



Progress report on the technical and financial implementation

Period: 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009

1. General summary of project implementation process

Ministry of the Interior – General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic („MV-GR HZS CR“) and its partners in the project Fire and Rescue Brigade of the Capital City Prague („HZS PRAHA“) and Fire and Rescue Brigade of Moravian-Silesian Region („HZS MSK“) were in the first period of implementing of the project „Increase capability of USAR CZ“ focused primarily on the solving actual needs of USAR modules, which were planned in this project. Particularly provision of needed communication equipment, medical equipment, base of operation equipment, personal protective equipment for USAR module members and other specialized material.

In the first half of 2009 project and administrative procedures regarding the project were established, receiving and allocation of the first pre financing, arrangement of financial contribution to the project of coordination beneficiary and associated beneficiaries to benefit from this, set up way of cooperation and communication between coordination beneficiary and associated beneficiaries (appointment of working group), signing of partnership agreements between project partners which were together with VAT certificates delivered in original copies to the Commission.

Project officially started at the kick-off meeting which was held on 21 January 2009 in Brussels in which two representatives of MV-GR HZS CR as coordinating beneficiary participate. Particular questions regarding the project were discussed with desk-officers in Brussels who were assigned to this project as focal point with the Commission.

2. Management process / Project implementation

a. Partnership cooperation / basic groups

For the purpose of managing and coordination of the project Working group for the implementation of grant „Increase capability of Czech urban search and rescue team“ („working group for grant“) was appointed. This working group is composed of 8 members (4 from MV-GR HZS CR and 2 members from each associated beneficiary), professionally from management of USAR modules and people from economic departments of each organisation. Working group has regular meetings (at least once a month) and discuss all matters about the project, ongoing and planned activities, administrative and financial procedures. Partnership agreements signed between project partners arrange roles and obligations of each subject involved into the project.



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Working group for grant closely cooperate with „Working group for implementation of INSARAG Guidelines and preparation of USAR team of HZS PRAHA and HZS MSK for the INSARAG external classification („IEC“)“ which operates at Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic almost 2 years. Cooperation with this working group is necessary because this working group defines main progress and needs of heavy USAR CZ module and prepares Heavy USAR CZ module of the Czech Republic for the IEC.

b. Cooperation with Commission

Representatives of coordinating beneficiary were present at the kick-off meeting in Brussels, where the project officially started and all obligations were communicated to the smooth implementation of Commission finances for the purpose of this project. Commission appoint to the project USAR CZ 2 desk-officers as focal point between coordinating beneficiary and Commission. Any questions of any project partner are discussed through coordinating beneficiary and desk-officers.

3. Technical results and deliverables

a. Description of individual deliverables

A. Project management

Project is managed through working group and appointed persons from every partner. Coordinator of the project is MV-GR HZS CR. All accounting documentation is carried out and kept according to the standard procedures used in the Czech Republic and project management dispose of copies of all relevant accounting documentation. MV-GR HZS CR keeps contacts with the Commission through desk-officers.

B. Special training

Special training will be realized in the second half of 2009 and first half of 2010. Special training is planned for selected USAR module members in the training centres in European countries. Final selection will be done after 1 July 2009. As well as training abroad we are in contact with USAR experts from the United Kingdom and Sweden and we would like to invite them to the Czech Republic in order to make a special training for USAR module members and USAR module management.

C. Language courses

In the field of language training a philosophy of language training for USAR module members was specified. Because USAR module members don't have the same level of knowledge of English language it is not possible to implement joint or united language courses. Basic requirements for selection of language courses were following:

- quality and efficiency,
- selection of limited number of module members – according to the function (especially liaison officers, logisticians and leaders),
- individual approach according to the level of knowledge,
- conclusion by examination.



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USAR module members from HZS Praha without any English knowledge were signed up to the five-month intensive English course at the High police school. This course is concluded with First level exam of Ministry of Interior. Other USAR module members were signed up to the five-month intensive English course of second level. Depending of number of admitted USAR module members to above mentioned school we will select private paid courses. USAR module members with certain knowledge of English language look for the most suitable language agency. Different language courses will start at HZS Praha and HZS MSK from September 2009.

With regard to the saved finances from language courses at High police school where language courses are free for members of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, we would like to finish regular language courses with short time intensive language course or stay abroad where they could implement new knowledge from theoretic course in natural environment.

D. Purchase of material and equipment

In the first evaluated period each partner focused on purchasing missing material and equipment from grant. Plan of purchasing of material and equipment were specified by article in the time of creation grant application. In the first half of 2009 particular suppliers were selected. HZS MSK purchased material from Other direct costs, especially personal protective equipment (emergency and tracking boots), base of operation equipment (self-warming food, big dispatch boxes and double dispatch boxes), advanced life support material (medical set for paramedics, backbone board with fixation) and supplementary material as chain jack. HZS Praha purchased material as lighting ball or telescopic ladder.

Currently we are finishing purchase of satellite terminals (MV-GR HZS CR and HZS Praha) which will be part of communication kit of the USAR module. Communication kit was inspired by the MIC assessment kit. With regard to the administrative demands of purchasing equipment purchase of satellite terminals will be finished after 1 July 2009. We also currently work on purchase of unified T-shirts for each USAR module member with clear identification of „Czech Emergency Response Team“ and this costs are also not covered in this half-year account.

b. Purpose and evaluation of deliverables

In the time of creation grant application we were planning to use finances from grant for purchasing high quality material and equipment with technical and other utility value which can meet requirements set in INSARAG guidelines as the minimum standard. Purpose of each purchase is material and equipment which we did not solve in the past, especially in USAR module logistics, or replenishment of equipment which were purchased for some module members in the past and was effective, so now it was purchased for the rest of the module in order to ensure identical equipment of every module member (HZS Praha and HZS MSK), especially personal protective equipment and other personal equipment.

c. Value-added deliverable

As the first evaluated period was focused especially on purchasing of missing equipment, value added deliverable of above mentioned activities can be the fact that



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thanks to progressive purchasing of equipment from grant for USAR module there is decreasing need for using technical equipment from daily operation of units of Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic during operation of USAR module abroad. Thanks to above mentioned we also do not decrease tactical and technical capability of units of the Fire and Rescue Service for their operation in the Czech Republic during operations of the USAR module abroad.

Personal protective equipment, language courses and special training are focused on people who create basis of other modules designated for international operations in the frame of Community Mechanism.

4. Follow-up

a. Follow-up for the next period

In the second half of 2009 both associated beneficiaries will realize language courses. We will also focus on special training (course abroad and training with foreign expert).

HZS MSK and HZS Praha will continue in purchasing or replenishment of material and equipment. There will be harmonized personal protective equipment for every USAR module member, especially working overalls and boots. HZS MSK will finish vaccination for new USAR module members according to the WHO standards.

5. Related activities

Except for close cooperation with activities related to the implementation of INSARAG Guidelines and preparation for INSARAG External Classification, we also use other tools for increasing the capability of USAR CZ. From 22 to 26 of January 2009 three USAR module members participated in the exercise of ISAR Germany through „Exchange of Experts“. From 6 to 10 April 2009 Medium USAR module (HZS MSK) participated in the exercise „IEC Poland“ of Polish USAR module in Zagan (Poland).

We can also mention that from 6 to 9 of October 2009 we prepare international USAR exercise in Ostrava. This exercise organize HZS MSK in cooperation with MV-GR HZS CR. Heavy USAR CZ module will be deployed at this exercise and after that we suppose that we will be able to register Heavy USAR CZ module to the CECIS database (in autumn 2009).

Because until 30 June 2009 we have not spent 150 % of the first pre-financing of the grant, we do not request the second pre-financing for the time being. We suppose to spend 150 % of the first pre-financing and also to submit a request for the second pre-financing in the autumn of 2009.

Annexes:

1. FR02 – Consolidated Cost Statement for the Action
2. Updated T forms