

DELIVERABLE D.T4.1.7

Report on the results from the pilot action 7
- Emergency plans for heritage sites involved
in Poland

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I. PLANNED ACTIONS

1. Topic (main goal of the exercise):

**Checking the usefulness and effectiveness of evacuation plans in the crisis phase -
Rescue Plan for the Bielsko District and the city of Bielsko-Biala.**

2. Specific objectives:

- a) assessment of the degree of preparation of fire protection units and other services and entities cooperating during rescue and fire-fighting activities;
- b) assessment of the degree of preparation of fire protection units and other services and cooperating entities in the need to evacuate the movable cultural heritage;
- c) improving cooperation and exchange of information between practitioners in the field of liquidation of the effects of threats, the possibility of evacuating people and property, including movable cultural heritage;
- d) improving the cooperation of the national rescue and fire-fighting system with services, local authorities and entities responsible for safety.

3. Characteristics of the tested plan

(What does it contain? What forces and measures does it engage? Etc.)

The Rescue Plan defines the tasks for entities included in the rescue and firefighting system and for cooperating entities as well as the rules and how to alert them. A rescue plan is developed in the event of unforeseen circumstances and emergencies. The purpose of the plan is to prepare a course of action in a situation where the agreed course of action has been unexpectedly disturbed and has ceased to meet unexpectedly changed conditions. The plan describes who, what and when will do, with what resources of resources and on what legal basis - before, during and immediately after the crisis.



The rescue plan supports the organization of rescue operations and includes, in particular:

- 1) a list of tasks carried out by rescue entities and other entities that can assist in the organization of rescue operations;
- 2) list of tasks carried out by specialist rescue groups;
- 3) a set of recommended principles and rescue procedures resulting from the tasks carried out by entities belonging to the National Firefighting and Rescue System (KSRG);
- 4) contact details of KSRG entities and fire protection units not included in the system and other entities that may support the organization of rescue operations;
- 5) list of forces and resources of KSRG entities and fire protection units not included in the KSRG;
- 6) graphic representation of protected areas;
- 7) list of experts for forecasting hazards and rescue specialists, including name, surname, field and business phone number;
- 8) reconciliation sheets and update of the rescue plan.

The development of a rescue plan is preceded by an analysis of:

- 1) threats that may occur in the District;
- 2) operational security in the District.

Hazard analysis shall be carried out taking into account at least:

- 1) population density;
- 2) geographical location and prevailing atmospheric conditions as well as natural and tourist conditions;
- 3) infrastructure and its condition, including monuments;
- 4) threats from neighboring areas covered by mining, aviation, maritime, water law, safety and rescue regulations in the mountains and organized ski areas, as well as from training grounds and territories of neighboring countries;
- 5) number and scale of events;
- 6) the adopted method of hazard assessment.



The analysis of operational security is carried out taking into account:

- 1) operational readiness, broken down by type of threat and 24-hour, annual or seasonal availability;
- 2) areas for which the probable arrival time of the first and subsequent forces and resources of KSRG entities is up to 8 minutes and up to 15 minutes, respectively, to designate protected areas for them or to change them;
- 3) specified for each field of rescue the most likely time of arrival of the first and subsequent specialist rescue groups in order to designate protected areas for them or to change them;
- 4) the type and scale of threats as well as occurring and anticipated events;
- 5) distribution of forces and resources of rescue entities;
- 6) places, facilities and areas with difficult conditions for conducting rescue operations and a low level of operational security;
- 7) organization of the operational abovementioned area and the central operational abovementioned.

4. Characteristics of the facility

a) Name and address of the exercise place / pilot place:

**Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in
Stara Wies, ul. Ks. Wojtylki 3, 43-300
Wilamowice**

b) number of floors: **1** including underground: **0**

c) number of emergency exits at the facility: **2**

d) access to the facility enabling the use of fire brigade equipment: ~~convenient~~ / **inconvenient**.

e) whether the facility meets the technical requirements of evacuation in the light of applicable regulations: **yes** / ~~no~~





5. Description of the event

On September 30 this year. at around 14:00 rainfall began in Stara Wies. At around 14:50 due to constant rainfall, the water, which is no longer absorbed into the ground, created an artificial river on the road between the fields above the church in Stara Wies and flows towards it. In addition, due to the wind, the roof is damaged and there is a risk of destruction of historic paintings.

