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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and has the honor to enclose herewith updated information in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 2, of the Convention, covering the previous calendar year, i.e. the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 8 May 2023

Implementation Support Unit  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-  
Personnel Mines and on their Destruction  
GENEVA

**COVER PAGE<sup>1</sup>**  
**OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT**

**NAME OF STATE [PARTY]:** SERBIA

**REPORTING PERIOD:** 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022  
(dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

<p><b>Form A: National implementation measures:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> changed  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2021)</p>	<p><b>Form F: Programme of APM destruction:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> changed  <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>Form B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> changed  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2021)  <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>	<p><b>Form G: APM destroyed:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> changed  <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable</p>
<p><b>Form C: Location of mined areas:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed  <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</p>	<p><b>Form H: Technical characteristics:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> changed  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2021)</p>

<sup>1</sup> Notes on using the cover page:

1. The cover page could be used as a **complement** to submitting detailed forms adopted at the [First and Second] Meetings of the States parties in instances when the information to be provided in some of the forms in an annual report is the same as it would be in past reports. That is, when using the cover page, only forms within which there is new information would need to be submitted.
2. The cover page could be used as a **substitute** for submitting detailed forms adopted at the [First and Second] Meetings of the States parties only if all of the information to be provided in an annual report is the same as in past reports.
3. If an indication is made on the cover sheet that the information to be provided with respect to a particular form would be unchanged in relationship to a previous year's form, the date of submission of the previous form should be clearly indicated.

<input type="checkbox"/> non applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form D: APMs retained or transferred:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2021) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable	<b>Form I: Warning measures:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non applicable
<b>Form E: Status of conversion programmes:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> changed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: 2021) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable	<b>Form J: Other Relevant Matters:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> changed <input type="checkbox"/> unchanged (last reporting: yyyy) <input type="checkbox"/> non applicable

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON  
THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON  
THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**A. National implementation measures**

No additional legal, administrative, or other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention.

**B. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

As of 31 December 2022, the Republic of Serbia possessed 3,134 stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Type	Quantity Possessed	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
TOTAL	3,134	



During 2022, Serbian Armed Forces destroyed none of anti-personnel mines.

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers
TOTAL	0	

**C. Location of mined areas**

As of 1 April 2023, there is 1 known area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling **390,300 square metres\***. See Annex II for complete list of the area. Area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines remains in one village in the Municipality of Bujanovac as follows:

*Summary of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 1 April 2023*

Municipality	Village	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Total number of known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square metres)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	/	1	1	/	390,300	390,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>390,300</b>	<b>390,300*</b>

**\*Please note that the Republic of Serbia is faced with a problem of newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality. In October 2019, in the territory of the Bujanovac Municipality, at the request of representatives of local self-government, the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC) conducted survey and marking of locations suspected to be contaminated by groups of mines. These are locations where forest fires occurred (in August 2021, too), and according to eyewitnesses, explosions could be heard in several places after the fire broke out, indicating the existence of mines in these areas.**

Representatives of SMAC and the Emergency Management Staff of the Municipality of Bujanovac visited the sites and interviewed local residents, local community representatives, fire-fighters, as well as police and military representatives. Furthermore, mine suspected areas have been marked in order to clearly and visually warn of mine danger, as well as to ban the entry of population into the mine suspected area. Mine warning signs have been posted in the areas of possible access to mined areas (roads, paths and other areas where movement of people is expected).

Given that the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the multi-ethnic Municipality of Bujanovac, the whole area has been visibly marked with "Stop Mines" signs in Serbian and Albanian languages.

SMAC has developed and submitted a non-technical survey project to the ITF Enhancing Human Security, and transferred the funds that the Serbian Government allocated for 2023 demining operations in Bujanovac, in order for the ITF to match these funds with available donor funds, so that this project could be implemented. ITF is about to launch the tender procedure for the selection of a contractor.

The non-technical survey project will include 2 mixed survey teams (1 Serbian and 1 Albanian team of 2 surveyors each), which will be fully trained and equipped to conduct required tasks. These activities will be supervised and monitored by SMAC and in cooperation with the local authorities.

