dry powder fire trucks - 8.

The second pillar, the aerial pillar, aims to purchase 12 helicopters, six of them light and six medium / heavy. Regarding the endowment of GIAv (General Inspectorate for Aviation) with helicopters, the situation is similar to that of GIES, a large part of the existing ones being worn out. Also, due to the lack of certain types of helicopters equipped with specific equipment, GIAv is unable to perform certain missions in the field of emergencies / disasters.

The third pillar, the maritime pillar aims at developing maritime intervention capabilities by acquiring a ship and three multi-role boats, which have the role of ensuring the intervention for firefighting and rescuing people on ships in ports and in Romanian territorial waters, respectively firefighting and rescue people on the Danube River. It is important to note that, at present, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations does not have such technical means, being unable to ensure the intervention in certain types of missions, for example extinguishing a fire that broke out on a boat, or on the Danube river, either in a port or in the Romanian territorial waters.

The fourth pillar, the command and control, involves the development of the National Disaster Response Center (CNRD), which will ensure the integrated management of emergencies generated by the manifestation of various types of risks and HILP (High Impact Low Probability) events. The total budget of the project is approximately 682 million euros.

Through this project, the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations would like to acquire technical means and equipment the institution is not endowed with, such as trucks with robots, fire trucks with hydroperforation system, container for air transport of highly contagious patients, etc.



author: Communication Directorate of the Ministry of European Funds
photo: non-commissioned officer Claudiu Branischi, UPS

The Minister of European Funds, Marcel Boloş and the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the head of the Department for Emergency Situations, Dr. Raed Arafat, announced, on 25th March 2020, the signing of the largest funding received so far by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. The 682 million approved by the European Commission following the emergency measures submitted by the Ministry's management will also be directed to the immediate measures to combat the spread of COVID-19.

During this period of time, European funds are primarily allocated on three levels: immediate health measures totaling 350 million euros allocated to the purchase of medical equipment and COVID-19 tests by hospital units, together with the GIES unblocked and released funds, amounting to 682 million. Completion of this priority project for the public health was therefore possible.

Dr. Raed Arafat highlighted the importance of the "Vision 2020" project, especially the fact that the endowment with state-of-the-art multi-risk technology and equipment will enable authorities to take part in missions that will save people's lives and also improve intervention management in large-scale missions. Specifically, 44 GIES subordinated units, seven GIAV units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as the Bucharest-Ilfov Ambulance Service, will benefit

from equipment that increases the response capacity from 13'50", as it was in 2018, to 12'06" due to the superior technical performance and the efficiency of the management of the interventions.

During this period of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the medical equipment funded by European projects is used to prevent and treat coronavirus. Specifically, within the projects implemented so far, GIES purchased over 1,100 ambulances of different types, 36 fully equipped mobile camps, each with the capacity to treat 200 people and 49 technical lines for the maintenance of personal protective equipment. The projects were financed under the Environment Sectorial Operational Programme (SOPE) and the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) during the 2007-2013 programming period, respectively under the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme (POIM) during the current programming period (2014-2020). Through these projects, other necessary endowments for emergency situations were provided, their cumulative value being 233.55 million euros. State-of-the-art equipment and technique enable authorities to take part in land, sea and air missions and, at the same time, prevent the loss of human lives by reducing response time.

The project finances the following necessary endowments of GIES, GIAV and SABIF: 20 type A ambulances; 55 type B ambulances; 10 type C ambulances; 2 ambulances for the transport of

CONTINUOUS CONCERNS

FOR AN EFFICIENT RESPONSE



newborns in critical condition; 42 Advanced Medical Posts I; 310 insulating devices with increased autonomy and alarm system in the absence of movement; 7,100 isolating devices with alarm system in the absence of movement; 42 technical lines for the maintenance of personal protective equipment; 20 large fans; 29 small fans; 38 special vehicles for transport to interventions; 64 height emergency and rescue trucks; 27 high capacity towing motor pumps; 30 tanker trucks with a capacity of 3,000 liters for forest fires; 60 special extrication vehicles; 16 backhoe loaders - heavy intervention technique; 49 containers with personal protective equipment; 63 hydraulic hooklift truck with loading / unloading system; 4 mobile cranes with lifting arm and platform for transporting accessories and materials; 276 fire trucks with water and foam - capacity 4,000 liters; 200 fire trucks with water and foam - capacity 10,000 liters; 2 special vehicles for flood interventions; 30 containers with bomb disposal materials; 14 modular barrack containers; 4 radio support trucks; 1 communication center for the national mobile command point; 33 communication

centers for the medium mobile control point; 2 shortwave radio trucks; 3 UAV systems (drones); 5 special vehicles for the transport of multiple victims; 18 platforms; 42 first aid trucks for working with high pressure water and hydroperforation system; 4 special vehicles with robots; 14 camping electric power generators; 40 camping toilets; 40 camping showers; 19 pyrotechnic trucks; 10 pyrotechnic containers; 2 person decontamination containers; 1 land technical decontamination container; 1 air highly contagious patient transport container; 1 medical container for logistical support; 8 powder fire trucks; 1 multi-role ship; 3 multi-role boats; 6 light helicopters; 3 medium / heavy helicopters for land interventions; 3 medium / heavy helicopters for maritime interventions and 15 workstations.

The project also finances the acquisition of a building that will be adapted to the needs for the creation of the National Center for Disaster Response (CNRD), in order to ensure a coordinated response and operational management at national level of emergencies.

2020 AGENDA

THE ACTIVITY OF PROFESSIONAL RESCUERS IN FIGURES AND IMAGES

5.633 PEOPLE SAVED

422.624 MEDICALLY ASSISTED PERSONS

Regarding the emergency response, in 2020, at the national level, 525.916 emergencies were recorded, on average 1.441 per day, increasing by approximately 4% compared to 2019.

Following the missions carried out in cooperation with the other components of the National Emergency Management System, 5.633 persons were saved, of which 4.497 adults and 1.136 children.