6. Concept / assumption for exercises

- a) carrying out evacuation of people: **yes / no**, if yes, number of people: -
- b) evacuation of movable cultural heritage: **from part of the facility**
- c) evacuated property (what and how much/many?): **14 historic paintings**
- d) assumed duration of the evacuation: **1 hour**

Time	Description of the situation	taken Action	other relevant information
14:50	Intensive rainfall does not subside. Flowing water from the escarpment over the historic church began to get inside and flood the church. In addition, the roof was damaged and the water starts to gently flow down the walls of the church, where there are antique paintings.	Reporting to the fire brigade (998), commune office and members of the Parish Council.	The position of Directing the State Fire Service, upon receipt of the notification, assigned its hosts and local units of the volunteer fire department.
15:00	The first local volunteer fire brigades and members of the Parish Council arrived.	Firefighters started to protect the church against flooding.	
15:10	The national Fire Department brigade arrived.	A point for the adoption of forces in the car park in front of the church was set up	
15:15	The leaders of the rescue action together with the parish priest (facility manager) decided to evacuate 14 paintings.	The Provincial Conservator of Monuments was notified with a simultaneous request for support.	
15:25	With the help of firefighters, members of the Parish Council created a station to secure evacuated property next to the parking lot. Firefighters proceed to evacuate the paintings, and the council members secure them in special boxes and prepare them for transport to the designated place.		
15:40	Location of the event, paintings were evacuated to a safe place.		



7. Planned forces and resources

No.	UNIT.	Vehicle / equipment.	Number of equipment.	Number of persons.
1	Outpost of the State Fire Brigade JRG 2 Czechowice - Dziedzice.	Special car GBA 2,7 / 25/5.	1	4
		Special car GLBART 0,8 / 2,5	1	2
2	Volunteer Fire Brigade Stara Wies	Special vehicle GBA 2,5 / 16	1	6
		Special vehicle SLRt with light trailer:	1	6
		- 10 m flood protection sleeve	3	
		- tent with equipment (table, lighting)	2	
		- boxes		
		- sound system		
3	Volunteer Fire Brigade Dankowice	Special vehicle GBA 3/16 / 3	1	6
4	Volunteer Fire Brigade Hecznarowice	Special car GBA 2.5 / 16/4	1	6
5	Volunteer Fire Brigade Wilamowice	Special car GCBA 5/35	1	6
6	Volunteer Fire Brigade Piszczowice	Special car GBA 3.5 / 24/4	1	6
7	State Fire Brigade Bielsko- Biala	Special car SLKw	1	1

Other entities planned for the exercises: **Parish Council, Police.**

Alerting / informing forces and means: **selectively through the Control Position State Fire Brigade in Bielsko-Biala.**

8. Important notes about conducting the exercises (field conditions, emerging threats, medical support, etc.)

- The road leading over the church to the presbytery is very narrow and steep. In addition, there is a small possibility of returning large vehicles,
- driving to a non-alarm concentration point,





- personal protection equipment of rescuers adapted to perform tasks,
- medical security: KSRG rescuers (equipped with a medical bag PSP R1),
- Focus point: parking at the church in Stara Wies.

9. Methods of simulation

Image replicas, chests to protect images.

10. Training briefing on the organization and conduct of exercises

- a) Date **26/09/2019**, hours. **12:30**,
- b) To whom is it addressed (participants):

Commanders and firefighters of the State Fire Service, commanders and heads of volunteer fire departments from the area of the Wilamowice commune, representatives of the Parish Council.



The main purpose of the briefing was to familiarize the rescuers with the procedures and procedures in force during the protection and evacuation of cultural heritage and to present the problems of the pilot place - the historic Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Stara Wies.

Additionally, general assumptions for the "TEMPEST 2019" exercises were discussed. The exercise will be dynamic and will be used for training members of volunteer fire brigades from the area of the Wilamowice commune, who will be the first to be at the scene of the accident in real danger.

11. Date of exercise

Date **30/09/2019** , at start at **15:00**, endings **15:40**



12. Situational sketch of the exercise area



13. List of functional people for exercises

- Head of exercise - Commune Commander dh Roman Jedrzejko,
- Head of Rescue Operation - Section Commander from Post JRG 2,
- Combat Episodes Commander - according to the assumption,
- Chief Conciliator - Capt. Rafal Walasik, senior captain Tomasz Gotkowski from the State Fire Service in Bielsko-Biala.



II. EXERCISE ANALYSIS

1. Comments on the implementation of the exercise assumptions (comparison of the assumptions with the activities undertaken during the exercises):

The main goal of the exercises conducted on September 30 this year. on the object of the historic church in Stara Wies it was to check the usefulness and effectiveness of the Rescue Plan for the Bielsko District and the city of Bielsko-Biala. In addition, the organizers wanted to check whether fire protection units, other services, entities and local authorities are able to effectively cooperate with each other and are prepared to prevent sudden crisis events and to evacuate movable cultural heritage.



Exercises went smoothly. All disposed units cooperated with each other without problems, supporting and supplementing each other in the conducted rescue operations. Exercises have become a tool improving cooperation and exchange of information between entities responsible for ensuring security.