The project will take up to 1 year and will focus on the areas where forests fires occurred and explosions were heard, but will also include all the other areas in Bujanovac where the existence of other mine indicators might be reported. During this period, technical survey projects will be developed, as well as land release projects for the assessed areas. Simultaneously with survey activities, MRE activities will be conducted in all 59 villages of the Municipality of Bujanovac. Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, and an updated work plan for the remaining mined area.

At the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 November 2022, the Republic of Serbia was granted an extension for completion of mine clearance, until December 31, 2024.

There are a number of circumstances that have impeded Serbia from complying with its 4-year period of its second extension request. Particularly salient issues faced by Serbia are as follows:

- **Unregistered mine contaminated areas:** The remaining areas contaminated by mines do not have registries and have not been planted in specific patterns, which aggravates demining efforts, namely survey results are subject to alterations. These are groups of mines, not minefields. On most of these areas deaths of animals occurred or a mine was accidentally detected.
- **Newly discovered mine suspected areas in Bujanovac, in October 2019 and in August 2021.** However, the data on the scope of the contamination of the newly discovered areas are not available at the time of writing this update.
- **Climactic conditions:** Contaminated areas are inaccessible during some periods of the year causing operation delays.
- **Contamination other than mines:** Specificity and complexity of the problem presents the fact that apart from mines still remaining in the territory of Serbia, Serbia also encounters with numerous challenges related to clearance of the areas contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, as well as residual contamination and clearance operations triggered by infrastructure development projects.



- **COVID-19 crisis:** lack of personnel

In 2022, the Government of Serbia allocated around 260,000 EUR from the state budget for demining operations. These funds were matched through ITF Enhancing Human Security with available donor funds (the US and Republic of Korea donation).

Two projects by SMAC were implemented in the Municipality of Bujanovac, total area of 171,500 sqm, with 4 UXOs found and destroyed.

The Republic of Serbia remains committed to the completion of the Article 5 obligations, in order to primarily provide safety of local population, safe exploitation of woods, safe use of road communications, environmental protection, as well as reduction of fire risks.

SMAC, as a national mine action coordinating authority has requested from the Serbian Government to continue to allocate funds in the years to follow. Despite the economic and overall situation, the Serbian Government has taken ownership of the problem, by continuous allocating of funds for demining operations. However, international support is needed in order to solve the overall mine clearance problem.

The Serbian Government has allocated around 260.000 EUR for demining operations in 2023. These funds have been transferred to ITF to match the funds with donor funds (the US and the Republic of Korea donations). SMAC developed projects for the remaining known contamination totalling 390,300 sqm, which will be implemented in 2023, in addition to non-technical survey project covering previously unknown contamination, which is also planned to be implemented in 2023.

***Summary of projections for the amount of area (square metres) suspected to contain anti-personnel mines to be released 2021-2023***

2022	Areas	1
	Area	390,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>Areas</b>	<b>1*</b>
	<b>Area</b>	<b>390,300*</b>

**\*Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined.**

**Project for non – technical survey of newly discovered mine suspected areas in Bujanovac is in SMAC’s 2023 work plan adopted by the Serbian government.**

**Upon completion of this project, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, upon which an updated work plan for the remaining contamination could be provided.**

In addition to demining operations (around 260,000 EUR), the Serbian State Budget supports the on-going work of the SMAC – salaries of the staff, running costs (electricity, water, heating), office and consumption material costs, fuel costs, maintenance of vehicles, costs of the SMAC staff insurance – as well as survey activities, development of adequate project tasks for demining/clearance of locations confirmed to be contaminated by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO, follow-up of the implementation of project tasks and conduct of demining quality assurance and quality control.

On an annual basis, around 350.000 EUR from the Serbian State Budget is allocated for the work of the SMAC.



The Republic of Serbia carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

- Marking;

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

- Risk education;

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

The following methods have been employed in Serbia to release areas suspected to contain mines:

- Non-technical survey
- Technical survey
- Clearance
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

In Serbia, an initial survey which includes collection of data and analysis of available documentation on mine emplacement is employed, as well as non - technical survey (NTS), which follows after an analysis of previously collected data, conditions in the field, statements by local

population, hunters, foresters, people dealing with exploitation of wood, representatives of Civil Protection and Police, amongst others. One significant indicator has been data on accidents that have occurred.

