

Lead Nations



United Kingdom

Other Contributors



Czech Republic



Germany



Hungary



Ireland



Italy



Norway



Slovakia



Switzerland



Turkey



United States

Milestones

- Summer 2011 – Serbian authorities request to NATO HQ to consider the establishment of a new Trust Fund for the destruction of up to 8.000 tons of surplus ammunition.
- Sep 2012 – Following internal UK discussion initiated by the GBR Defence Attaché (DA) in Serbia, the GBR Delegation to NATO HQ agreed to sponsor a Feasibility Study.
- 07 Nov 2012 – GBR Delegation to NATO letter of request to NSPA to undertake a Feasibility Study.
- Jan & Feb 2013 – Joint GBR DA NSPA visits to MoD and others in Belgrade and TRZ Kragujevac.
- Feb 2013 – NATO Financial Controller opens account for preliminary donations.
- 16 July 2013 – Project Presented to NATO PPC (EAPC)
- 2013-2016 – Negotiation of legal agreements. Detailed preparations at TRZ Kragujevac.
- 24 March 2016 – Final formal approval and project start.
- 12 October 2016 – NATO Trust Fund Official Opening

Financial information

- Estimated budget: 3.7 M EUR
- Current contributions: 1.6 M EUR

Background

The fourth NATO/PfP Trust Fund project in Serbia follows a request for assistance from Serbia to NATO for the destruction of surplus conventional ammunition.

The aim of the project is to assist the Serbian MoD's main demilitarisation facility (MoD owned TRZ Kragujevac) to decommission Serbia's remaining stocks of approximately 8,000 tonnes of surplus ammunition.

The MEUR 3.7 project will support TRZ Kragujevac develop additional demilitarisation capacity and fund up to MEUR 2.4 of industrial demilitarisation over a 24 month period. The Serbian MoD has indicated its willingness to contribute significant resources to the project.

The MoD is already processing some munitions at TRZ Kragujevac and will continue to do so. The facility has a knowledgeable

and capable workforce with sound experience of ammunition disposal but requires assistance to further develop its capacity. The processes will maximise the value of recycled materials and employ environmentally responsible techniques.

The project has been developed in close consultation with MoD so that there is flexibility to match the quantity of ammunition demilitarised with the level of funds received.

The project could not start until all of the legal agreements were in place. Concluding these negotiations took significantly longer than anticipated and were finally completed on 24 March 2016. The contractual and technical negotiations proceeded smoothly over the summer allowing the initial operational demilitarisation to start in early October.

Future Plans

12 October 2016 - Official Opening Ceremony

Provide some site wide improvements over the initial 6 months and plan for infrastructure improvements, where justified, over the following period.

Operational demilitarisation of some 100,000 items of ammunition including rockets, air bombs and rifle grenades at a cost of around 500,000 Eur.

Objectives

The project is improving overall cooperation between Serbia and NATO and is good for:

- Supporting NATO's Western Balkan strategy of long-term stability and security.
- Improving safety and reducing the risk of an explosion from old ammunition such as the 2006 ammunition depot explosion at Paracin, Serbia.
- Reducing the risk of proliferation of surplus ammunition.



NSPA & UK DA Feasibility Team meeting with MoD staff January 2013



Break down of Hand Grenades



Ammunition processing facility at TRZ Kragujevac November 2013



Govt owned TRZ Kragujevac facility

For further information

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