



**PRESS RELEASE No. 6 – 2015**

## **PROTECTION AND RESCUE EXERCISE "KRIŽNICA 2015"**

### **ACHELOUS project's protection and rescue exercise**

Within the Achelous project, Virovitica-Podravina County organized a protection and rescue exercise "Križnica 2015".

The exercise was conducted on Wednesday, on 25th March, near the village Križnica (by the bridge).

Exercise theme was conduction of evacuation of people and livestock from places Križnica after a sudden rise of water level in the Drava river and the ability of services for protection and rescue to react on the river. The objective of this simulation was checking qualifications of local authorities to manage, organize and execute operations in cases of floods and educating the population how to behave in the event of a disaster.

Before exercise, participants were welcomed by Chief of Protection and Rescue Headquarters of Virovitica-Podravina County and deputy Perfect Zdravko Dijaković and host – Mayor of Pitomača Željko Grgačić. The commander of the exercise was Stjepan Venus.

Exercise participants: Virovitica-Podravina County Fire Associations, Troops of general purposes of Municipality Pitomača, Units of Croatian Waters – VGI Virovitica, Virovitica-Podravina County Police Departments, the Red Cross team Virovitica and Slatina, Institute for Emergency Medical Care Virovitica-Podravina County team, Regional Office for Protection and Rescue Virovitica – ŽC 112, Croatian Mountain Rescue Service – Orahovica Station, MP team 112 and Veterinary Station Pitomača.

Material and technical means needed for conducting the exercise were ensured from participants and part of the expenses was covered from ACHELOUS Project.

Virovitica-Podravina County participates in the Achelous project with 8 partners from 7 countries: Italy, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Hungary. The aim of the Project is to improve communication and operation of civil protection, in order to plan activities focused on reducing the harmful effects caused by water.

Day before protection and rescue exercise "Križnica 2015", on 24th of March, in Virovitica was held the meeting, as a part of ACHELOUS project, at which the project and the exercise „Križnica 2015“ was presented.

The analysis of exercise "Križnica 2015" was held on Thursday, 26th of March in Virovitica. The exercise "Križnica 2015" was rated as extremely well-organized and successful. As part of the meeting, participants had the opportunity to watch a short movie from exercise of protection and rescue, which was recorded with a drone.



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### ***About ECHO***

ACHELOUS is an EC granted project financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) via the Civil Protection Financial Instrument. This instrument was set up in 2007 and aims at supporting and complementing the efforts of Member States for the protection, primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, including cultural heritage, in the event of natural and man-made disasters, acts of terrorism and technological, radiological or environmental accidents. Furthermore, it intends to facilitate reinforced co-operation between the Member States in the field of civil protection.

The Civil Protection Financial Instrument covers all three main aspects of civil protection activities: prevention, preparedness and response.

ACHELOUS PROJECT has been selected under the annual Call for Proposals for Prevention and Preparedness in Civil Protection in 2013.

More information is available at [www.achelous.eu](http://www.achelous.eu)

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**Photo caption:**

Photo 1. Viewers on the exercise



Photo 2. Viewers on the exercise



Photo 3. Command of the exercise



Photo 4. Evacuation of the people



Photo 5. Evacuation of the people





#### Notes to editors:

- ACHELOUS stands for Action of Contrast to Hydraulic Emergency in Local Urban Site
- ACHELOUS is co-financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) via the Civil Protection Financial Instrument
- ACHELOUS is a partnership of 9 partners from 7 European countries
- The aim of the ACHELOUS project is to develop efficient common procedures of action among the local Civil Protection Authorities of the area interested by the hydraulic emergency. During its 2-year duration, the project endeavours to increase integration and cooperation between territorial entities involved in civil protection activities and educate citizens towards a correct behaviour and a clever use of the available information during emergencies

#### ACHELOUS project partners

- Municipality of Vicenza, Italy - [www.comune.vicenza.it](http://www.comune.vicenza.it)
- University of Padua - Italy - [www.gest.unipd.it](http://www.gest.unipd.it)
- Municipality of Arad - Romania - <http://www.primariaarad.ro>
- Municipality of Paggaios - Greece - [www.dimospaggiou.gr](http://www.dimospaggiou.gr)
- University of Thessaly - Greece - [www.uth.gr](http://www.uth.gr)
- Municipality of Borino - Bulgaria - <http://www.borino.bg>
- City of Skopje - Macedonia - [www.skopje.gov.mk](http://www.skopje.gov.mk)
- For the North Great Plain Region - Hungary - [www.earnkft.hu](http://www.earnkft.hu)
- Virovitica - Podravina County - Croatia - [www.vpz.com.hr](http://www.vpz.com.hr)



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