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CBRN Centres of Excellence An initiative of the European Union

Regional Secretariat

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Central Asia Regional Secretariat

Profile

FRAMEWORK: European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative.

ESTABLISHED: 17 July 2015.

LOCATION: Inspectorate on Control of Mining, Geological and Industrial Safety under the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

OVERALL GOAL: Strengthen capabilities of partner countries in mitigating CBRN risks.



Partner Countries



Afghanistan



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



Mongolia



Pakistan



Tajikistan



Uzbekistan



Objectives

- 1 Support the establishment and the institutionalisation of CBRN National Teams
- 2 Support Partner Countries in the development of CBRN National Action Plans
- 3 Support Partner Countries in the development of regional and sub-regional project proposals
- 4 Collect information and support monitoring of ongoing CBRN CoE projects
- 5 Organise regional Round-Table Meetings
- 6 Enhance ownership by Partner Countries in the region
- 7 Reach out and coordinate with other international organisations and donors

Regional Priorities



Enhancing CBRN Legislative Framework



Border Control for CBRN Safety and Security



Strategic Trade Control of Dual Use Goods



Zoonotic Diseases Risk Mitigation



CBRN Infrastructure Protection and Security



CBRN Forensics



CBRN Safety and Security during Mass Gatherings



CBRN Public Awareness



Collaboration in Training

Methodology



6 partner countries of the region appointed their CBRN National Focal Points



6 National Teams established to ensure inter-ministerial and inter-agency collaboration at the country level



5 partner countries are currently engaged in the preparation of their **National CBRN Action Plans**

1 National Action Plan developed

Projects

Since 2013, **the region implemented and participated in 17 projects**, of which **3 are on-going in 2024**:

Project 87 - Budget: €3.5 M

Preparedness and Response for Mass Gatherings and other Health Threats in Central Asia.

Project 101 - Budget: €7.5 M

Enhancing protection and security of critical CBRN infrastructure.

Project 105 - Budget: €2.2 M

EU P2P Export Control Programme for dual-use goods - Central Asia

Background

The European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative is funded and implemented by the European Union (EU) through the neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the EU's main international cooperation instrument supporting security initiatives and peace-building activities in Partner Countries. The Initiative is led by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI), in close coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides technical support to Partner Countries, while the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) ensures a coherent and effective national, regional and international cooperation. Other relevant International and/or Regional Organisations and experts also contribute to the Initiative. The Initiative comprises sixty-four Partner Countries in eight regions of the world and it is the EU's largest civilian external security programme.

Recent Achievements

1. Throughout 2023 and 2024, within the framework of Project 87 "Preparedness and Response for Mass Gatherings and Other Health Threats in Central Asia", leading experts from national institutions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, who were trained as trainers by the project back in 2022, conducted national trainings on water safety, food safety, and chemicals management in Astana, Bishkek, Islamabad, Ulaanbaatar and Tashkent. More than 1,000 specialists were trained during these national trainings across Central Asia.

2. The comprehensive training on risk communication and media engagement in crisis situations that might evolve during mass gatherings was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 4–6 March 2024. Organized as part of Project 87 "Preparedness and Response for Mass Gatherings and Other Health Threats in Central Asia", the event equipped 60 strategic communication officers and technical experts from relevant national agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with essential skills in risk communication addressing challenges posed by disinformation, as well as public awareness campaigns, engagement with the media and collaboration with stakeholders.

3. On 21-22 May 2024, a tabletop simulation exercise was conducted within the framework of Project 87 "Preparedness and Response for Mass Gatherings and other Health Threats in Central Asia" (P87). The exercise utilized an innovative approach for Central Asia - it took place simultaneously in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (all partner-countries of the region). This exercise was carried out to test capabilities in water safety, food safety, chemicals management, command, control, and communication built within the framework of the aforementioned project. The tabletop exercise included two scenarios on public health issues related to water safety, food safety, and chemical exposures during mass gatherings.

4. In 2023-2024, as part of Project 87 "Preparedness and Response for Mass Gatherings and Other Health Threats in Central Asia," Poison Information Centers were established in Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Pakistan's center was inaugurated at the National Institute of Health, while the "KazToxBase" was opened at the Center for Sanitary and Epidemiological Expertise of the Medical Center under the Administration of the President of Kazakhstan.