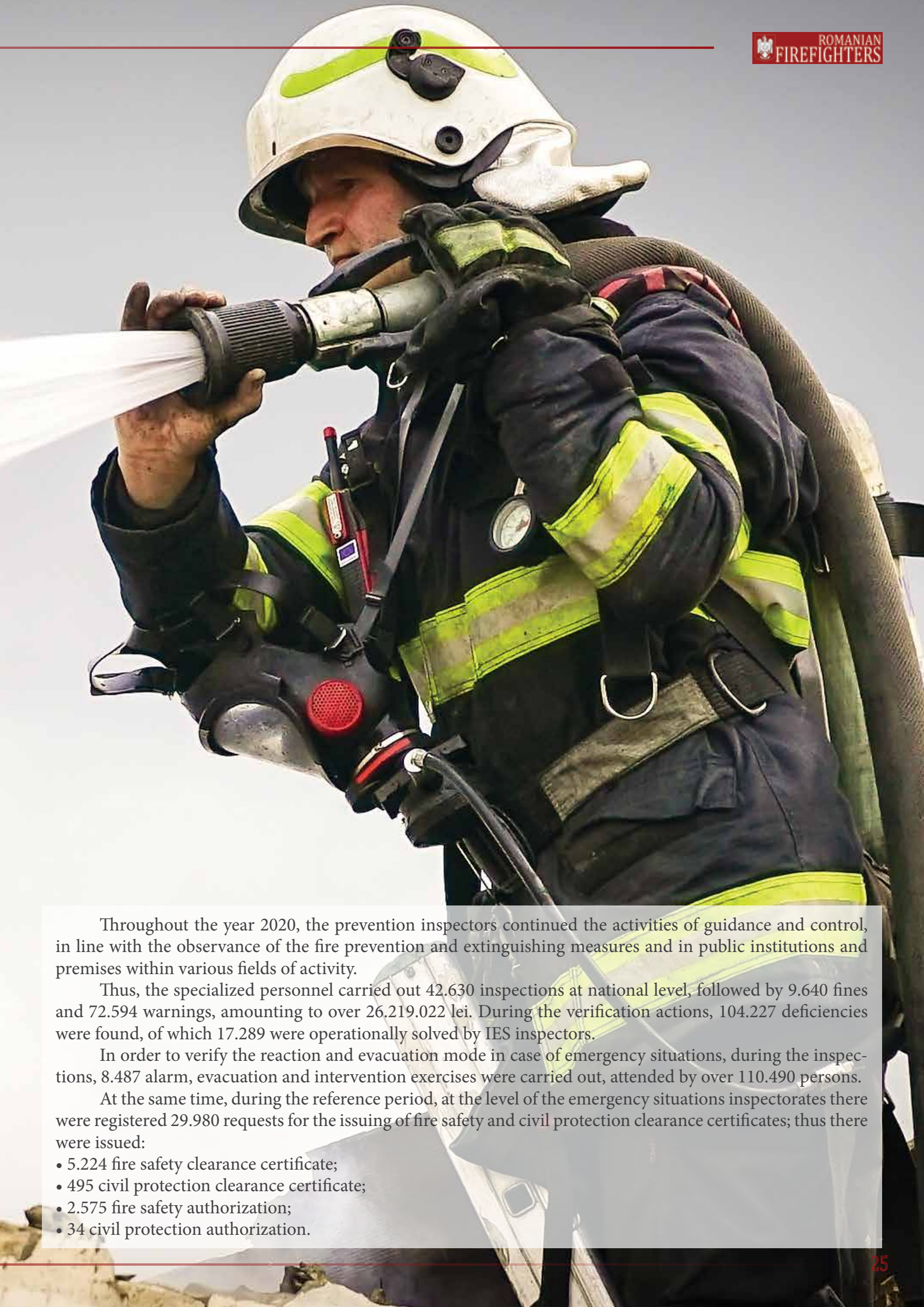
Depending on the types of emergency situations, the rescue crews intervened at 422.624 emergency and extrication requests, 33.883 fires, including those of dry vegetation, 36.561 actions for the protection of communities, 11.397 actions to assist people and 21.451 other emergency situations.

The mobile emergency, resuscitation and extrication services (SMURD) acted, on average, in 1.158 cases per day, providing first aid and

emergency medical care to a number of 462.846 adults and 32.167 children.

During 2020, the professional crews for emergency situations intervened to locate and extinguish the 33.883 fires, on average 93 per day, registered at national level, decreasing by 19% compared to 2019, in particular due to the measures imposed in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic. As a result of this type of risk, 255 people died, of which 9 children, and other 681 were injured, of which 35 children.

Of the total, 29% were mainly caused by the operation of defective or improvised electrical equipment, 6% due to defective, improvised or unattended means of heating, 15% from the use of open fire, 9% due to non-compliance with smoking, 7% of intentional actions and 34% of other circumstances.



Throughout the year 2020, the prevention inspectors continued the activities of guidance and control, in line with the observance of the fire prevention and extinguishing measures and in public institutions and premises within various fields of activity.

Thus, the specialized personnel carried out 42,630 inspections at national level, followed by 9,640 fines and 72,594 warnings, amounting to over 26,219,022 lei. During the verification actions, 104,227 deficiencies were found, of which 17,289 were operationally solved by IES inspectors.

In order to verify the reaction and evacuation mode in case of emergency situations, during the inspections, 8,487 alarm, evacuation and intervention exercises were carried out, attended by over 110,490 persons.

At the same time, during the reference period, at the level of the emergency situations inspectorates there were registered 29,980 requests for the issuing of fire safety and civil protection clearance certificates; thus there were issued:

- 5,224 fire safety clearance certificate;
- 495 civil protection clearance certificate;
- 2,575 fire safety authorization;
- 34 civil protection authorization.

Another success of the firefighter marathon runner



ISU Botosani / Facebook

Firefighter Iulian Rotariu from “Nicolae Iorga” Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Botoșani County won the “The Ultra Asia Race” ultra-marathon which took place between 9 and 12 March, in northwestern Vietnam, in the Mai Châu region, near the border with Laos.

The firefighter from Botoșani managed to dominate his opponents throughout the three stages. At the end of the race he was 15 minutes ahead of the next ranked. The competition in Vietnam started with 18 of the best extreme ultra-marathon runners in the world, of which only 10 finished the race.

Iulian Rotariu is the only Romanian who participated in this ultra-marathon, organized by Adventure Chanel. The competitors had to cover 160 kilometres in four stages, following the itinerary marked by the organizers. Due to restrictions imposed by the Vietnamese authorities due to the

COVID-19 coronavirus, stage III was canceled. So, the competitors covered 106 kilometers.

His first thought after enjoying the victory was to let his family know that he was well.

„Audacia et devotion! A crucial moment can decide all your existence! I thank God for so many wonderful moments! Together, we will win!” Iulian said.

Thus, our colleague adds to his record the third world title! And this time, Iulian ran for charity, trying to support in this way the activity of the Association of Parents of Children with Autism in Botoșani.

Ultra ASIA Race is a 160 km race divided into four stages, with 6000 metres positive height, 7000 meters negative height, which takes place in self-sustaining mode. Each competitor must carry a backpack containing the mandatory equipment, food and personal equipment to follow the route marked by the organizers, with a roadbook at hand.

author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS

Nature unleashed on an entire continent

Australia was devastated late last year and earlier this year by the most violent wildfires in recent years. At least 29 people lost their lives and more than two thousand houses were destroyed or damaged.

The fires started at the end of July 2019, but it was in September when they escalated. Massive burns have destroyed more than 10 million hectares and caused huge damage to wildlife, ecosystems and the environment.

Tens of thousands of Australians have fled their homes. A state of emergency was declared in the southeast of the mainland island, the most populous region, and an evacuation order was issued for more than 100,000 people in three states.

The consequences have been devastating for the continent's unique flora and fauna. Ecologists at the University of Sydney have estimated that about a billion animals have lost their lives in flames or have been injured. These include koala bears, kangaroos or opossums. More than 110 doctors and reservists of the Australian army have made efforts to save the living creatures.

Hot temperatures, over 40 degrees Celsius, were accompanied by strong winds that favoured the uncontrollable spread of fires. The Australian military supported the intervention forces with around 2,000 soldiers, as well as reconnaissance flights, mapping updates, search and rescue interventions, logistics and air support. Three thousand reservist soldiers were mobilized in the area. The Australian Navy has evacuated hundreds of people stranded in coastal towns surrounded by fires, and military aircraft unloaded food in remote areas, and also satellite phones, water and emergency equipment.

Vegetation fires in Australia have released about 400 megatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and produced dangerous pollutants, Copernicus European monitoring programme said. The smoke crossed the Pacific, affecting cities in South America. NASA claimed that the fires were so large that they produced storms that sent smoke into the stratosphere up to 17.7 kilometers altitude, and by 8th January, it had crossed half the planet's surface.

