

**VOLUNTEER WATER RESCUE SERVICE (WOPR), POLAND  
MAIN BOARD MANAGEMENT**



**ACTIVITY REPORT  
2012**

**WARSAW, 2013**

# **VOLUNTEER WATER RESCUE SERVICE (WOPR), POLAND ACTIVITY REPORT 2012**

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## **1. Organizational issues**

The most important event for Volunteer Water Rescue Service in 2012 was the Extraordinary General Assembly which took place on 26 February 2012 in Częstochowa Town. The Extraordinary General Assembly convened in order to change the Statute of WOPR. The General Assembly adopted 9 resolutions, among them the resolution for accepting amendments in its Statute of the Organization.

The Main Board which is the most important body stipulated in the Statute of WOPR in the period between session of General Assembly held four meetings. During sessions, among others, were being discussed the state of preparations for the Extraordinary General Assembly of WOPR, the issue of the training and the operations of the organization in the country and on the international arena as well as celebration of the fiftieth WOPR anniversary. The Main Board adopted 9 resolutions, among them on WOPR activity and the financial report for 2011 and resolutions on WOPR central undertakings and the financial plan for 2013.

The Presidium of Main Board debated seven times. During meetings the members of Presidium were discussing, among others such issues as: preparations for the Extraordinary Assembly, the matter of courses and central trainings, preparation for the celebration of the fiftieth WOPR anniversary, as well as projects of resolutions concerning the report in a year of 2011 also the financial plan and central activities of WOPR for 2013. Presidium of the Main Board adopted 17 resolutions, among them, on the report for 2011 and resolution on approving the decisions taken by the WOPR President.

In 2012 President WOPR took four decisions, in it, concerning the training program of water lifeguards and instructors of the water rescue and concerning entitlements of instructors for the lead of courses and trainings and examinations in 2012.

## **2. Education**

One of the most important events of this year will be the Second International Scientific Conference. The Conference will be held on 14-15 June 2013 in Bydgoszcz under the title "Status, Prospects and Development of Rescue, Physical Culture and Sport in the XXI Century, in frames which two panel discussions were expected for. Publishing the monograph in Polish and English is supposed to be an effect of the first scientific-teaching panel. The second practical panel, promoting the safety in water areas, will include, among others, rescue himself from a sinking car (leading Chief Instructor of Royal Belgian Rescue Services, Mr Rika Vorhelst), using robots in the water rescue, rescue operations underwater. The Conference will be accompanied by a photographic competition under the title "Safety by the water" and amateur film festival under the title "Accidents on water". The Conference is being organized by the Higher School of Economy in Bydgoszcz, with the participation of the Voluntary Water Rescue Service and the International Life Saving Federation of Europe. Mr Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz, Minister of Interior took the honourable Patronage of the conference.

WOPR Committee for Education systematically working on improving training programs of water lifeguards and WOPR water rescue instructors as well as led works on analysis of implementing program of courses to ranks of lifeguards and WOPR instructors.

On 11 August 2012 in Poznań Mr Jerzy Telak, WOPR President took part in meeting instructors concerning training programmes of water lifeguards in the course of which the project of the training program of the water lifeguard was developed.

#### WOPR Scientific Council

On 11 January 2012 in Cracow with the participation of the WOPR President, Mr Jerzy Telak Scientific Council session was held in Szczyrk. During the meeting organizational matters associated with a scientific conference which was planned to be held on 11-13 May 2012 were discussed. Also the members of the Council made analysis of an academic publications and scientific form.

Courses performed on central level to the ranks of lifeguards and WOPR instructors in 2012:

- 1) on 3-11 July 2012 in the WOPR Training Centre „TAMA” in Rajgrad was conducted course to the rank of the more senior water lifeguard; The certificates of getting the rank of the more senior water lifeguard were given to 34 graduates of the course;
- 2) 11-16 of July 2012 in the WOPR Training Centre TAMA in Rajgrad a training for candidates for the younger WOPR instructor was conducted; certificates of getting the rank of the younger WOPR instructor were given to 28 graduates of the course;
- 3) 3) on 17-27 days of July 2012 in the WOPR Training Centre in Tama Rajgrad were conducted training of the WOPR instructor. 26 graduates of the training received certificates.

#### 1. WOPR skills trainings

As similarly as in last years were organised the following specialist WOPR trainings:

- 1) 18 February 2012 in Przełazy on the lake Niestysz training lifeguards of an WOPR Operational Group of Lubuskie Province and officers of the State Fire Service took place around Świebodzin, which participants exercised conducting individual and team rescue operations with using the hand equipment during (toboggan, ladders, orthopaedic boards, hockey sticks, boathooks, ropes), they practised "chain from people", of seeking under ice, displacement on ice, leaving from blowholes using the equipment and without;
- 2) 11-13 May 2012 in Rowy training underwent of lifeguards, with the participation of 44 members of an WOPR Operational Groups and WOPR Intervention Groups, lifeguards and WOPR instructors, of which preparing lifeguards for performing action in the water rescue, in particular with using the rescue scooter and a motor boat was a purpose in the rank needed for providing assistance in water areas, the training included teaching and improving rescue techniques;
- 3) 12-13 May 2012 training water lifeguards on the River Vistula, with the participation of 67 WOPR lifeguards, medical lifeguards, officers of the State Fire Service, Police, Municipal Guard and scouts of the Volunteer Fire Service took place in Cracow of which preparing lifeguards for performing action in the water rescue, in particular on flowing waters and water event,
- 4) 15-17 June 2012 in Drzonkow was conducted training water lifeguards, with the participation of 69 participants, of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action in the water rescue, in particular on swimming pools and in water parks,
- 5) 29-30 July 2012 in Ustka was carried out training water lifeguards, with the participation of 57 persons, of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action in the water rescue, in particular on sea water areas,

- 6) 25-26 Of August 2012 in Chańcza training water lifeguards, with the participation of 68 participants, took place of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action from the scope of the water rescue, in particular on quickly flowing and flood waters with using vessels,
- 7) 7-9 September 2012 in Tuchola training water lifeguards, with the participation of 34 participants, was carried out of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action in the water rescue, in particular during canoeing rafting,
- 8) 28-30 September 2012 in Kołobrzeg was conducted training water lifeguards, with the participation of 34 participants, of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action in the water rescue, in particular on sea water areas,
- 9) 5-7 October 2012 in Pierzchała members 14 Groups of Emergency WOPR of the Zachodniopomorskie Province, officers of the State Fire Service in Gryfinie and Myślibórz were involved in a training, during which they improved abilities from the scope of seeking the persons injured in the different condition of the health on the lake, boggy areas and the Odra river,
- 10) 5-7 of October 2012 on the kayak path in Wietrznice and the river training underwent Dunajec River of water lifeguards, with the participation of 32 persons, of which preparing lifeguards for the performance was a purpose of action in the water rescue, in particular on quickly flowing and flood waters,
- 11) 7-9 December 2012 in Skierniewice was carried out training water lifeguards, with the participation of 67 participants, of which performing action in the water rescue, in particular on swimming pools and in water parks was a purpose,
- 12) additionally 15 trainings in the scope of the classified first aid for lifeguards and WOPR instructors which took place in the Kujawsko-pomorski province at the cooperation of the Polish Rescue Company were conducted; as a result of examinations finishing the course as defined in the act about the National Medical Rescue 969 lifeguards and WOPR instructors obtained the title of the "lifeguard" in accordance with the act on the National Medical Rescue.

Trainings of water lifeguards and instructors in the scope of the water rescue:

- 1) 17-27 July 2012 in the WOPR Training Centre Tama in Rajgród first training instructors took place from the scope of the water rescue, in conclusion of which WOPR President Mr Jerzy Telak gave certificates of finishing the training to 33 graduates of the course,
- 2) 19-24 of July 2012 in Tomaszów Mazowiecki first training water lifeguards took place, 9 graduates received certificates of finishing the training;
- 3) 20 August - 2 September 2012 in Łódź training water lifeguards was conducted which 12 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 4) 4-9 September 2012 in Sopot was carried out training water lifeguards which 14 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 5) 15 September 2012 - 24 November 2012 training water lifeguards took place in Łódź which 33 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 6) 26 September - 31 October 2012 in Radom training water lifeguards was conducted, after passing an examination 13 of graduates received certificates on finishing the training,
- 7) 5-17 October 2012 in Warsaw the training of water lifeguards was conducted , 20 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 8) 27 October - 2 December 2012 training water lifeguards took place in Słupsk which 17 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 9) 29 October - 29 November 2012 training water lifeguards took place in Mushrooms which 4 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 10) 5 November 2012 - 5 December 2012 training water lifeguards was carried out in Mazovian Rawa which 18 graduates got certificates of finishing the training,
- 11) 15-18 November 2012 in Choszczno was carried out training of instructors in the scope of the water rescue which 54 graduates got certificates after finishing the training,