Non – technical survey determines borders of the suspected area, coordinates of the location, type of mines and other UXO, allocation of land, impact on environment.

Technical survey is employed to additionally collect information by technical methods on a suspected area and in case when the data collected by a non – technical survey are not sufficient for suspected areas to be declared hazardous or safe. Technical survey is done by the combination of several methods - manual detection by metal detectors and visually. Manual detection is conducted in prospections. The scheme and dimensions of a prospection depend on land configuration, and all in accordance with the IMAS.

Clearance is conducted in accordance with the IMAS. It is done by a manual method at the depth of 20 cm. Apart from a manual method, demining machines can be used, as well as dogs.

The size of the area to be cleared is determined on the basis of processed data which have been collected by a non-technical survey.

There is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.

During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted.

In 2022, there were no demining accidents in the Republic of Serbia.

Priority is to demine those areas which directly affect the local population. There are mine contaminated areas close to the settlement where the locals stopped cultivating their land due to fear of mines. Demining will contribute to an increase of safety of local population, provide possibilities for safe exploitation of forest, cattle grazing and picking of mushrooms, which are one of the main sources of an income of local population.

As regards in-country national platform for dialogue, SMAC closely cooperates with the Bujanovac local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, in particular Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence, as well as Embassies of donor countries.

In order for SMAC to create an effective system for information management in mine action, in August 2022, the Donation Agreement has been signed between the GICHD and SMAC, whereas SMAC will be implementing IMSMA Core over a project period of 1 year.

In March 2023, GICHD IM advisors visited SMAC to get a better understanding of the context and requirements of SMAC as required to finalize the needs documentation.

In 2022, SMAC staff attended the following courses:

- Representatives of SMAC, Serbian Ministry of Interior, Serbian demining operator PMC Engineering, attended the Regional Course on Quality Management in Mine Action held for representatives of the Balkan countries, in September 2022, in Rome, organized by the GICHD in cooperation with the Italian C-IED Centre of Excellence.
- In the period 7-11 November, 2022, in Spiez, Switzerland, SMAC representative attended the 86th Partnership for Peace Training Course on International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Conformance organized by the GICHD and the Government of Switzerland.
- In November 2022, SMAC staff undertook the training in the use of Ebinger magnetometer which was organized by Ebinger company. Trainees were both female and male staff.

In 2022, training courses based on SMAC's training programme for educators for mine and ERW Education, were implemented, namely 5 EORE training of trainers courses were held with 64 attendees from different construction related public companies being trained on the dangers of ERW. Trainers were SMAC and MoD staff who underwent Training of trainers for conducting explosive ordnance disposal training course level 1 (EOD level 1) and level 2 (EOD Level 2) - the project implemented within the cooperation of SMAC with the Ministry of Defence, and the financial support of the Delegation of the European Union in Belgrade, in 2021.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating populations of mine/ERW risk.



In line with Oslo Action Plan, Action #28, and noting that SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in RE, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification, which verified it in March 2021.

In line with Action #31 of the Oslo Action Plan, the purpose of the SMAC training is to build national capacities to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia. In addition to SMAC staff, who will be engaged as trainers, experts from the Ministry of Interior will also be engaged, so that different aspects and training modules, among others, the basics of ERW recognition, international mine action standards, medical aspect, etc. will be covered. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

In line with Action #29, local at-risk populations are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education was conducted in schools and local communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations, evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted. Accordingly, given that in Serbia, the areas suspected to be contaminated with mines are located in the Municipality of Bujanovac, which is an area with multi-ethnic population, the whole area has been visibly marked with “Stop Mines” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages. During survey and community liaison activities, women, men and children are consulted. In addition, there is equal access to employment for qualified women and men in survey and clearance.

New Decree on Protection against ERW is about to be adopted by the Government – it was developed by SMAC and Ministry of Interior. This decree will introduce land release concept, not defined in the former decree, and also the need for development of national standards, which have not been developed in Serbia so far.

#### **D. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred**

As of 31 December 2022, the Republic of Serbia retained 3,134 anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention:

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,134</b>	

The Republic of Serbia has authorised Ministry of Defence (MOD) to retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.