Air quality has been severely affected, especially in major Australian cities such as Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide, and not only. Similar problems have occurred in New Zealand and even Chile.

On the other hand, according to UNESCO, the Budj Bim site, composed of canals, landscaping systems and dams built of volcanic rock, one of the most complex and oldest aquaculture systems in the world, was discovered in large form following strong fires. The site was built by the people of Gunditjmarra over 6,600 years ago and it is older than the pyramids of Egypt.



At the end of January this year, strong storms created the risk of floods. Subsequently, huge sandstorms occurred, and some areas of south-eastern Australia were hit by hail the size of a golf ball, causing significant losses, especially in populated areas.

author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS

Humanitarian aid across borders



On Thursday, 30th April, a team of 42 doctors and nurses from the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Health left for the Republic of Moldova to join the medical teams in the neighboring country in the fight against this pandemic.

They travelled to the cities of Chişinău, Cahul and Bălţi by means of transport of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and the Joint Logistics Command within the Ministry of National Defense.

The team of doctors and nurses specialized in Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Pulmonology, Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine delivered medical care to patients diagnosed with COVID-19 and they also conducted training missions for medical staff for a period of 15 days.

GIES provided protective equipment for the entire medical team during the mission. It consisted of overalls, masks, gloves and visors. The contact with the responsible authorities of the Republic of Moldova and the logistics were provided by two GIES officers.

The action was part of all the support measures undertaken by the Romanian State within the Strategic Partnership for European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.

On Wednesday, 6th May, a convoy of 20 vehicles with protective equipment and sanitary products left for the Republic of Moldova, in support of the teams that were already there.

The aid provided consisted of 500,000 FFP2 masks, 25,000 overalls, 5,000 visors, 5,000 goggles, 200,000 gloves, 2,800 medicine boxes, 10 isolation boxes with negative pressure for transport on a stretcher and approximately 80,000 liters of sanitary alcohol. Protective equipment and sanitary products were purchased by the Ministry of Health in accordance with Article 15 of Decree no. 240 of 14/04/2020, within the joint effort to combat the infection with the new type of coronavirus.

The transport of the equipment was done with trucks belonging to the Ministry of National Defense and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.



author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS

Beirut, the explosion that shook the world

On the evening of 4th August, the capital of Lebanon was shaken by a very strong explosion in the port of Beirut. The cause of the disaster was ammonium nitrate.

The very strong explosion was felt as far as Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, and caused a seismic wave with a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale.

The explosion was preceded by a violent fire that caused two other explosions, lower in intensity, in one of the port's warehouses. Intervention forces arrived on the scene and acted to limit the effects, unaware of the existence of over 2700 tons of ammonium nitrate stored inside. The final explosion was completely unexpected.

The effects of the disaster came to light in the following days: more than 170 people died, more than 6,000 were injured, dozens more missing and about 300,000 remained homeless, a crater with a diameter of about 140 metres in the harbor berth, damaged port structures on more than 6 hectares, a ruined grain silo, the Orient Queen passenger ship half a kilometre from the port was overturned, collapsed shopping areas, hospitals, churches, mosques, residential buildings, malls, cars, roads, remnants of construction elements scattered everywhere. Hospital units, some of them affected by the blast, were stormed by thousands of injured people, medical staff being forced to provide support even in dark parking lots, in the light of mobile phones.

A similar disaster occurred 5 years ago in the Chinese city of Tianjin, after the explosion of a chemical deposit containing thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate. As in Beirut, more than 170 people died at the time, whereas hundreds of people were injured.

In 2004, the explosion of a load of ammonium nitrate produced a huge tragedy in România, in Mihăilești, Buzău County. 18 people, including 7 firefighters and 2 journalists, lost their lives and another 13 people were seriously injured in the blast.



author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS

Saving lives, a universal language

**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FIRE SAFETY AND CIVIL PROTECTION**

Reg. No. 198390-7864
17.09 2020

TO
BG.GL. DAN-PAUL IAMANDI
GENERAL INSPECTOR
GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
ROMANIA

DEAR BG.GL. IAMANDI,

On behalf of the Directorate-General Fire Safety and Civil Protection within the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria and on my personal behalf, I would like to express sincere gratitude for the support provided to our colleague, chief inspector Stefan Boyadzhiev, seriously injured in a traffic accident on August 29, 2020, near the town of Pitesti, Romania.

Thanks to the professionalism and quick and adequate intervention of the Romanian firefighters, timely medical assistance was provided to our injured colleague.

In this regard, I would kindly ask you to pass our gratitude to the firefighters from Pitesti, to the team that transported Mr. Boyadzhiev to Bucharest, as well as to the medical staff of the University Emergency Hospital "Independence" in Bucharest for the quick response and care provided to our colleague.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all the staff of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations good health and success, and to continue to strengthen our good, friendly, and professional relations between our two structures responsible for protecting the population and responding to emergencies in the name of sustainability and the security of our citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Commissioner NIKOLAY NIKOLOV
Director



171A, Pirotska Str., 1309 Sofia, Bulgaria, Tel. +359 2 9821243, Email: nspab-in@mvr.bg

Professionalism!

It's not us to say this, but our Bulgarian colleagues, who were impressed by the way SMURD managed the medical interventions.

It all started around noon on 29th August, when a call coming to the unique emergency number 112 reported a car accident, the victim being a motorcyclist, in Albota, Argeş County. It was specified that a car and a motorcycle were involved, with the motorcyclist in serious condition. Following the call, the SMURD mobile intensive care crew from Piteşti Fire Brigade were deployed to the incident scene where they provided first aid to the victim, a man about 40 years old, of Bulgarian nationality. He suffered an open fracture and a partial amputation of his left lower limb.

The patient was part of a group of motorcyclists of the same nationality, and the dialogue was established by a SMURD paramedic, in English. During the intervention, the victim informed them that all members of the group were ... Bulgarian firefighters.

This aspect also helped our paramedic to distract him from the situation he was in. Throughout the mission, paramedics informed the other colleagues of the victim about the places where the injured motorcyclist was to be transported, given that, after being taken to a hospital in Piteşti, he was transferred to Bucharest.

We were honored to have received written thanks and appreciations for our prompt and professional intervention. On behalf of the Directorate-General for Fire Safety and Civil Protection of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as on his own behalf, the Director-General, Nikolay Nikolov, expressed in an open letter his gratitude for the support offered to our Bulgarian colleague, chief inspector Stefan Boyadzhiev, injured in the traffic accident on 29th August this year.

The Director also took this opportunity to wish the GIES Inspector General, Major General Dan-Paul Iamandi, as well as all subordinate staff, health and success in future missions. He also expressed his hope for further consolidation of professional and friendly relations the two institutions currently have.

author: Second lieutenant Ionuț TUNARU, IES Argeş

The girl born under a lucky star

On 30th October 2020, at 11:51 GMT, 13:51 Romanian time, in the Aegean Sea, there occurred an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 on the Richter scale, with the epicenter 17 kilometres off the coast of Izmir - Turkey and at a depth of 11.8 km.

The quake had more than 1,000 aftershocks, of which about 40 were stronger than 4 on the Richter scale, according to information provided by the National Disaster Management Authority - AFAD. The quake affected Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya and northern Macedonia.

