

Croatia: Planning Safety in Nonurban Terrain

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Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (CMRS)

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Croatian Mountain Rescue Service



Croatia

- area 56,600 km²
- population 4,300,000
- foreign tourists 10,000,000

HGSS-CMRS

- volunteer, not-for-profit and public organization
- 20 stations
- 700 members
- 10 employees
- 800 missions per year

*Croatian Mountain Rescue Service (CMRS)
Hrvatska gorska služba spašavanja (HGSS)*

Basic presumptions

We strongly believe that prevention is integral part of MRS activities and from the very first days CMRS are working on prevention.

Traditionally, work on prevention is addressed to climbers and hikers and traditionally we are talking about dangers in mountains.

Changes in the position and role of the CMRS and also in habits and behavior of people and tourists have resulted in changing our thinking of the role of prevention.

I will present problems regarding preventions that CMRS is dealing with and way we are trying to solve those problems through the Project “Planning Safety in Nonurban Terrain”.

Sv. Ilija accidents

A sort of trigger to initiate Project was a series of accidents on relatively small, low and easily accessible mountain Sv. Ilija (961 m) on peninsula Pelješac.

Four deaths during only three years (2003 - 2005)

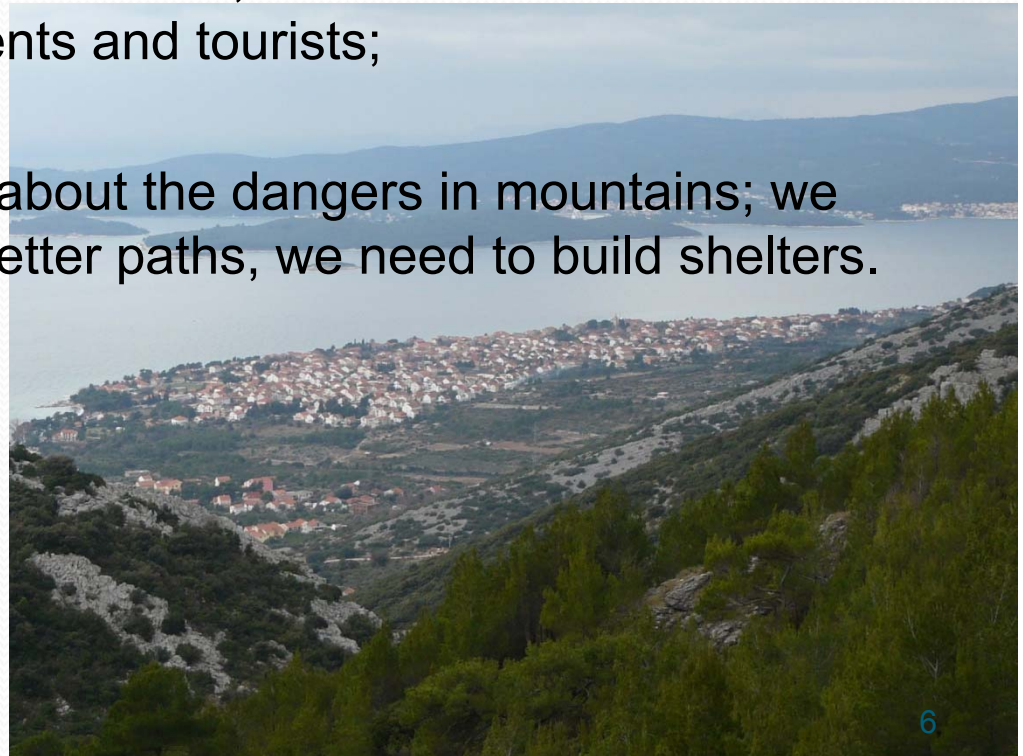
- occasional hikers,
- foreign tourists,
- poorly marked paths,
- lack of maps and information,
- ignorance of local tourism workers and residents.



Sv. Ilija accidents

Sv. Ilija accidents was the trigger to understand that we must abandon the concept of what we have traditionally thought that the prevention is. We need to expand the concept of prevention:

- to whom the message is sent
 - in addition to hikers and climbers, we need to educate tourism workers, residents and tourists;
- what we are talking
 - we should not talk just about the dangers in mountains; we need maps, we need better paths, we need to build shelters.



