Republican Special Response Team «ZUBR»

Team Name
Republican Special Response Team «ZUBR» of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (BLR-01).

Mission
Conducting search and rescue operation in the areas affected by the earthquake, which occurred from February 8th to February 18th, 2023 in Türkiye.

Wins and Challenges:
Great success was effective participation in joint rescue operation and support to international response system, successful coordination.

This response also showed that big challenge was interaction with the locals. Rescuers received a lot of information about the worksites and the possible location of the victims from local residents (family members, neighbours, police, etc.). The support of local volunteers played an important role in solving these problems. They became a part of the team during that crucial period.

Lessons Learned
Team gained huge practical experience of full range of USAR activities in international environment. We consider this experience as really unique and valuable.

Response time is crucial in case of international deployment. It is necessary to deploy as soon as possible, every hour is critical for victims under debris.

One of the important aspects was maintaining communication with the squads of team working at the sites, SCC and LEMA, to quickly coordinate actions and redirect team to the most important tasks in the shortest possible time. In this case, usage of messengers proved to be the most effective way of communication.

Link to Team Website