

**Ministrstvo za obrambo Republike Slovenije – Uprava Republike Slovenije za zaščito in reševanje – URSZR;  
Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief - ACPDR**

The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (URSZR) is the competent national authority for disaster management, organized within the Ministry of Defence. It is a governmental and non-profit organization. Its main task is to develop, organize and implement administrative, technical and other professional duties related to the national disaster management system.

The Administration consists of headquarters in Ljubljana, including a National notification centre, Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (with its three sub-centres) and 13 regional offices covering designated geographical parts of Slovenia. There are 343 professionals fully employed by the ACPDR.

The Slovenian disaster management system merges all professional and voluntary protection and rescue units and services and Civil Protection into one system. These units and services involve around 5% of the total population of Slovenia, the majority of whom exist at local level and carry out tasks voluntarily, meaning that volunteers play a crucial role in the system. ACPDR provides financial support for their equipment and education and training.

In the field of disaster management, ACPDR has developed close bilateral cooperation with Slovenia's neighbouring and other countries. ACPDR places special emphasis on its active role in the European Union's civil protection activities, in particular in the Community Civil Protection Mechanism.

A lot of efforts are put into an effective regional cooperation in the South Eastern Europe and closer association of the Western Balkan countries with the EU civil protection activities. ACPDR also participates in UN and other international organizations' activities related to disaster management. Slovenia through URSZR also provides its share of international humanitarian assistance in cases of disasters in other countries.

The training of protection and rescue units and services is of high priority for URSZR. It is carried out by the national Training Centre for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, which was built in 1992 in the small town of Ig (10 km south of Ljubljana) as a main national facility for disaster management training. The basic activity of the Training centre Ig is education and training of protection and rescue units (fire brigades and other rescue services provided within the disaster management system). The centre is actively involved in exchanging lessons learned and obtaining knowledge from similar centres abroad. It also gains much from cooperation with various foreign experts.

The Training centre Ig with residential buildings, classrooms and training sites cover 7 hectares. Its auditorium with a capacity of 130 persons, thirteen regular classrooms seating 20 to 40 persons, specially equipped classrooms designed for specific target groups and rooms for small group work provide good working conditions. All classrooms are equipped with necessary technical systems (audio, DVD, Internet). The centre provides training for up to 21,000 people per year. In addition to national training the centre has experience in conducting international activities.

In the past URSZR has organized the following international training activities/projects (many of them in the Training centre Ig):

1. Disaster Management Training Programme within the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative for South-Eastern Europe:
  - Seminar on Disaster Management in Slovenia, Training center Ig, 25–30 May 2003
  - Disaster Management Courses, in cooperation with the University of Bournemouth, Training center Ig 15–26 March 2004, 7–18 March 2005
  - Training of Trainers workshop, in cooperation with the University of Bournemouth, Training center Ig 29 November–3 December 2004, 9–13 January 2006
  - Africa/Europe Regional INSARAG USAR command-post exercise, Training center Ig, 20–24 November 2006
  - Seminar on the Community Civil Protection Mechanism, organised jointly with the European Commission and supported by the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Training center Ig, 16-19 November 2009
  - Cave Rescue Training (5-days): October 2009 in Cetinje, Montenegro; September 2010 in Skopje, FYROM; September 2011 in Dryanovo, Bulgaria; September 2012 in Sežana, Slovenia
  - Hot Fire Training, Training center Ig (5-days), Slovenia: 15–20 March 2009; 5-10 September 2010; 4-9 September 2011; 2-7 September 2012
  - Disaster Risk Reduction Course: November 2010, Bled, Slovenia
  - NRBC training, Training center Ig, Slovenia; 11-15 October 2010
  - English Language Course, Training center Ig, Slovenia; 14-19 September 2011.
2. Courses in cooperation with UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (in the Training centre Ig):
  - Civil–Military Coordination Course, once per year since 2002: 26–31 May 2002, 2–7 May 2004, 19–24 September 2004, 19–24 June 2005, 21–26 May 2006
3. Courses in cooperation with the Swedish Rescue Services Agency (in the Training centre Ig):
  - NATO/PfP International Humanitarian Relief Operations Course, 7-18 May 2001
  - Training Swedish Fire Fighting Instructors – rope technique: 16-24 October 2004, 8-16 October 2005
  - Basic training for international rescue missions, 12–14 May 2011, 31 May–2 June 2011
4. URSZR participates and has participated in the following relevant EU projects:
  - Planning, conducting and evaluating of Civil Protection Modules Training Course; Tender DG ENV A.3/SER/2008/0025, 2008-2009; URSZR in consortium with THW (Germany) and DUZS (Croatia) organized 5 MBC courses between March and October 2009.
  - Design, plan, conduct and evaluate exercises for civil protection modules and technical assistance and support teams; Tender DG ENV ENV.A3/SER/2009/0020, 2009-2011; URSZR in consortium with THW (Germany), DUZS (Croatia) and Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe (Germany) organized 5 Modules (+ EUCPT & TAST) Table-top exercises in the border area between Slovenia and Croatia in 2010-2011.
  - European Training Programme, LOT 2 - Modules Basic Courses and technical expert courses (MBC, TEC); May 2012 – June 2013; ECHO/B.1/FRA/2011/02 Lot2 RANK 1, URSZR in consortium with Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Fire Service College (FSC) from United Kingdom organizes ten Module Basic Courses (MBC) and Technical Expert Courses (TEC). One of the MBCs will be organized in Slovenia in 2013.

- European Union's Programme on "Civil Protection cooperation for candidate countries and potential candidates" (EuropeAid/128936/C/SER/MULTI, LOT 2 Programme) financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Aim of the programme, with duration from December 2010 to December 2012, is to reduce the vulnerability of the Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo\*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Turkey (beneficiary/partner countries) to natural and man-made disasters at local, national and regional levels by contributing to the development of civil protection capacities of the beneficiary/partner countries and bringing the countries closer to the Community Civil Protection Mechanism (the Mechanism). Programme consists of three lots. Activities in Lot 2 were implemented by the consortium consisting of the URSZR as a leading partner, Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate (DUZS), German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). Activities of Lot 2 included preparing two regional table-top and two field exercises with participation of rescue teams from all beneficiary/partner countries and arranging participation of beneficiary/partner countries in the Mechanism exercises.
  
- Alpine Search and Rescue for Slovenia and Italy (ALPSAR) (Tender DG ENV 2010, GA 070401/2010/578921/SUB/c4). URSZR is a project partner in consortium with HITEC Luxemburg (leading partner) and CP of Friuli-Venezia Giulia Italy. This project implemented from 2011-2013 will enhance cross border cooperation, as it aims to improve tracking, localisation and provision of pictures via 2-D and 3D maps to rescue teams via a tool set. Along, a strong emphasise has been given to the procedural part of an alpine rescue mission in the border area where rescue teams from both countries participate. An international exercise with participation of Italian and Slovenian mountain rescue teams, which tested the web based tools and procedures, was organized at the bordering region between Slovenia and Italy from 20 to 21 June 2012.

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence