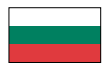


Lead Nations



United Kingdom

Other Contributors



Bulgaria



Czech Republic



Germany



Hungary



Turkey

Background

The Montenegro Trust Fund was initiated in August 2014 following a request for assistance from Montenegro to NATO. It follows two previous Trust Fund projects associated with Montenegro. In 2007 a Trust Fund worth €1.7m with Serbia and Montenegro was completed, which destroyed 1.4m landmines. In 2003 a Trust Fund worth €375,000 with Serbia and Montenegro was completed, which destroyed 28,000 Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The objective of this project is to support MoD through the demilitarisation of approximately 470 tonnes of surplus ammunition in a safe and environmentally responsible way.

The project is enabling national and regional stability and security through:

- Supporting NATO's Western Balkan strategy of long-term stability and security
- Improving safety and reducing the risk of an explosion from old ammunition
- Reducing the risk of proliferation of surplus ammunition

Since early 2017 the project has coordinated several activities in support the Petrovici Tunnel issue. Essentially the project aimed to draw together the best available information and technical expertise to provide a report that would be handed to the Montenegrin authorities. Various Montenegrin organisations have been involved in active and passive investigations of the tunnel area, and a number of international experts have provided advice. A living report has been prepared that draws together all the information and assessments. Without full access to the tunnel to physically confirm the absence of significant quantities of hazardous materials, and in the absence of any other substantive evidence of the history of the tunnel prior to the explosions,

Milestones

- March 2013 – Montenegro's request to NATO HQ for assistance
- August 2014 – Presentation to NATO PPC
- August 2014 - May 2016 – Legal frameworks negotiations
- May 2016 - Legal instruments concluded
- February 2017 - The project entered implementation phase & project start
- February 2017 - Official opening Ceremony Podgorica
- December 2017 - May 2018 Tranche one demilitarization.
- May 2019 - January 2020 Tranche two demilitarization (plus additional munitions).

Financial information

- Current budget: 1.042 MEUR
- Project fully funded

there will be a drive to 'do more' before signing-off the area as safe for future use. The work undertaken to date includes options with estimated costs for different strategies if further investigation is justified. With limited resources a point must be reached where investigations stop and the residual risk is accepted. This is an issue for the landowners. A regional NGO (ITF from Slovenia) has formally taken the lead going forward.

Several international organizations provide assistance to MoD for aspects of Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) including demilitarization. This project is coordinated with MoD and is coherent with existing support.

The main demilitarisation contract was split into two tenders. Demilitarisation under the first contract began in December 2017 at the Montenegrin contractor "Poliex" and completed on time on 24th May 2018. 129 tonnes of ammunition were safely demilitarised.

The second tender involving 341 tonnes of more technically demanding demilitarisation was opened to a full international tender process. The additional EUR 230,000 provided by Germany in December 2018 will now allow the full list of 470 tonnes of MoD surplus munitions to be demilitarised. Ammunition transportation to the Italian commercial demilitarisation contractor was due to start in February 2019 but there were some delays in gaining national approvals for transportation. Transportation started in early May with demilitarisation now due to be completed by late 2019.



Demilitarisation (partial) of Maverick missiles (Poliex, Montenegro)



Surplus munitions requiring specialist demilitarisation (Esplosivi Sabino, Italy)



For further information

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