Its most devastating effects were in Izmir, where dozens of buildings collapsed and more than a hundred were damaged. In just a few minutes, clouds of dust rose from the Turkish city. After scattering them, we could see the disaster created by the ruthless force of nature. Everywhere you looked, hundreds of people were in urgent need of help, many of them trapped in the rubble.

All means have been mobilized to complete the rescue efforts as soon as possible and with maximum efficiency. The Turkish army was also mobilized to participate in efforts to help the population.



91 hours after the earthquake, when the total death toll reached 100 people, and almost 1000 people were rescued, a miracle occurred. A four-year-old girl was recovered from the rubble of a block of flats in the Bayrakli district of Izmir.

One of the rescuers, Ibrahim Topal, with tears of happiness in his eyes and a trembling voice, described the experience he had gone through in those moments: "I heard a voice. I looked at my colleague and asked him: Did you hear that, too? Then we stopped everything, the machines and we started listening again and there was a voice there, echoing from under the rubble. I stuck my head in a hole. I listened one more time. It was a very weak voice saying something like: I'm here! I'm Ayla, I'm fine! I am very thirsty! Give me some water and ayran."

The little fair girl was in the kitchen, locked in a safety triangle in front of the dishwasher. She was conscious! She pulled her hand out of the rubble and a paramedic gave an infusion before removing her from the pile of rubble. All this time, the girl remained calm and held out her hand to the rescuers. The child was pulled from the rubble to the cheers of dozens of people involved in the search and rescue missions.

As soon as they recovered her from under the rubble, rescue crews transported her to hospital for further investigation. "I witnessed a miracle in the 91st hour. Rescue crews extracted four-year-old Ayla alive", Izmir Mayor Tunc Soyer said.

A few days after the miracle, the little girl was feeling well and looking forward to seeing her mother again... She will see her again for sure, but much later... when all this will be over...



author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS



Three decades

of

SMURD

“Nothing can make me happier than knowing that through the sacrifices and joint efforts of colleagues with whom we embarked on this path, often rugged, full of obstacles, we have managed today to present SMURD as a real life lesson, where sacrifice, effort, daily struggle with life, emotion, suspense, care for the fellow next to us have triumphed, letting time to prove it.”

**Dr. Raed Arafat,
Head of DES**



Oskar Schindler’s life story is well known and fascinating. A member of the Nazi Party who enjoyed a good life, he ended up spending his fortune to save the lives of nearly 1,300 Jews. Thus, he abandoned the politics of his own Nazi Party, changing from a ferocious materialist, into an altruist, caring for his fellow men. What motivated him to make this change? Was it a moment of enlightenment as in the case of apostle Paul on the road to Damascus? Only God knows! What is certain is that in a selfish and greedy world, this man has chosen to sacrifice himself for others.

In the final scene of the famous film Schindler’s List, the main character has a meeting with those he saved from the concentration camps. When he leaves, one of the Jews gives him a letter signed by all the saved ones,

together with a ring with the inscription: “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire”. Schindler is moved, and with a trembling voice says, “Oh, if I had saved a few more... If I had sold this car... oh, if I had sold this car, I would have saved ten more Jews!” What did I need this car for? “If I had sold this tie pin, I would have saved two more! I could have saved more, I could have saved more... oh, if I had more money... ”

The phrase “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire” comes from the Talmud, and emphasizes the importance of the human being.

Under this motto, for three decades, a service has been consolidated and has given hope, confidence and, above all, a chance to life to those being in critical situations.

It all started in 1991, when SMUR received the first resuscitation ambulance in the form of a donation from Germany. This was intended to ease and at the same time raise the level of medical care in the pre-hospital stage.

In the last quarter of the same year, an experimental period of six months began, which put the crew of the Mobile Emergency and Resuscitation Service under the operational coordination of the Military Fire Brigade Group of Mureş County. The military firefighters from Mureş provided the new department with drivers for the resuscitation ambulance and accommodation and training spaces for the SMUR medical staff. Based on models in many countries around the world where firefighters are directly involved in providing emergency and first aid, this attempt would succeed and become permanent.

A year later, instructors from Germany, the Netherlands, Scotland and the USA, as well as representatives from various ministries and institutions, took part in a three-week course on emergency and medical systems. Following this international collaboration, the Minister of Health declared, by order number 1094 of November 5, 1992, the new programme in Târgu Mureş as a National Pillar Center.

The Mobile Emergency and Resuscitation Service continued to develop, focusing on staff training, almost entirely on a voluntary basis, and on strengthening international relations with similar services in different countries, the first of which being the United Kingdom and Norway ever since 1992.

The endowment with intervention technique suitable for current requirements has increased with the implementation of the programmes DES, through GIES, is a party to. Thus, the population is the beneficiary of medical services and equipment that increase the capacity to respond in emergency situations, the efficiency and quality of emergency medical services, as well as first aid.

Moreover, the population has become aware of how this service works, how involved and devoted are those who are part of it. They also know that everything they do is from the heart! But what they don't know exactly is how many lives they have saved during this whole period of time... or rather, how many lives would have been lost if they hadn't been in service for these past 30 years...

In the three decades of activity, millions of people in difficulty have benefited from the support of firefighters, nurses, doctors, pilots and volunteers. Currently, every day, over 1,000 people receive help from the almost 600 SMURD crews in the country.

For every life saved, for every extra chance, for the hope brought to people and for many more, we thank you!

25th September, the day when, this year, 30 years of SMURD were celebrated, "Horea" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Mureş County hosted the ceremony on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mobile Emergency Service Resuscitation and Release.

**“Whoever saves one life
saves the world entire!”**



author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS
photo: GIES

During this small event, officiated in compliance with social distancing measures and with the necessary protection against the spread of the new coronavirus, the Secretary of State, Head of the Emergency Department, Dr. Raed Arafat awarded the “Emblem of Honour of the Emergency Department” to the people who through sacrifice, dedication, professionalism, care for their fellows have contributed to the building, consolidation, development and continuity of SMURD.

Thus, high distinctions were awarded to colleagues, nurses, paramedics, firefighters, volunteers, pilots, colleagues from the Ambulance Services, mountain rescuers, but also to local authorities who have ever

since the beginning supported this service which continues to develop, to be more prepared, to be closer to people.

With the expansion of SMURD at national level and the obvious need to evolve, modernize the integrated emergency system, the torch was handed on to new colleagues, firefighters, doctors, paramedics, assistants, pilots, volunteers who honour this service. Visible performances are the result of teamwork, dedication and sacrifice, innate values meant to support the motto “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire!”

EOS - DSM

top management tool



author: non-commissioned officer Dan-Petru DANIEL, IES Mureş
photo: IES Mureş

▶ *“The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today’s work superbly well.”*

William Osler



In order to improve the performance of duties, in particular, the coordination of emergency situations with multiple victims involving the implementation of the Red Intervention Plan, the cooperation between the Commander of Rescue Operations (CRO) and the Director of Medical Rescue (DMR), as well as their cooperation with the other representatives of the support agencies in such events, between 24th February and 13th March this year, an international training programme organised by the Department for Emergency Situations and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations with the support of the Foundation for SMURD Romania, took place in Târgu Mureş.