- 12) 29 November - 2 December 2012 training instructors from the scope of the water rescue took place in Mazovian Rawa, after the participation of all classes and passing an examination 16 participants received the certificate of finishing the training,
- 13) 2-14 December 2012 in Radom training underwent of water lifeguards which 25 graduates got certificates of finishing the training;
- 14) 5-7 December 2012 in the Dąbrowa Górnicza was conducted training instructors in the water rescue which 27 participants after the participation in all classes and passing an examination received certificate of finishing the training,
- 15) 12-27 December 2012 in Kołobrzeg training underwent of water lifeguards which 13 graduates got certificates after finishing the training.

Foreign trainings.

- 1) 1-5 of February 2012 in Stensund (Sweden) WOPR lifeguards participated in the training from the scope of automatic rescue from the scope of ice. Polish lifeguards were able to meet rescue techniques at accidents on ice,
- 2) 16-19 of August 2012 in Kaliningrad, in the framework of cooperation between the Water Voluntary Rescue Service and Obschestvo Spasaniya on Vodakh (Russian Organization of the Water Rescue) took place the training for the students of the Kaliningrad University. The training for the Junior WOPR Lifesaver rank was carried out by two WOPR instructors,
- 3) 19 August two WOPR instructors performed the training covering the issue on using a jet ski. The training was attended by member of The Ministry of Civil Defence and Crisis Situations of Russian Federation and the Regional Water Police (GIMS) of Kaliningrad District. In addition Polish instructors (WOPR) conducted the presentation of techniques of the water rescue with using the hand rescue equipment and BLS training for children staying at the sports camp organised by the Kaliningrad University.

### **3. Equipment and material base**

The Section of Equipment working within a framework of the WOPR Committee for Rescue prepared the list of distribution which were contained in conclusions sent to the Ministry of Interior (MSW) and to the National Fund of the Environmental Protection and the Water Management (NFOŚiGW).

Altogether the Main Board provided Voivodeshep WOPR following number of the lifesaving equipment:

- 41 rescue boards,
- 2 rescue canoe with the equipment,
- 3 hybrid boats area 5 m with the outboard engine,
- 11 polythene motor boats of the over 4 m of the length with the engine of 25 h.p.
- 11 polythene motor boats of the over 4 m of the length with the engine of 30 h.p.
- 3 Motor boats 5 metres long with the opened front and with the engine
- 2 outboard engines of 30 h.p.
- 1 outboard engine of 40 h.p.
- 1 outboard engine of 60 h.p.
- 1 outboard engine of 90 h.p.
- 17 rescue jet skis with the rescue platform

All this purchase was co-financed by the Ministry of Interior and by the National Fund of the Environmental Protection and the Water Management.

### **4. Sport**

The WOPR Committee for Sport WOPR was busy with unifying standards and popularizing the competition of water lifeguards. Regulations of the national competition were adapted to changing ILS provisions and ILSE. Thanks to that regulations of the national competition were adapted to the appropriate of ILS and ILSE provisions.

The members of Committee participated in the organization of below mentioned sport events:

- 1) on 11 February 2012 in Żyrardów took place first cycle of Grand Prix in Water Rescue Competition 2012 of Poland. The championships were held under the patronage of the First Program of the Polish Radio,
- 2) in 2-4 March in Brno (Czech Republic) the Polish representation participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Competition in Water Rescue of Moravia 2012. The Polish representation took the first place,
- 3) in 28-29 April in Wildapfen (Austria) on the Salza river were held International White-water Guide and Rescue Race competitions with the participation of Polish representatives. The competitions were won by the Polish Team,
- 4) in 17-20 May in Scharbeut the III International German Championships in Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) with the participation of the Polish representatives,
- 5) on 26 May in Świdwin took place the Second cycle of Grand Prix in Water Rescue Competition 2012 of Poland,
- 6) in 3-17 June in Riccion (Italy) the Polish representation consisted of ten lifeguards took part in the World Championships in Swimming Masters,
- 7) in 15-17 June at the Swimming Pool of Voivodship Sport and Recreation Centre in Drzonków (Poland) were held XLVI Polish Championships in Water Rescue,
- 8) on 16 June, simultaneously to the XLVI Polish Championships in Water Rescue the meeting of WOPR Committee for Sport took place. During the session, among other issues, the problems associated with the Regulations of the XLVI Polish Championships and Grand Prix of Poland were discussed,
- 9) on 22 July in Rawa Mazowiecka Mr Jerzy Telak, the President of WOPR took part in the opening and closing ceremony of XVIII Swimming Marathon of Paweł Piorun. During the ceremony some of local officials were honoured with a medal of 50 WOPR Anniversary,
- 10) in 28-29 July on the sea bathing beach in Ustka was held the Polish Cup in a Water Rescue. The competitions were broadcasted by many radio and TV stations,
- 11) on 25 August 2012 on the Chańcza Lake the XI opened Championships of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship of Emergency Response Groups – Chańcza 2012, which was organized by the Department of Safety and Crisis Management of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Office and Regional Department of the Polish Red Cross in Kielce,
- 12) in 4-5 August on the sea bathing beach in Gdynia the Polish Championship of Lifeguards of Seaside Bathing Beach with the participation of 13 male teams and 5 female teams from the entire country took place. The competition was held under the honourable patronage of Gdynia President Mr Wojciech Szczurek. This event was met with great interest of national media (television, radio and newspapers),
- 13) in 10-16 September in five towns of Warmia and Masuria Region the Sport Competitions called Warmia and Masuria Senior Games 2012 took place with the participation over 1000 competitors from 15 countries. This event was held under the honourable patronage of Polish President Mr Bronisław Komorowski,
- 14) in 29-30 September in Bournemouth (Great Britain) International IRB Teams Challenge 2012 was held with the participation of 15 clubs representing the following countries: Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, France, Belgium and Poland,
- 15) on 20 October on the swimming pool of MOSiR Gdańsk the Third Competition of the Grand Prix of Poland in Water Rescue were held in Gdańsk
- 16) in 7-18 November in Adelaide (Australia) Polish Team of Lifeguards took part in the World Championships Water RESCUE 2012. The Polish representative dr. Grzegorz Konieczny representing the WOPR Scientific Council was the member of the Referee Committee,
- 17) on 24 November in Warsaw the Final Competition of the Grand Prix of Poland in Water Rescue took place. The media patronage of the entire cycle of GPP, 12 was provided by First Program of Polish Radio,

18) in 8-9 December in Skierniewice Town the Fourth Winter Polish Championship was held.

**5. Some statistical data concerning 2012 WOPR activities  
(based on reports of WOPR units)**

In 2012 was WOPR was the organization with 85 792 members, among which at least was: 25 459 of Junior WOPR Lifesavers, 14 801 of WOPR Lifesavers, 139 Water Lifeguards, 4 982 of Pool Lifeguards, 4 494 of Inland Open Water Lifeguards, 4 236 of Surf Lifeguards, 882 Senior WOPR Lifeguards and 269 Senior Water Lifeguards.

- 1) In 2012 122 Junior WOPR Instructors, 351 WOPR Instructors, 41 WOPR Instructor-Lecturers and 133 Instructors conducted training activity in the water rescue,
- 2) WOPR had at its disposal 1 265 of vessels, in it 617 with the engine,
- 3) in 2012 there were 449 cases of drowning
- 4) in 2012 WOPR increased the number of members about of 6033 persons, 25 229 of persons obtained the swimming certificates, 3 732 obtained the of special swimming certificates, 534 children obtained the cards "I already swim",
- 5) the Bureau of the WOPR Main Board issued: 7 070 of membership cards, 30 791 of swimming certificates, 4 127 of special swimming certificates, 505 cards "I already swim".

**President WOPR  
Dr. Jerzy Telak**