



European Commission

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION - ECHO



Echipă de salvări speciale Satu Mare



Felső-Tiszavidéki Búvár és Mentő Közhasznú Egyesület



Inspectoratul Pentru Situatii de Urgenta "SOMES" al Judetului Satu Mare



Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Katasztrófavédelmi Igazgatóság



Crucea Roșie Română Filiala Satu Mare



Magyar Vöröskereszt Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Szervezete



Organizația Caritas a Diecezei Satu Mare



# LAYMAN'S REPORT



Project **START** – Strengthening cross border and inter-sectorial operability  
ECHO/SUB/2014/693897

# Problem: Why was this project necessary?



The area of coverage of the problem is the Water Basin of Tisa River with its tributaries, Somes, Crasna and Tur that flow along dams from N-W Romania into N-E Hungary, an area prone to flooding: floods occurred in 19 of the last 45 years, the last being in 2013, and usually affects both counties).

Even if working in the same sector, there was a lack of interoperability and of specific methodology of collaboration between the national bodies empowered to coordinate emergency situations and the private (civil) special rescue teams, support NGOs, local volunteer action groups. This lack of procedures and similar knowledge about rescue issues could have led to results like during the 1970 flood that affected this region too, when the intervention teams and even the army were overwhelmed by the situation, which led to a high number of death.

During common activities in emergency situations, frequently appeared misunderstandings between coordinators, specialists and volunteers, leading to delays or errors in the rescue process. **The main causes were the lack of similar rescue procedures and techniques and the differences in structure types and way of functioning ("military" versus "civil").**

In Hungary, a closer collaboration between the national bodies and private organizations has begun 4 years ago, starting with common exercises in dam protection.

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV2rg\\_qjp38](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV2rg_qjp38)).

In Romania there were no such initiatives, the collaboration between national bodies and rescue teams was practically "ad-hoc". Individual development projects were implemented by almost all actors, but none focused on interoperability, none involved all major actors.



Somes River Flooding  
Satu Mare city, 1970





## Overall objective:

The project aimed to improve the preparedness of civil protection professionals and volunteers acting at the Romanian – Hungarian border area through strengthened coordinated action and capacity building and through developing a cross-border informational system that enhances its coordinated reaction capacity.

## Objectives:

O1. Developing cross-border civil protection cooperation and interoperability by creating a locally coordinated cross-border group of 7 institutions and organizations that exchanged information and developed common intervention procedures in the context of 2 workshops and 3 roundtables, during 11 months.

O2. Supporting capacity building in emergency preparedness for at least 15 institutions and organizations from Hungary and Romania, in the target area (including local volunteer groups) that participated at 5 training sessions and 4 small scale exercises during 11 months of the project implementation.

O3. Developing a cross-border informational system by planning and creating a Local Resource Database and Communication System (LoRDaCS) for dynamic adjustment of response capacity in case of disasters.

## START PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project type: ECHO

Project website:  
[www.multisalva.ro](http://www.multisalva.ro)

Coordinating beneficiary:  
Multisalva Association Satu Mare

Implementation countries:  
Romania and Hungary

Project duration:  
15 months (01.01.2015 – 31.03.2016)

Total eligible cost: 257.976,00 EUR  
EC co-financing: 192.966,00 EUR

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# Project partners



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Magyar Vöröskereszt  
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg  
Megyei Szervezete



Organizația Caritas a  
Diecezei Satu Mare

## Project coordinator: Asociația Multisalva (Multisalva Association)

It is a non-profit organization, which provides services in the field of special rescue. Currently the team is composed of 25 volunteers, they are all specialists who have internationally recognized skills and who carry out activities in numerous rescue fields, giving support to governmental organizations during times of natural disasters.

## Partner 1: Felső-Tiszavidéki Búvár és Mentő Közhasznú Egyesület (Upper Tisa Diving and Rescue Public Utility Association)

It was founded by individuals and its members represent different kind of rescue areas. In the beginning its main duty was finding people lost in water, but currently its rescue areas are widened. The rescue techniques of the Association: diving, boating, aeronautical, searching dogs, search and rescue in cities.

## Partner 2: Inspectoratul pentru Situații de Urgență "Someș" județul Satu Mare (Someș Inspectorate for Emergency Situations)

It is a public authority working at the county level, it is subordinated to the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. According legal provisions, ISU Satu Mare provides actions and measures during emergency situations or potential states generating emergency situations.

## Partner 3: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Katasztrófa-védelmi Igazgatóság (Disaster Management Directorate of Sz-Sz-B)

It is an organization responsible for the territory of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, in the area of fire departments, civilian protection and industry safety. Its main task is to expert authority powers on industrial security, fire protection and civil protection.

## Partner 4: Societatea Națională de Cruce Roșie din România, Filiala Satu Mare (Romanian Red Cross Society, Satu Mare)

It is an organization with relevant experience in providing relief to the flood affected in targeted area. It has multiple local and regional initiatives, providing social services for disadvantaged groups, working with volunteers and economic agents.

## Partner 5: Magyar Vöröskereszt Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg Megyei Szervezete (Hungarian Red Cross - Sz-Sz-B County) (H)

It is an organization with experience in psychological preparedness of general public and volunteer teams. Its main tasks include blood donor recruitment, first aid, social welfare and disaster management; its Tracing Service restores family links broken as a consequence of armed conflicts or natural disasters.

## Partner 6: Asociația Organizația Caritas a Diecezei Satu Mare (Caritas Association of the Diocese of Satu Mare) (RO)

It is a non-profit organization which is providing social programs and services in the counties of Satu Mare and Maramureș in Northwestern Romania within four areas of activity: socio-educational programs for children and youth, programs for the disabled and the elderly as well as social- charitable programmes.

# Activities used to tackle the problem



Establishment of a Cross-Border Crisis Team to coordinate cross-border disaster intervention teams and resources



Organizing of roundtables for the team of experts to develop a Common Intervention Plan in case of disasters, assisted and counselled by an international expert from the Netherlands

Organizing 3 trainings and 4 small scale exercises for the public and private rescue teams and support organizations



Endowment of partners with consumables and equipment

Elaboration of a cross-border local resource database for emergency situations



Elaboration of an Autonomous Communication System feasibility study

Implementation of publicity activities: project opening and closing conferences, press conferences, movies, roll-up banners, leaflets, web page, publication of articles in newspapers and newsletters

# Results: Exercises



## PURPOSE:

To simulate a dam failure and flooding / ice rescue / water rescue event in order to discover the strengths and the weaknesses of organizing the rescue and saving activities by the participant teams

## TARGET GROUPS:

Representatives of project partners, state institutions (municipalities, gendarmerie, water directorates, border police, environment protection agencies) and NGOs operating in the field of rescue and support in case of disasters

## POSITIVE EXPERIENCES:

All participants tried to solve cooperative the problems during the exercise. There were positive feedbacks from the observers invited for the exercise and from the local people. The effectiveness of the cooperation between the units became better. The exercise was very spectacular, the press was very positive about it, because the safety of the population has news value.





## DATA BASE

Updated information source at the Cross-Border Crisis Team disposal regarding available material resources in the cross-border area prone to flooding, that could be used in case of disasters

Updated information source at the Cross-Border Crisis Team disposal regarding available human resources (Volunteers) that could be involved in case of necessity

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

To evaluate the functionality of a complementary communication system between the partners and the stakeholders, that can be used even when other communication lines are down

To study the possibility of a dynamic adjustment of response capacity in case of disasters, coordinated by CBCT through a communication system that connects all stakeholders



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