The training programme, with a long history in the Paris Fire Brigade, aimed to improve the performance of duties, in particular, the coordination of emergencies in which several people are involved, cases that involve decision-making in state of emergency and uncertainty, in what Carl Von Clausewitz (1780-1831 - Prussian gunman, historian and military theorist) calls it the fog of war to describe the chaos of the first moments of action.

Carried out for the first time in Romania in 2019, through the Romanian-Swiss project - Improving the quality of pre-hospital and emergency hospital services by implementing and developing a training

program, this training programme aims to train the key-staff responsible for overcoming the chaos phase by using simple, fast and effective tactical reasoning methods (TRM). Undoubtedly, the operational documents drawn up in advance must be the basis for the intervention commander's reflection, but without leading to exclusively procedural constraints or conduct. The methods of tactical reasoning, on the contrary, confer freedom of action to the operational command function, appealing to the intelligence, vision and experience of the intervention commander who often makes, quite often on his own, the first operational decisions.

This year, the training programme was hosted by the National Center for Training in Emergency Assistance and Rescue Operations in Târgu Mureş. The course took place in stages, in three important phases: the initial phase which included introductory theoretical notions, the second phase of the stage in which virtual exercises were conducted in the simulator and the final phase in which three exercises were performed with scenarios inspired by real events.

The training programme was conducted in order to develop a common operational culture that guarantees the security of intervention forces and a higher level of quality of rescue operations in the event of multiple casualties.



PERSONNEL TRAINING

The main objectives of the training programme were:

- improving the coordination and management of emergency situations with multiple victims;
- improving cooperation between the rescue commander and the director of rescue operations, as well as cooperation with other representatives of the authorities with responsibilities in emergency situations;
- streamlining the organization of the Mobile Command Point;
- developing an operational culture, between intervention structures, fire officers and doctors;
- improving the management skills of the intervention by coordinating several simultaneous actions;
- overcoming the “Chaos Phase” using simple, fast and efficient tactical reasoning methods;
- improving the management skills of the intervention by coordinating several simultaneous actions, as well as prioritizing them.

The training session was attended by the chief inspectors of the emergency inspectorates from Bacău, Botoşani, Constanţa, Harghita, Hunedoara, Mehedinţi, Olt, Prahova, Sălaj, Sibiu, Suceava and Vâlcea counties, as well as Emergency Reception Units chiefs, Inspectorate General of Romanian Gendarmerie, Inspectorate General of Romanian Police representatives and other agencies with responsibilities in the field of emergencies.



Throughout the training programme, they benefited from the vast experience of French lecturers, from the Society of Disaster Medicine in France (SFMC - La Societe Francaise de Medecine de Catastrophe) and from Romanian experts from Department for Emergency Situations, Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations and Emergency Reception Units, Mobile Service for Emergency, Resuscitation and Extrication. Four officers from “Horea” Mureş County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, permanently supported the good development of the COS-DSM training course, but also had the opportunity to train together with students and actively participate in all phases of the course.

The climax was the field exercises, which had a high degree of difficulty and mimicked real events/ catastrophes, forcing participants to act operationally in an as real as possible scenario. These exercises took place in three different locations in Mureş County as follows:

- the first exercise in the field, entitled “Hospital Fire”, took place at the Mureş County Hospital, Endocrinology Department, UMFST yard, in Târgu Mureş.

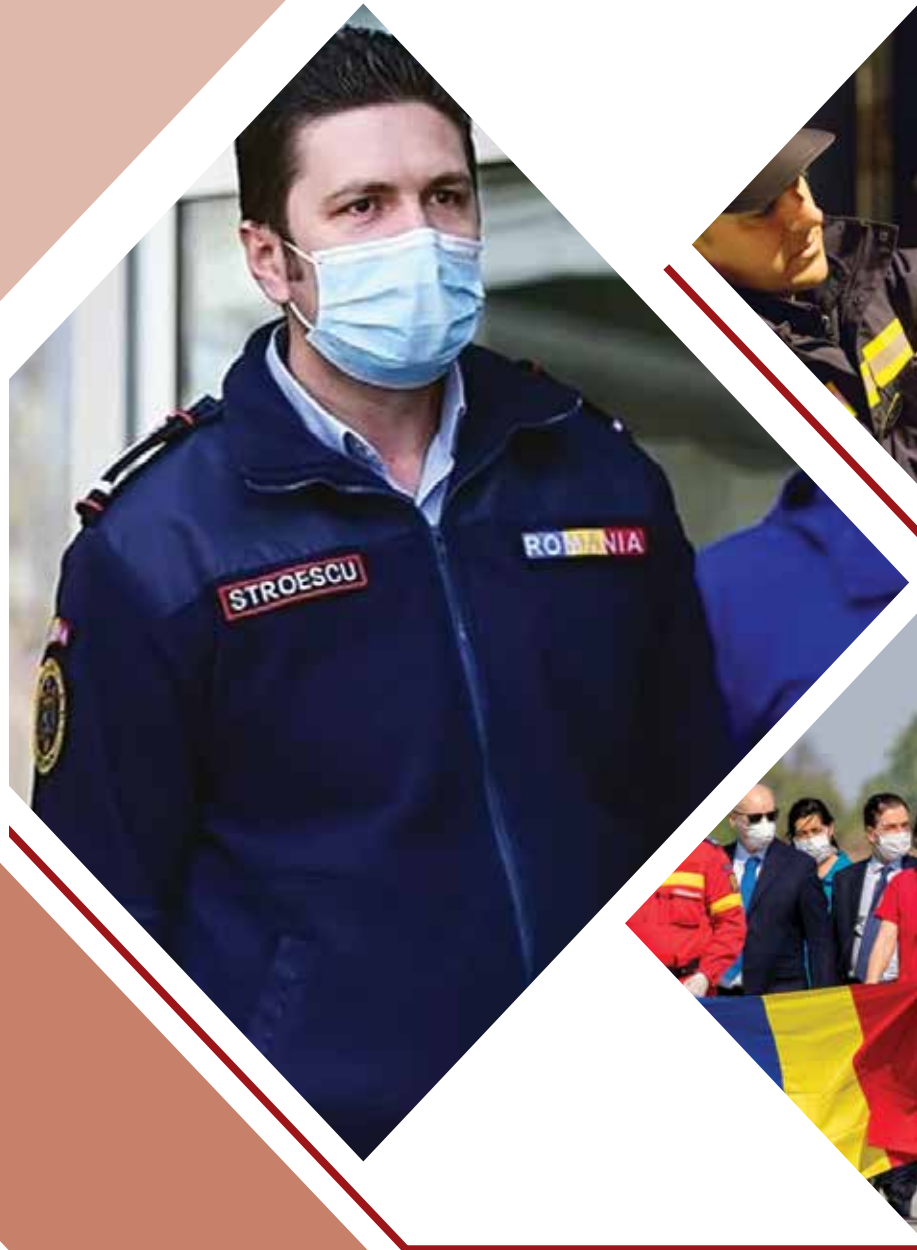
- the second exercise, entitled “Accident at Underground Works”, took place at the disused CFR tunnel in Sighișoara.

- the third exercise entitled “Terrorist Attack on a Multipurpose Hall”, took place at the Multipurpose Hall in Târgu Mureş.

