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TAIEX ALBANIA

FIRE PREVENTION CAPACITY BUILDING IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS DURING THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN ALBANIA

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“FIRST STEP IN SOLVING ANY PROBLEM IS RECOGNIZING THERE IS ONE”

FIRE PREVENTION CAPACITY BUILDING IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS DURING THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN ALBANIA

- Event 1
Study Visit (Sweden – Finland) 26-30 June 2023 ✓
- Event 2
Expert Mission (Albania) 18-20 September 2023 ✓
- Event 3
Workshop (Albania) 20-21 November 2023



84111 STUDY VISIT 26-30 JUNE 2023

SWEDEN - FINLAND

Main topics of the Study Visit:

- Incoming calls and the managing of these calls.
- Procedures put in place for emergency interventions and also in case of accidents with dangerous goods.
- Equipment that is in use and especially those for the TDG



84111 STUDY VISIT 26-30 JUNE 2023

SWEDEN - FINLAND

- From the study visit we saw that for both countries the **112 service** performs the function of the all-inclusive operator according to some predefined standard protocols and then the call was forwarded to one or several services according to the situation.
- In Finland, the 112 service operated as a **state agency** and in Sweden as an **independent operator**.
- Currently in Albania in case of accidents (including TDG) the 3 emergency services (Fire Service, Police, Medical Emergency) **do not have a common operating procedure** depending on the situation.
- **Joint standard SOP** procedures should be created in cases of accidents and even more so in cases of transport of dangerous goods (TDG).
- **Cooperation with international partners** should be continued in the process of development of these procedures, in particular concerning the TDG.
- The sectoral legislations **are not recognized and respected** by the various institutions and as a result there are conflicts of competences, which leads to a dangerous chaotic situation for the personnel, as well as public security employees.
- In the case of the most frequently transported dangerous goods, diesel, benzine, kerosene, GPL and CNG, a **raising awareness campaign** should be designed in cooperation between all the competent institutions in Albania.

84111 STUDY VISIT 26-30 JUNE 2023

SWEDEN - FINLAND

- In most cases, **the risk is neglected** in the interventions that are carried out, especially in cases of massive fires and accidents in the TDG.
- **Significant lack of equipment and tools** in the fire service.
- In some cases, the **basic** equipment for the simplest interventions and accidents is also missing and the lack of maintenance of the existing equipment is also a serious threat to national safety and security.
- Some of the basic equipment needed for TDG are currently in stock in Albania, but the employees do not have **proper knowledge and training** for the use of these equipment and their maintenance.
- A **training plan** will be developed internally by Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy as soon as the translations of ADR and RID in Albania will be published.
- There is a **lack of curricula** in the training of the Fire Service's personnel in relation to accidents in TDG.
- The creation of specific curricula and trainings related to the TDG is suggested.

84567 EXPERT MISSION 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2023

ALBANIA

Main topics of the Expert Mission:

- Assessment of equipment in Albania especially equipment in use for accidents regarding TDG.
- Assessment of the SOP's in Albania especially those that are in use in accidents regarding TDG.
- Assessment of the training procedures for the firefighters regarding TDG.



84567 EXPERT MISSION 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2023

ALBANIA

- It is of utmost importance to the firefighters health and safety that **PPE is properly decontaminated** after use in fire interventions.
- Special equipment such as **washing machines and dryers** must be made available.
- **Gastight chemical suits** need to be implemented in the fire service immediately.
- The costs could be **shared** between the municipalities in the region of Tirana & Durres.
- **Gas detectors** need to be implemented in the fire service immediately.
- **The technical status of the SCBA's** (self contained breathing apparatus) observed is below standards.
- **Compressors** for filling the SCBA bottles need to be of a standard tailored for breathing air.
- **A list of firefighting equipment** needs to be adapted to a risk assessment of the local risks and conditions.
- Most of the vehicles will have a basic standardized set of equipment and some of the trucks will have a more specific standardized set of equipment based on the **assessment** mentioned above.

84567 EXPERT MISSION 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2023

ALBANIA

- The fire service dispatcher needs to have, at their disposal, **certain tables and instructions** for dangerous substances.
- The vehicles available to the fire service are **old and outdated** and these vehicles are not adequate for the needs of the municipalities visited during this mission.
- The vehicles which are out of service should be **scrapped**.
- **Continuous maintenance and repair** of the vehicles need to be performed in order to keep up the motivation for the fire fighters to keep their vehicles in good shape.
- Suggestion for structure with regards to the position of **incident commander**. The incident commander is dispatched to calls which fulfils certain criteria decided by the organization:
 - More than two fire units dispatched.
 - Increased need for coordination with other actors such as police.
 - Incidents with hazardous materials.

The incident commander is provided with a dedicated vehicle and is based at one of the fire stations. The incident commander is of a higher rank and is provided with appropriate training.

84567 EXPERT MISSION 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2023

ALBANIA (SUMMARY)

- This is the first time we encountered a fire fighting service which is **completely unequipped** for CBRN interventions.
- The response to such an event would not just be sub standard, it would **be non existent**.
- Our worries are that, given the mentality that seems to be prevalent in the fire service, the chiefs will send the fire fighters to intervene anyway. This could lead to **injury or death** to the first responders.
- The fire fighters dispatched to interventions **lack most of the safety equipment** that we consider the minimum baseline.
- **Training** of firefighters is sub standard.
- Most of the equipment used is donated, which leads to the equipment being highly diversified and **not effective**.
- In order to create a proper chain of command during interventions, the position of **incident commander** should be created.

84568 WORKSHOP 20-21 NOVEMBER 2023

ALBANIA

DAY 1

FIELD EXERCISE / SIMULATION OF INTERVENTION
REGARDING TDG

DAY 2

WORKSHOP REGARDING THE PROBLEMS
ASSESSED BY THE EXPERTS REGARDING
EQUIPMENT AND SOP

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Albania needs to have more **expert help** especially on the subject of CBRNE and worker safety topics which is now non existing or very low.
- Albania needs to **start procuring equipment** and develop ways to take care of the equipment “in house” and standardization of equipment and **SOP’s** are key to development.
- The Albanian officials need to **stop pushing the problems** between different levels in their system and this is one of the largest problems we encountered.
- It was noted that there is a very present feeling in the meetings and the forums that officials are trying to “**sugar coat** “ the situations and only present “good” information instead of facing the facts together and work on a solution.
- A joint **112 service** is really needed and the level of difference between police, ambulance and fire service dispatch centers is huge and the fire service dispatch center is substandard.
- Procurement of **gas tight suits & gas detectors** for CBRNE interventions.
- Creation of the position of **incident commander** in the operational organization.

THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION !



GENERAL DIRECTORATE
OF
FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE

