France donates 100,000 euros for mine clearance project in Croatia
(France, Croatia)

Vinkovci (Croatia) - France has donated 100,000 euros for a mine clearance project in the eastern Croatian municipality of Trpinja, under which 97,500 sq.m. of farmland will be cleared of land mines.

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The donation agreement was signed in Vinkovci on Wednesday [6 August] by the French ambassador to Croatia, Francis Bellanger, and the deputy director of the Croatian Mine Clearance Centre (HCR), Mirko Ivanusic.

Bellanger said that his country highly appreciated the efforts of the Croatian government and the HCR to clear Croatia of mines by 2010.

Ivanusic said that France had donated 573,000 euros for mine clearance projects in Croatia since 1998.

According to the HCR, 3.5m sq.m. was cleared of mines in Vukovar County in the first half of this year. Since 1991, 43 people have been killed and 83 seriously wounded by mine explosions. No such cases were recorded in the first six months of this year.

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