The logistics used in the exercises belong to Mureş County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and consisted of: a Mobile Service for Emergency, Resuscitation and Extrication helicopter, four fire trucks with water and foam, one for extrication intervention, three trucks for transport of multiple victims, two SMURD ambulances, a mobile command point, a special vehicle for collective interventions and calamities, a multi-risk container, three minibuses and SMURD volunteers. Crews from the Ministry of National Defense, Mureş County Police Inspectorate, Mureş County Inspectorate of Gendarmes, Mureş Mobile Group of Gendarmes and the Mureş County Ambulance Service also participated in the exercises.

The experience proved to be for all participants a positive and useful one, leading to the acquisition of good practices, exchanges of experience and their application in crisis situations.





Rescue firefighters, regardless of their specialization or the color of the protective gear they wear, will always be the same. They love life and they value every second. Love for their Motherland is their commitment. Success is their belief. Saving lives is their motivation. Missions requiring rapid reaction are their specialization, and the skillfulness and confidence they prove when involving in extreme situations help

HEROES AMONG US



author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS

them to feel rewarded after accomplished missions resulting in saved lives, whether they are on duty or off. This fact proves, once again, if more evidence was needed, that rescue firefighters do not have free time!

What they do is reflected in the feelings of those around them, in the thoughts of those to whom they dedicate themselves unconditionally. They change destinies, defend lives, goods and the environment,

put their fellow people experiencing hardship above themselves. A simple look of gratitude, tears of joy, handshakes, hugs of those in pain give them a sense of satisfaction and reward, as they were in the right place at the right time. Romanian firefighters will always be under their pledge of allegiance!

We are proud of you!

You honour this noble profession!

Cristi Bîrsanu

author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS
photo: GIES and IES Suceava

“We congratulate him and are proud of him, because he is a true role model for all those who have chosen their vocation as saviours.”

**Colonel Costică GHIAȚĂ,
chief inspector of IES Suceava**

A guardian angel, as the grateful ones call them, was also Cristi Bîrsanu, when he risked his own life to save another person's life. He has been a non-commissioned officer in the Fălticeni Detachment for over 12 years. Even though at first the family tried to keep him from practising this profession, fearing for his life, he went on with it. In time, his loved ones understood him, accepted his choice and stood by him, convinced of Cristi's passion and commitment to be close to his fellows in danger.

On Tuesday, 3rd December, around 2.00 pm, a young woman from Pâraie locality, Mălini commune, Suceava county, bent over the edge of a well to pour water into a bucket, slipped on the ice formed next to it, lost her balance and fell into the 31-metre deep well. The fact that she survived after falling such depth was a real miracle. The hourglass had already been turned, time was running out to the detriment of the injured young woman, who was in the cold water. She started screaming for help, and those who heard her immediately called 112 to ask for help from the fire department.

The intervention guard from Fălticeni Detachment was alerted and sent a crew to help the young woman. Cristi, living in the same village as the victim, was contacted by phone by the chief of the crew already on the way to the scene, to find out additional data about

the location and also asked him, if possible, to wait for them there. He had just finished his tour of duty and he was returning with his son from school. They hurried home, where he left his child and told his wife that someone urgently needed help.

Arriving at the scene, before the intervention crew, Cristi found a group of locals with a piece of rope and one of wood ready to save the victim. When they saw the rescuer, knowing that he was a firefighter, they asked him if he could help them. He quickly analysed the situation and asked to be slowly and carefully lowered into the 31-metre deep well, using the piece of rope and wood prepared by the locals. After about five metres and making sure that the walls of the well were stable, he asked the people to lower him faster, as the young woman needed urgent help.

Once he reached the victim, they talked, she recognized him even though she was visibly affected by the fall, the scare and the cold, the cold water making her feel merciless piercings in every pore of her skin. She was hypothermic, scared and on the verge of a panic attack. Cristi conveyed her a feeling of safety and promised that they would both get out of there alive, especially since his colleagues were on their way. It wasn't long before they showed up, and about 20-25 minutes after the event, the two people were safely brought to the surface.

There, after the intense feelings she had, the young woman did not have the strength to articulate a word. But one could read the gratitude for her angel for the act of courage he had shown in saving her from the dark and cold dungeon. She was immediately transported to Fălticeni Hospital and subsequently redirected to Suceava County Hospital for detailed investigations, remaining hospitalized in serious condition.

Two weeks later, she returned home safe and sound, and during all this time, the young woman's father constantly informed Cristi about his daughter's condition. Although he saved a person's life while risking his own life, the saviour modestly says that he is not a hero and that he is glad that it was in his power to do such a good deed.

On the occasion of the annual review meeting from "Bucovina" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Suceava County, the chief inspector, Colonel Costica Ghiață, handed Cristi Bîrsanu a diploma of excellence and a honorary plaque. Even though he was in his free time, he proved, through his actions, that he did not remain indifferent to the suffering of his fellows and got involved, saving a life at the risk of his own life.

Thus, Cristi Bîrsanu showed once again, through the responsible way of intervention, that the military firefighters are active 24 hours a day. He hopes that, in the soul of the young woman, he will remain forever her saving angel.

Thus, the whole country learned about him. He enjoyed a well-deserved attention, which filled with joy and pride the hearts of his children, his wife, his whole family, but also of all those in his small village, Pâraie, Suceava County. Military firefighters in Suceava, his second family, also felt proud.

Colleagues from the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations in Bucharest congratulated him too, and the inspector general, Brigadier General Dan-Paul Iamandi, personally rewarded him with a statuette and a photo album with the entire family of military firefighters in the country.

It's his moment and we hope he enjoys it as much as possible!

Congratulations, Cristi!





Author: Major Adrian Marin, GIES
Photo: IES Sibiu

Between 7th and 25th April, a team of 11 doctors, 3 nurses and 1 Emergency Situations officer were deployed to a mission in Italy, one of the countries most affected in the world by the new coronavirus pandemic.

In the material below you will find an interview with our colleague, Major Joe Stroescu, an officer with “Captain Dumitru Croitoru” Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Sibiu County, who told us about his experience and also gave us details regarding the activities carried out by the medical team, in support of the Italian authorities.

How many members did the team consist of?

The Romanian medical team sent to support the qualified medical response in Italy consisted of 11 doctors specialized in anesthesia and intensive care (ATI), emergency medicine and pneumology and three nurses selected from hospitals in Bacău, Cluj-Napoca, Moinești, Oradea, Reșița, Târgu Mureș, Timișoara, but also a clinic in Bucharest. The team was also completed by a liaison officer from IES Sibiu.

Where were you assigned?

Our team was assigned to support the medical response in the Lombardy Region in the city of Lecco, located about 55 kilometers from Milan, on the shores of Como Lake. Ever since we arrived in Italy we had a visit to the hospital in Lecco where, together with the representatives of the Territorial Socio-Sanitary Society that manages three hospitals in the province, it was established that, taking into account the medical needs and priorities, Romanians should be assigned to Alessandro Manzoni Hospital in Lecco, respectively San Leopoldo Mandic in Merate.

What was a working day like?

During the first three days we were trained on the health system in Italy, the organization of the activity in Alessandro Manzoni hospital in Lecco, as well as on local medical protocols. After this training, doctors and nurses were scheduled to work day shifts. This work programme was established in agreement with the management of the medical unit for the Easter holidays, thus supporting the Italian medical staff who had worked every day since February this year. For the second part of the mission, doctors and nurses from Romania worked both day and night shifts.

The procedures performed by the medical staff in Romania are part of the top procedures used in medicine: diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopy in patients in critical condition, advanced management of ventilatory and hemodynamic functions, advanced nursing techniques.

The Romanian medical team represented the first international experience for the staff of Alessandro Manzoni Hospital in Lecco, Romanians being the first foreign doctors and nurses to work there.

Joe Stroescu

Regarding communication aspects, the liaison officer was in daily contact with the representatives of the Territorial Socio-Sanitary Society to ensure performance of the mission in the best conditions. The aspects related to the programme, the daily provision of transport, the meal service and other aspects were discussed daily. Also, the daily contact with DES and GIES was maintained for providing updated information on the activities carried out and for ensuring the observance of the mandate entrusted to the team. His Excellency George Gabriel Bologan, Romania's ambassador to Italy, was also informed on the status of the mission in order to ensure a climate of normalcy in relations with the Italian authorities.

The liaison officer constantly forwarded information reports to the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and European Humanitarian Operations (DG-ECHO) through the Emergency Response Coordination Center in Brussels, Belgium (ERCC), which referred to the activities of the medical team and relations with the Italian authorities, all in the context of this mission through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Did you see people on the street?

Did they take into account the recommendations of the authorities?

I had seen images with the empty streets from Italy since I was home... The shock was just as strong when I got there. I was crossing the city and I could barely see one or two people after a few kilometres. The public transport circulated, but often without passengers. The population understood that only by staying at home and limiting contact with other people to the maximum could the spread of this coronavirus be prevented. I found few people at the few grocery stores open and they told me they only came weekly for essential shopping.

When they left the houses, for whatever reason, everyone wore a mask, surgical gloves and had a self-declaration, justifying the reason for travel.

People who did not follow the rules were immediately fined, and in the case of drivers, the vehicle could even be seized.

What could be easily seen was the responsibility shown by everyone, that people became aware of the danger, gradually learned that they were able to live with these restrictions, that all measures were taken for the general good and they complied with the imposed measures.

How was the relation with the Italian authorities?

From the first contact, on 7th April, with the director of the emergency department of Alessandro Manzoni Hospital in Lecco, Dr. Mario Tavola, we were able to feel the weight of emotions brought by this gesture of solidarity, the sincere gratitude expressed by the whole

Italian medical staff. Dr. Mario Tavola, who had not left the hospital since the beginning of February, sent us from the very first day the most sincere thanks for this noble gesture and had the power to encourage us to learn from their experience, to be able to return home to lessen the effects of this extremely aggressive virus.

After almost a week in hospitals, I could notice the emotion and compassion of the medical staff towards the patients, the humanity they showed at every step, no matter how serious the condition of the patients tested positive with COVID-19, regardless of whether they had a chance or not to overcome the infection with this virus. I met smiling faces everywhere, thanking every time, at every formal or informal meeting, thus showing respect for the support given.

In time, the trust between the two parties was strengthened and increased every day, the medical staff from Romania receiving more and more tasks to perform, more complex, this trust being gained through effort. This devotion was rewarded by the medical management of the hospital in Lecco by entrusting the performance of all diagnostic and therapeutic bronchoscopies to some of the Romanian doctors specialized in this field.

What message or recommendations do you have for Romanians?

We would like to send them a message of hope first of all, to ask them to comply with the measures and restrictions imposed, to show responsibility, to think that any action can produce effects, both on themselves and on those around, especially beloved ones, family, friends, colleagues. We would like to encourage them to stay at home when they do not have to go to work, to restrict the number of other trips only to exceptional cases, to abide by the measures of social distancing, personal protection.

At the same time, we call on everyone to show solidarity, to understand that only together we can succeed in this battle against the virus and realize that the actions of each of us can support the efforts of those on the front line.

For the entire professional activity carried out at a high level of professionalism and the successful completion of the humanitarian mission carried out in Italy, between April 7-25 this year, Major Stroescu Joe was promoted to the next rank, on 22nd May, 2020, for special merits and exceptional results.

Remember that this virus does not make a difference when choosing victims, instead we can make a difference every day. Convinced that we are not alone in this endeavor, we are sure that together we are stronger and only together we will succeed! ***BECAUSE WE CARE!***



Courage - the shield against risk

"If you're going to be a winner in life, you have to constantly go beyond your best."

Robert Toru Kiyosaki

author: Non-commissioned officer Sebastian FURNEA, UPS



Military firefighters, professional rescuers, our heroes! They are the first to actually enter the battle with the invisible enemy, COVID-19. They are the ones who are most in contact with people infected with the new coronavirus. They risk their health every minute and sometimes they spend a few hours next to those they transport. They are on the first lines of the common front against the dreaded virus.

The intervention time depends on the distance to the scene. During the mission, rescuers have to be fully equipped. Even if it has become an automatism, putting on protective gear requires a lot of care for every detail.

Each member of the intervention team on the transport vehicle is assisted in equipping by another colleague from the biological, radiological and nuclear research group. The gear is highly efficient and minimizes risks. To cope with the danger they face, rescuers show a lot of discipline and sympathy.

After each mission involving persons suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, crews travel to specially designated points for decontamination of personnel. This activity is performed by specialized CBRN personnel and lasts about 20 minutes. Afterwards, decontamination of the truck both inside and outside takes place for about 60 minutes. Only after these activities does the crew become available to take on a new mission.

Crews successfully solving the transport interventions of the victims and suspects of the new coronavirus and resource decontamination teams

involved in this fight are equally important. It is a mission that involves a very high degree of responsibility in which no errors that would lead to contamination among staff are allowed. Any wrong action can turn them from rescuers into victims.

The staff that coordinates this whole set of activities, which is behind those in the front line, also has a special role. Everything is precise, everything is set out in detail. It is the typical success of teamwork.

Beyond all these human and logistical resources involved, there is also the emotion kept in everyone's soul. Some express it in words, others in gestures, others hold it only for themselves, in their heart usually beating for those who are waiting... at home... a father, a mother, a husband or wife, a brother or a child.

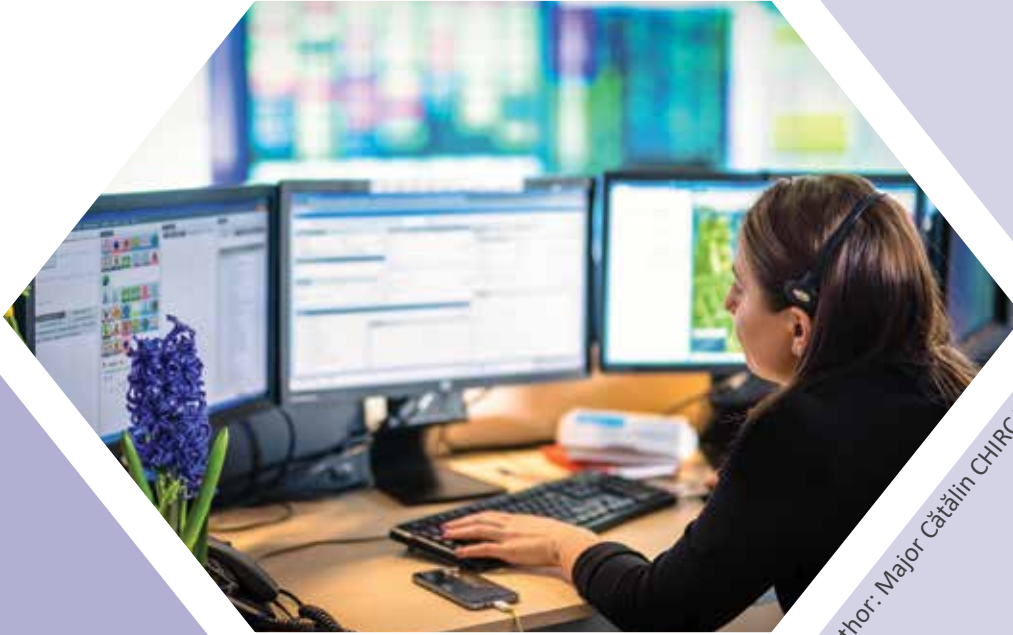
While millions of people are hoping for victory and, with it, for the relaxation of prevention measures, thousands of professional rescuers in the front lines keep fighting for their lives, far from their families, their beloved ones. Throughout this period, many could only see their children on their smart phones. Understanding the danger, they preferred to take them to their relatives' homes in order to protect them. The price paid is high for everyone!