Parts of the Project

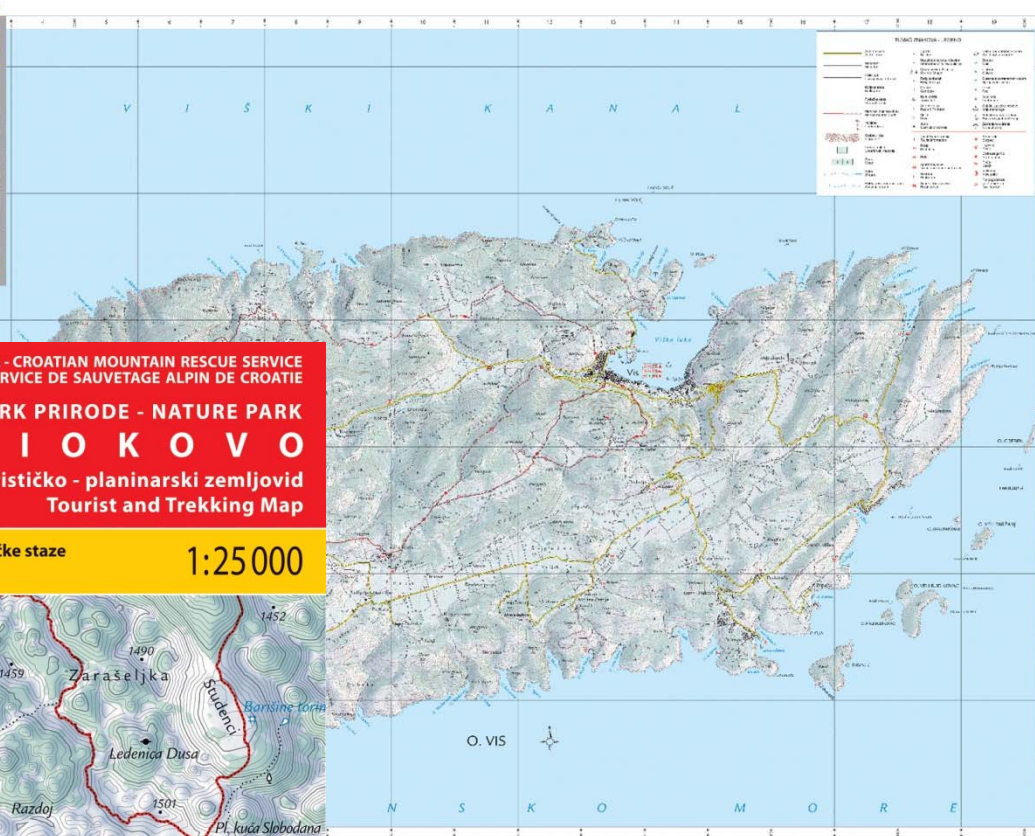
“Planning Safety in Nonurban Terrain”

- Cartography
 - Maps,
 - Paths;
- Mountain shelters building;
- Tourism workers and residents education;
- EU IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme “Business Cooperation and Skills Improvement for the Development of Outdoor Tourism”.

Cartography

- Cover the mountain area of Croatia with maps designed for mountaineers, hikers and cyclists,
 - Until now, 12 maps and 5 corresponding guides are printed (to cover whole area approximately 40 maps are needed);
- Improve the situation with mountain paths
 - large number of paths that are poorly maintained,
 - lack of paths where they should be,
 - in cooperation with hiking clubs, along with the map making process, bad situation with paths are significantly improved;
- GIS (Geographic information system) will soon be launched
 - digital traces (all mountain paths are traversed on foot with GPS),
 - shelters and mountain huts,
 - heliports, caves, cliffs, canyons and other places of attraction,
 - type of terrain,
 - ...
- Self-funding project





HRVATSKA GORSKA SLUŽBA SPAŠAVANJA - CROATIAN MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE
KROATISCHER BERGRETTUNGSDIENST - SERVICE DE SAUVETAGE ALPIN DE CROATIE



**PARK PRIRODE - NATURE PARK
B I O K O V O**
Turističko - planinarski zemljovid
Tourist and Trekking Map

Planinarski putovi, pješačke i biciklističke staze
Walking, trekking and cycling trails