The Republic of Serbia retains anti-personnel mines for training of the demining personnel, training of mine detection dogs, testing demining machines and studying the effect of the blast of various types of anti-personnel mines on demining equipment and testing of the protection equipment.

**E. Status of conversion programmes**

The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities. See the report submitted in 2022 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

**F. Programme of APM destruction**



N/A

**G. APM destroyed**

N/A

**H. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines**

The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed.

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
PMA-1, 1A	140 mm x 70 mm x 30 mm	UPMAH-1 (chemical)	TNT	200	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements.
PMA-2	68 mm x 32 mm	UPMAH-2 (chemical)	TNT	70	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.
PMA-3	103 mm x 36 mm	UPMAH-3 (chemical)	TETRYL	35	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.
Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
PMR-2, 2A	66 mm x 132 mm	UPMR-2, UPMR-2S (mechanical)	TNT	100	1,700 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PMR-3	80 mm x 150 mm	UPMR-3 (mechanical)	TNT	410	3,000 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 100 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PROM-1	80 mm x 150 mm	UPROM-1 (mechanical)	TNT	420	2,580 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
VS-50	90 mm x 45 mm	UVS-50 (chemical)	RDX	43	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.

Please note that the areas in the Municipality of Bujanovac are contaminated with groups of mines of an unknown origin and types having been placed in accordance with no particular pattern and without any minefield records of it.

The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines. See the report submitted in 2021 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia.

**I. Warning measures**

N/A

**J. Other Relevant Matters**

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia is designated as the Governmental body in charge of the integration of victims assistance, and undertakes activities aimed at supporting victims. The Department for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and the Department for the veterans-disabled Protection were formed as bodies directly responsible for the activity of assisting persons with disabilities.

In line with Action #41 of the Oslo Action Plan, the state supports the development of services in the field of the Rights of Soldiers, Disabled Veterans, Civilian Disabled Veterans and Family Members, social protection and employment, so that rural areas are included, and with the aim of increasing the availability of services, so that in all units of local self-government in Serbia, there are services for the protection of veterans and the disabled, i.e. services for social protection and employment services, which civil war disabled persons can contact in order to obtain their rights and improve the position of persons with disabilities.

To raise awareness among EO victims on their rights and available services, an active approach is being taken to improve the flow of information at the intersectoral level as well as the relationship between the victim and the competent service. Therefore, stronger coordination is being planned between representatives of associations dealing with EO victims and the Government.

The Republic of Serbia has mine victims in areas under its jurisdiction .



In line with Action #35 of the Oslo action plan, in accordance with the Law on Rights veterans, disabled veterans, civilians disabled in war and members of their family, this Ministry has a database which gathers various information of beneficiaries. According to the database, and according to data from December 2022, the data records include: 630 civilian war invalids, 214 family members of deceased civilian war invalids and family members of civilian war victims, i.e. 122 deceased civilian war invalids, as well as 92 members this family of civilian victims of war. All persons registered were injured by anti-personnel mines or explosive remnants of war .

The Republic of Serbia is making efforts to find donor funds for the creation of a new database or updating the old database, with the aim of improving the records keeping of beneficiaries of rights.

The Republic of Serbia strives to achieve goals through the implementation of national policies, plans and legal frameworks that will tangibly contribute to the full, equal and effective participation of EO victims in society. Accordingly, in the Republic of Serbia, the Law on the Rights veterans, disabled veterans, civilians disabled in war and members of their family ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020), and the Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with disability, 2020-2024, are in force. The strategy recognized their equal rights with other disabled people (rights of war disabled soldiers, peacetime military disabled persons, as well as civilian disabled persons).

In addition to the above-mentioned Law, the Republic of Serbia has adopted 14 Rulebook for the purpose of more detailed regulation of the obtained of rights. Also, the Republic of Serbia acceded the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009.

According to the Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, soldiers disabled in war, peacetime military disabled persons and civilian military disabled persons have the status of disabled persons. This law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal basis, in all spheres of social life - in accordance with their professional abilities.

The Law on Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities was adopted and entered into force on May 23, 2009, while amendments to the law were adopted in 2013 and 2022 . The provisions of the law concern the obligation of an employer who employs fifty (50) or more workers, and who is obliged to hire two persons with disabilities and one person with disabilities for each subsequent 50 employees .

This law is based on the principles of: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disability; equal inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage the employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate

jobs and appropriate working conditions; ban discrimination of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

In line with Action #33 of the Oslo action plan, Serbia adopted Action Plan in the period from 2021 to 2022 for implementation of Strategies for improvement of positions of person with disability in the Republic of Serbia for period of time from 2020 to 2024, with the goal promotion and improvement of the overall social and economic position of persons with disabilities and their equal participation in society.

In order to monitor the achieved results and assess the success of the implementation of measures and activities, all bodies in charge of their implementation are obliged to prepare reports that they deliver to the occasional working body of the Government - the Council for Persons with Disabilities, through the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs.

The results of the implementation of the Action Plan are reported at the end of each calendar year. These reports are prepared in order to be able to analyze the achieved results and in relation to those results, an assessment of the needs of persons with disabilities is carried out, in order to be able to point out the holders who until then did not sufficiently implement the planned activities and correct further work to achieve the planned goals. In 2022, the Report for 2021 was drawn up with the results presented, based on previously established indicators.

In 2022, a public discussion was launched for the Action Plan in the period from 2023 to 2024, for implementation Strategies for improvement of positions of person with disability in the Republic of Serbia for period of time from 2020 to 2024. On December 28, 2022, the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs adopted the Conclusion, which determined the Program of Public Discussion on the Action Plan proposal, and it was held in the period from December 30, 2022 to January 18, 2023., after which the Report and Proposal of the Action Plan for 2023-2024 were prepared.

#### **Medical care (health care)**

In line with Action #38 of the Oslo Action Plan, and according to the Law on the Rights veterans, disabled veterans, civilians disabled in war and members of their family ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020), civilian disabled in war are entitled to several different benefits:

- orthopedic allowance;
- Medical care and financial compensation related to medical care;
- spa center recovery;



- professional rehabilitation and
- financial assistance during professional rehabilitation.

The Republic of Serbia aims to improve the availability of services, constantly assesses the needs of victims, health education, employment activities, development and poverty reduction with goals to be achieved through the implementation of national policies, plans and legislative frameworks, as well as potential assistance from various international organizations .

### **Physical rehabilitation**

In line with Action #38 of the Oslo Action Plan, and according to the Law on the Rights of Veterans, Disabled Veterans, and Civilians Disabled in War and Members of Their Family ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 18/2020 ), civilian invalids of war have the right to spa climatic recovery.

#### **SPA- CLIMATE RECOVERY INCLUDES:**

- 1) use of services on full board basis, which means accommodation on the basis of full board (breakfast and dinner according to the principle of the buffet table and lunch classic service), in comfortable single and double rooms with bathroom, with included tourist tax and insurance of the beneficiaries;
- 2) health care services that include examination by a specialist doctor, diagnosis and necessary therapy (laboratory analysis, balneotherapy, physical therapy);
- 3) inpatient-hospital treatment using natural healing factors, i.e. thermo-mineral and mineral waters, which are specific in their composition and chemical properties for the treatment of diseases of the subject party and the daily use of pools with mineral water.

The Republic of Serbia aims to achieve the referral of the largest possible number of civilian war invalids to spa-climate recovery with the intention that war civilian invalids ( who were treated for the following diseases: stomach diseases, intestinal diseases, liver diseases, diseases of the gall bladder and bile ducts, kidney diseases and urinary tract diseases, diseases of the locomotor apparatus, diseases of metabolism and endocrine diseases, diseases of the peripheral and central nervous system and coronary diseases ) achieve the best possible medical and physical rehabilitation.



### **Psychological support , economic inclusion and social inclusion**

The Republic of Serbia made maximum efforts to support relevant activities related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by experts in health, rehabilitation, social services, education, employment, gender equality, including mine victims.

Efforts have been made to remove barriers, such as improved measures for gender equality and anti-discrimination, social protection services in remote and rural areas with the aim of increasing the quality of the provision of social protection services .

