

Third Croatian National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Held in Zagreb



This year on the 4th of November 3rd Croatian National platform for disaster risk reduction conference was held in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Conference was opened by the Director of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate and, more than 150 participants attended the Conference. Representatives of all of the Platforms cooperators, heads of state bodies and institutions, doctors, professors and experts from most ministries, universities, colleges, directorates, institutes, agencies, city governments, public companies and institutions and private companies.

The Director welcomed all the participants in his own name, the name of the Directorate and on behalf of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and President of the Platforms Committee. In his opening speech Mr Trut said that this yearly conference represents a collaborative effort of all involved in any way in disaster risk reduction in Croatia and that the National Protection and Rescue Directorate will continue to base its mission on investing in prevention, raising awareness on the dangers and the consequences disasters carry with them, normative coordination, monitoring of international trends as well as the modernization of the system in order to reduce the consequences of natural disasters to a minimum. He said that this process requires further engagement of everyone, in every domain and it is in encouraging this engagement that the establishment of the Croatian platform for disaster risk reduction finds its justification.

At this year's conference 20 professional papers were presented and more than that submitted, prior to the conference, in five thematic sections: Climate change and disaster risk reduction, Floods and flood control, Formal and informal education in protection and rescue, Strengthening of the normative basis and disaster risk reduction and The contributions of science to disaster risk reduction. Papers were presented by representatives of the Croatian Waters, Faculty of Geodesy, Zagreb University, State Geodetic Directorate, Meteorological and Hydrological Service, City of Zagreb Office of Emergency Management, Zagreb County Firefighting Association, the Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica, Faculty of Maritime Studies, University of Rijeka and from the Directorates International Cooperation Department Civil Protection Sector, Fire Fighting Sector, Sector for 112 System and Fire Fighting and Protection and Rescue School.

All the papers submitted shall be published in the Proceedings of the Third Conference early next year.

The presentations initiated a few very interesting debates, amongst others one concerning climate change in Croatia and the influence of heat waves to the death rate in Croatia, how has it been influenced so far and is it at all possible to accurately calculate the influence concerning current data accessibility.

Baring all this in mind at the end of the Conference conclusions were made and adopted by the Director, one of which is:

- Extreme weather events, and related major accidents and disasters, are increasingly becoming a reality in the Republic of Croatia. In order to adapt to climate change, which the Republic of Croatia and the region is exposed to, it is necessary to increase investment in climate modeling, forecasting and analysis, in order to support sector planning in the sectors facing the risk. When developing strategies for adapting to climate change it is necessary to include elements of disaster risk reduction

also:

- Strengthening the powers and responsibilities of the Croatian platform, and the possibility of its transformation into a stronger national mechanism which acts as the actual holder of the disaster risk reduction activities, provides coordination and support to all stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and affects the implementation of strategic planning and management in reducing disaster risk should be considered.

All the participants in the Platform are invited to support the conclusions of the 3rd Conference through their daily work. Their progress in reducing disaster risk in the coming year should be reported at the 4th Croatian Platform Conference