The trial we were all subjected to changed not only their profession, but also their family life. But, as they are real professional rescuers... they have adapted, they have hold their heads up high and fought to the end. They are the heroes of this pandemic!

Esteem and respect!

AML

available in Romania



author: Major Cătălin CHIRCA, STS

AML is also meant to help people with hearing and/ or speech disabilities who send SMS to 113 on phones with Android operating system.

Citizens who call the emergency number 112 on their smart phone benefit from Advanced Mobile Location (AML) technology. The facility was implemented by the Special Telecommunications Service (STS), together with mobile operators and in partnership with Google and Apple. This technology allows transmission to 112 System of the geographical coordinates associated with the place the call is made from, exclusively during the emergency call and not under any other conditions.

The AML facility, developed and made available free of charge to emergency services, in order to support smart phone users in emergency situations, does not require the installation of additional components or applications and has meters/ tens of meters accuracy.

For nearly five months, STS's teams of engineers and programmers worked with Google's ELS Android team to conduct preliminary testing and improve location accuracy of 112 calls. Implementation was also closely linked to major mobile telephony operators in Romania, which carried out works in their own infrastructures, in order to facilitate the transmission of AML information to the emergency service.

During the same period of time, the 112 System infrastructure was configured to allow the reception of the geographical position transmitted from the phones with iOS operating system, a fact confirmed by Apple following the tests it performed by the end of the first quarter of this year. At the end of March, the update of the iOS operating system to version 13.4 was launched, which allows the provision of AML location for iPhone users as well.



“At the moment, AML operates throughout the country, and when citizens call 112, STS operators and dispatchers of intervention agencies have at their disposal more and more accurate geographical coordinates. We performed tests, analysed various technical and operational scenarios and integrated all the necessary configurations, so that this technology is highly beneficial for the caller. At the same time, it was necessary to update the legislation for the implementation of this technology. We are continuing the steps for the modernization of the 112 System through a project financed from European funds that we want to complete in 2021.”

- Major General Eng. Ionel-Sorin BĂLAN, director of STS.

The Android ELS service recognizes when a user makes an emergency call to 112 or when an SMS is sent to 113 and will calculate the location using multiple location sources (AGPS, mobile network, Wi-Fi and sensors in the phone). ELS locations are calculated on the device and sent via SMS and / or internet, directly to 112 System using industry standard protocols.

The ELS service will be activated only when calling the 112 number, respectively when sending messages to the 113 number intended for people with hearing and / or speech disabilities, the rest of the time being inactive, without consuming battery. The location information is transmitted from the mobile phone directly to the 112 System; Google does not receive this location from the emergency service. If the internet connection is stopped

when calling the emergency number 112, the ELS service will transmit the position, but only via SMS. To properly transmit and display the time stamp that accompanies the AML location information, it is recommended that you enable the option to automatically update the date and time associated with your mobile phone.

The service does not work for phones that do not have a SIM card inserted or have SIM cards with idle services, if the phone is set to airplane mode and the phone battery level is below 10%.

Unlike the solution offered by Google, Apple terminals transmit the position to the 112 System only in the case of emergency telephone calls, not in the case of sending emergency messages via SMS to the number 113.



AML - ANDROID OPERATION

The mandatory conditions for the provision of location information through the ELS / AML service are:

- 1. Your phone must include the Android operating system starting with OS version 4.0 or higher and have Google Play Services installed;**
- 2. the user has not previously chosen to deactivate the ELS service, from the location settings of his phone;**
- 3. the telephone must be registered in a mobile network in Romania, with access to SMS and / or internet services;**
- 4. The phone must have integrated GPS and Wi-Fi functions.**

When a user initiates a call to the 112 emergency number, the iPhone calculates the position by integrating data from multiple sources, such as satellite systems and Wi-Fi networks. Subsequently, the coordinates are packaged in an SMS which is sent directly to the 112 Service, without any other operation required.

This service is not available for phones that do not have a SIM card inserted or have SIM cards with idle services, or when sending emergency messages to the SMS service 113.

For the efficient use of the information provided by AML technology, the operating procedures have been updated and all personnel within the Joint National System for Emergency Calls have been trained in this regard.

At the end of the first quarter of this year, the reception of geographical coordinates via AML technology is not available for callers in international roaming, as

well as for those who do not have a signal in their own network (national roaming).

Within the 112 Service in Romania, several types of location are implemented: Cell ID / Sector ID, AML, APEL 112, Geolocation 112.

Primary location - Cell ID / Sector ID uses the data transmitted by the mobile cell that serves the caller at the time of initiating the call and indicates a guidance area, in the form of a circle sector. This area can be between tens of square meters and tens of square kilometers.

For AML type localization, the surface is reduced to a circle with a radius of a few meters / several tens of meters.

Complementary to Cell ID / Sector ID and AML localization, STS has implemented two other localization methods - Geolocation 112 and the APEL 112 mobile application.



AML OPERATION - iOS

The mandatory conditions for providing AML location information for iPhone are:

- 1. the phone's operating system must be updated to version 13.4;**
- 2. the phone must be registered in one of the following mobile networks in Romania with which Apple has an agreement in the implementation of AML;**
- 3. The phone must have access to the SMS service.**

By the Geolocation 112 method, following an emergency call, the caller receives from the 112 System an SMS containing a location link, which, after being accessed, allows, with the caller's consent, the transmission to the 112 System of the geographical coordinates provided by the operation, through integrated location services, using the data service associated with the mobile phone.

The APEL 112 mobile application can be downloaded for free from the Google Play and App Store on all smart phones. The application allows you to call the emergency service with a single touch on the screen and, at the same time, transmit the position of the phone to the 112 System using also the data service associated with the mobile phone.

According to the European Association of Emergency Numbers 112 (EENA), the AML location solution is operational in 19 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Finland, Germany,

Ireland, Iceland, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Slovenia, the United States, Sweden and the UK.

All four location methods implemented in our country, AML, the mobile application APEL 112, Geolocation and Cell ID / Sector ID, are complementary to each other, but none is infallible. As it is the case in other countries that have implemented geographic coordinate transmission solutions during emergency calls, each method has a certain success rate. Thus, according to the EENA report from 2019, at European level, the success rate for AML is up to 65%. For this reason, citizens who call 112 are asked to provide and confirm as accurately as possible the details of their location.

The Special Telecommunications Service is constantly analyzing new solutions and technologies that can ensure the improvement of caller location in the most diverse technical conditions.



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