The state supports the development of services in the field of veterans-disabled protection, social protection and employment, so that rural areas are included, and with the aim of increasing the availability of services.

The Government of Serbia finances the project activities of NGO of persons with disabilities, NGO of disabled veterans, as well as NGO of civilian victims of war. Through such activities, NGO organize trainings aimed at promoting the strengthening of the capacities of women and men, as well as improving the psychological and social situation of survivors.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs announced two tenders in 2022, namely the Tender for the submission of project proposals in the field of veterans and disabled protection in 2022, for the purpose of financing programs of public interest implemented by NGO in the field of veterans and disabled protection. According to the first tender, 64 NGO projects with various activities were financed in order to improve the field of veterans and disabled protection, while 43 projects were financed according to the second tender.

In line with Action #33 of the Oslo Action Plan, the total value of projects financed from budget funds in the first tender was around 250,000.00 Euros, while in the second tender it was around 175,000.00 Euros.

In line with Action #37 of the Oslo Action Plan, and according to the Law on the Rights of Rights veterans, disabled veterans, civilians disabled in war and members of their families ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 18/2020 ), civilian disabled in war have, in addition to medical protection, the right to services expressed through the right to various types of benefits such as personal disability benefits; care allowance; free and preferential driving right on identification.

In line with Action #42 of the Oslo Action Plan, continuous and regular financial resources are provided by the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition to the financial resources provided by the budget of the Republic of Serbia, it is planned to include the potential assistance of various international organizations for the financing of project activities of NGO of persons with disabilities, as well as NGO of civilian victims of war, in order to achieve the financing of as many project activities of NGO persons with a disability.

In 2022, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs cooperated with around 216 local NGOs, and in addition to them, numerous individuals and institutions were involved in helping the victims in terms of medical care, psychological rehabilitation and assistance, as well as social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation.

Related to this, in 2022 the first international project victim assistance was launched in cooperation with the Mine Action Centre Republic of Serbia, and which was realized thanks to donor funds from the Republic of Korea, which were placed through the ITF International Foundation for Strengthening Human Security. This project envisages the rehabilitation and medical care of the victims. The Ministry of Labour, Employment of Veterans and Social Affairs, the Sector for Veterans and Disability Protection prioritized persons from the younger population from the Republic of Serbia who were sent to rehabilitation and medical care at the University Rehabilitation Institute Soča in Slovenia. As the entire process was evaluated by the users as multiple useful, we expect that the next selected users will be sent to rehabilitation. In addition to rehabilitation, which lasts two and a half weeks, this project also includes the replacement of orthopedic aids.

This project initiated the joint cooperation of the state institutions of the Republic of Serbia, the Mine Action Centre Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Labour, employment of veterans and social affairs. Realization of the project contributes to raising awareness for continuous support for the victims, as well as their family members.

#### **Cooperation and assistance**

The Serbian Armed Forces maintain a capability to survey, search for, detect, clear and destroy landmines. This capability includes many types of detection equipment, mechanical clearance assets, disposal experts and specialist search and clearance teams.

The Republic of Serbia has the capacities for decommission of the landmines and unexploded ordnance. Data that are more detailed were given in the report submitted in 2022.



The Republic of Serbia is a State Party, which is not in a position to provide financial assistance, but it is able to share experience and lessons learned from the on-going and completed operations as concerns mine survey/clearance and training. SMAC retains vast expertise in mine clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, and quality control and governing of demining project tasks.

SMAC is undertaking steps to enhance cooperation in this area and establish continuous support to victims, e.g. on the occasion of April 4th – the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, a meeting with ERW victims was organized in the extended business facilities of SMAC in Grocka, in the presence of the media. In order to enhance overall mine action in the Republic of Serbia, focusing on this occasion on the segment of victim assistance, SMAC wanted to draw the public attention to the needs and possibilities of persons affected by ERW, as well as to the importance of their inclusion in all spheres of social life.