1:25000

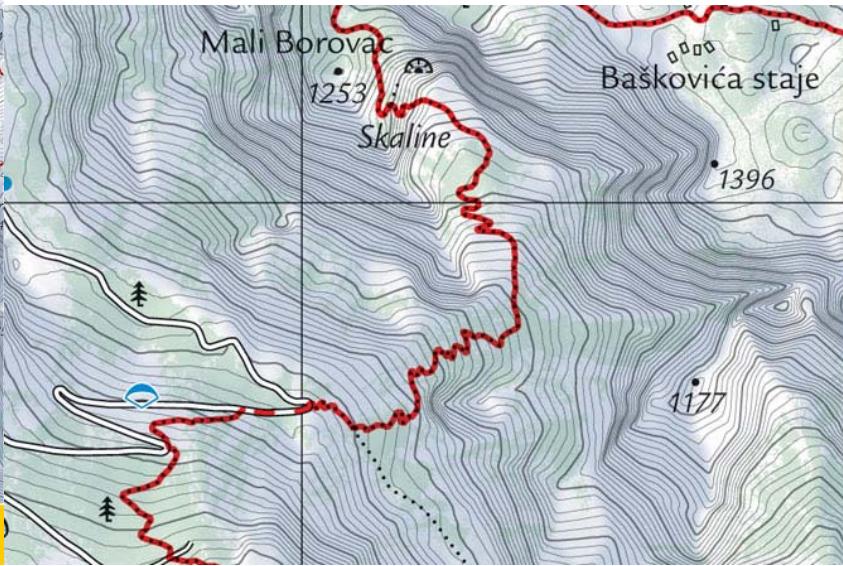
PARK PRIRODE BOKOVO

MAKARSKA
TURISTIČKA ZAJEDNICA
GRADA MAKARSKÉ

CROATIA

sunce

SERBIJA DINARSKÉ ALPE
6
2011

Mountain shelters building

- Cover mountain area of Croatia with equally spaced shelters/huts,
- Wherever it is hard or far away or too expensive or not profitable or logistically too difficult for others but it is important for CMRS (prevention and/or missions),
- Open shelters maintained by local hiking clubs, even by the locals,
- Until now 7 shelters, that are owned by the CMRS, has been built (4 more shelters will be finished soon),
- Project funded by the Ministry of Tourism.





po dinaridi



Hrvatska gorska služba spašavanja

andjela



12 po dinaridi

Tourism workers and residents education

- Tourism workers involved in adventure tourism,
 - There is no legislation that forces tourist workers to complete a formal training.
 - However, most of them willingly attend training.
 - Two days education.
 - So far 500 tourism workers completed the training.
 - Project funded by Croatian Chamber of Economy.
- Residents
 - Local residents are the best helpers in the rescue operations, prevention and nature conservation.
 - So far, they were indifferent observers.
 - CMRS have trained hundreds of local residents (who are not members of the CMRS).
 - A special project is education of school children, especially "popular" after the Tsunami disaster in Japan.
 - Project funded by the Ministry of Education



EU IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme

“Business Cooperation and Skills Improvement for the Development of Outdoor Tourism”

EU financed project (IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme) worth 390 thousands Euros that is conducted in cooperation with Monte Negro partners.

So called leading partner is Croatian Mountain Rescue Service and one of the partners is Mountain Rescue Service from Monte Negro.

Project duration: January 2011 - July 2012

The overall objective

Contribute to the economic development of border areas through sustainable joint activities.

EU IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme

Major activities include:

- Improvement of tourism infrastructure (labelling and marking of around 200 km of hiking / biking trails).
- Tourism workers (adventure tourism) training.
- Training of the members of Mountain rescue service.
 - In this domain of activity procurement of equipment will be carried out.

Courses in the area of rescuing:

- International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) - for users in Montenegro,
- Geographic Information System (GIS) - for users in Croatia,
- Speleological rescuing - for users in Montenegro,
- Swift water rescuing - for users in Montenegro.

A similar projects in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina is being preparing.



Instead of Conclusion

Why CMRS is working something that traditionally is not part of MRS work?

- Our society needs it,
- We can do it (equipment, organization, people),
- There is nobody else to do it.

Is it possible to do many different things and keep the quality of rescuing? YES it is possible.

- willingness of volunteers to take on more responsibility.





Thank you