The head of the Rescue Action from the State Fire Service in Bielsko-Biala, which was responsible for main decision-making, cooperated closely with the facility manager,



the local Parish Council and representatives of crisis management of local government units, supporting decisions with their knowledge and experience. The decision was made to correctly determine the focus of emergency services on the parking lot under the church and not to send all special vehicles to the access road to the church because of the narrow, steep road and the limited possibility of turning back. Special cars were parked on the main road and, after spreading the flood protection sleeves above the church, it was ordered to pump water to fill them.



After receiving information about the threat to 14 historic paintings, the Head of the Rescue Operation correctly made the decision to evacuate them and notify the District Historic Conservator with a request for support.

The entire evacuation process of movable cultural heritage was carried out in a coordinated manner involving all collaborating services and representatives of the Parish Council. A special point was created in the parking lot under the church (in a safe place) to secure and write down evacuated property. Due to the dangerous area, only firemen entered the church building, who initially secured the paintings inside and then evacuated them to a special point prepared in the parking lot. There, members of the Parish Council were responsible for securing and preparing evacuated images for transport.





2. Assessment of site / facility preparation in the event of a crisis (possibilities and conditions for conducting rescue operations)

The Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Stara Wies is a historic building erected in 1522. The whole building is constructed of wood, which increases the risk of fire. At present, due to the lack of co-financing, the facility does not have a fire protection system that would extinguish a fire in the bud at the same time without causing great losses by flooding.

The church is located on a hill surrounded by an old stand, which is a natural monument. It is a tall building, the tower reaches 30 meters, and the nave 20 m. The access road over the church to presbytery is narrow and steep, and it is difficult to turn around larger vehicles. It is possible to enter the building from the other side of the main road, unfortunately there is a steep high staircase due to the natural elevation. In the event of heavy rainfall, the water that flows from the hill above the church (and due to the intensity of the rainfall is not drained) is poured through these stairs making it difficult to reach.

Due to the historic nature of the object and its location, rescue operations must be carried out with increased potential of forces and resources. After receipt of the notification to the Command Post of the Municipal State Fire Service for emergency events (fire or local threat), the nearest rescue and fire-fighting units provided for in the District Rescue Plan are directed. Due to the location in the vicinity of a given facility, these are units of volunteer fire brigades. They can arrive at the scene quickly.



In the event of a threat of negative effects of heavy rainfall, the nearest TSO units were equipped with flood sleeves from the District Flood Warehouse for the Bielsko District. The use of sleeves over the church effectively directs the flowing water next to the church and cemetery, thanks to which it counteracts the flooding of the church and increases the time for evacuation activities of the historic property.

In addition, the parish council operates at the church, whose members in the event of emergencies and the need to evacuate historic property are responsible for helping to secure it and prepare for transport.

3. Comments and final conclusions regarding the usefulness and effectiveness of your evacuation in crisis situations (what information should be changed, corrected, added, etc.)

The Rescue Plan for the Bielsko District and the city of Bielsko-Biala is a huge database supporting taking action in the event of a situation crisis. It contains, in particular: a set of rescue recommendations and procedures, a list of entities belonging to the national fire-fighting system and other entities cooperating with the tasks specified



for them and the method of their alerting, contact details of individual entities, a list of equipment available to rescue entities and a graphical representation of areas threatened. The information contained in the plan has often been an excellent database for decision support during events. They are presented in a clear and legible way so you can quickly find the information you need.



The Rescue Plan should be extended with a training part with a schedule of necessary trainings and exercises related to various crisis situations. Particular emphasis should be placed on conducting exercises in historic buildings, which are not lacking in our surroundings. Practice shows that rescue groups (in particular firefighters) in Poland are very well trained in fire, flood and other local threats. However, there is a lack of training and knowledge regarding the threat in historic buildings, handling and evacuation of movable monuments as well as methods of securing and preparing for transport. Such training and exercises should be compulsory for any rescue entity that is close to a historic object, because it will be him who will be the first at the scene of the emergency.

In Poland, there is an obligation to draw up plans for the protection of monuments in the event of an armed conflict and a crisis at the level of a historic, commune, district, voivodship and national building. These plans should contain a list of all immovable and movable monuments in a given area, together with information about their location, elements of the facility subject to security, together with a proposal on how to secure them, a list of necessary forces along with the time needed to perform the security, and contact details of persons responsible for security or evacuation. Unfortunately, often these plans are not created or constantly updated, which makes them a dead element. Action should be taken to tighten the legal provisions that will force the appropriate preparation of the plans described above. Once they are a credible document, they will



be a perfect complement to the Rescue Plans at the time of the crisis. The position of the State Fire Service Management Department would then have an entire database of monuments in the administered area along with security measures, responsible persons and contact with them. Having such information would significantly reduce the time needed to make decisions, and thus would accelerate rescue operations.

The exercise video can be viewed by opening the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19QjU8B2QvOdueAgJqJX04W74YAqRmJMQ/view?usp=sharing>