Within Norwegian People's Aid Project Enhancing Quality Management Systems of National Mine Action Authorities and Centers in Western Balkans, in the period from December 13 to 14, 2022, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Serbian Mine Action Centre participated at the regional workshop, organized by NPA, entitled "Assessment of needs and planning to improve the quality management capacities of national/state mine action authorities". The workshop, which was attended by 38 participants, was aimed at gathering information from relevant stakeholders, including the organization, experiences and needs of mine action centers, as well as state institutions and organizations involved in mine action from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the implementation of quality management system. In addition to the Serbian Mine Action Centre, the delegation of the Republic of Serbia consisted of the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia – Police Directorate, Sector for Emergency Management, and Gendarmerie. Furthermore, within NPA Project Enhancing Quality Management Systems of National Mine Action Authorities and Centers in Western Balkans, NPA has hired a consultant from Risky GmbH in Switzerland, as of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, to conduct a detailed capacity assessment of SMAC to identify gaps and discuss required improvements/action points and priorities, namely to develop NPMAS chapters as prioritized by SMAC.

Based on the SMAC and the Ministry of Defense - Serbian Armed Forces General Staff Agreement on Cooperation in the field of demining and UXO/ERW removal, In November 2022, SMAC organized for the MoD personnel training on magnetometry.

SMAC also organised this training for the personnel of Technical Test Centre within MoD. Namely, in February 2023, SMAC concluded a contract on cooperation in the field of mine action with this Technical Test Centre connected to the use of their demolition site.

Further to the above mentioned Agreement on Cooperation, SMAC and Military Academy jointly developed papers "Required Knowledge Necessary for Secure and Safe Removal of Explosive Remnants of War" and "Improvisation During Manufacturing Mine Explosive Ordnance and Control of Precursors as an Element of State Security", which were presented on the conferences attended by SMAC in 2022.

SMAC and Academy of Technical and Educational Vocational Studies Niš, in SMAC Training Centre in Grocka, conducted initial testing of drones for the use in survey activities.

As a follow up, a joint paper was written entitled “The contribution of UAVs in improving the landmine field detection procedure” which was published in a journal and presented at the 8th International Scientific and Expert Conference "Security and Crisis Management - Theory and Practice - BeKMen", organized by the Regional Association for Security and Crisis Management (RABEK) from Belgrade and EDUKONS University from Sremska Kamenica.

In 2022, SMAC representatives participated in a thematic conference entitled "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and New Industrial Solutions" organized by the Department of Information and Communication Technologies of the Academy of Technical and Educational Vocational Studies Niš, Science and Technology Park Niš and Iris Mega ltd. Belgrade, in the premises of the Science and Technology Park in Niš. The aim of this event was to present the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in the sectors of telecommunications, energy, construction, reconstruction and protection of cultural assets and energy efficiency, and SMAC representatives used the opportunity to explore the possibilities of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for mine action.

In February 2023, SMAC and Academy of Technical and Educational Vocational Studies Niš signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation, which envisages the enhancement of mutual development cooperation in the field of mine action. We expect that, among other things, this will lead to more concrete steps regarding the use of drones in survey operations.

**Annex I: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Act**

**Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 31 December 2022, and the estimated date of completion**

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	Type and quantity of anti-personnel mines	Estimated period when mines were emplaced	Estimated date of completion (year-end)
Bujanovac	Ravno Bučje	21°47'16"E	42°35'22" N	390,300	Groups of mines of unknown type and quantity	2000-2001	2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>3*</b>			<b>390,300*</b>			

\*Newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality have not been indicated in the table, since the scope of it is yet to be determined. Upon the provision of funds for field operations, we expect the commencement of the assessment of the previously unrecorded anti-personnel mine contamination in the course of 2022 (non – technical survey project accompanied with MRE in all villages of the Bujanovac Municipality). Upon completion of this assessment, SMAC will have a clear picture of the contamination, and an updated work plan for the remaining contamination could be provided.



**Annex III: Areas released, 1 January – 31 December 2022**

Municipality	Village	Longitude	Latitude	Cancelled area (square meters)	Reduced area (square meters)	Cleared area (square meters)	Total area released (square meters)	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Number of other explosive items destroyed
Bujanovac	Končulj	21°41'16.08"E	42°28'27.84" N	/	/	143.500	143.500	/	4
Bujanovac	Dobrosin	21°38'10"E	42°26'58" N	/	/	28.000	28.000	/	/
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>171.500</b>	<b>171.500</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>4</b>