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10 YEARS



CBRN
Centres of Excellence
An initiative of the European Union

Ministry of Interior

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Gulf Cooperation Council Regional Secretariat

Profile

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

ESTABLISHED: 18 June 2014.

LOCATION: The Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates.

OVERALL GOAL: Strengthen capabilities of Partner Countries in mitigating CBRN risks.



Partner Countries



Kingdom of Bahrain



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



The State of Kuwait



The State of Qatar



The Sultanate of Oman



United Arab Emirates



Objectives

- 1 ▶ Support Partner Countries in identifying CBRN Risk Mitigation needs and priorities.
- 2 ▶ Develop regional and sub-regional project proposals to address the needs of Partner Countries.
- 3 ▶ Support Partner Countries in the establishment and the institutionalisation of CBRN National Response Teams.
- 4 ▶ Support Partner countries in the development of CBRN capability building structures, activities, and cross-border exercises.
- 5 ▶ Enhance ownership for CBRN Risk Mitigation by Partner Countries in the region.
- 6 ▶ Facilitate the provision of CBRN technical assistance to Partner Countries.
- 7 ▶ Organize Round Table Meetings to facilitate regional coordination and exchange of information between Partner Countries.
- 8 ▶ Reinforce regional cooperation in the GCC, including a reinforced coordination with the GCC Emergency Management Centre.
- 9 ▶ Reach out and coordinate with international organisations and donors as required.

Food contamination
Nuclear
Radiological
Chemical
CBRN
Radioactive waste
Terrorism
Biological
CRIME
Organized crime
Safety and Security
Border Control
Accident
Risk Mitigation

Regional Priorities



Border control and monitoring



Biosafety



Chemical safety and security



CBRN Medical Preparedness and Response



Cross-Border Exercises

Recent Achievements

The first inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise "FALCON" was held in Abu Dhabi in February 2016 and gathered representatives and experts from the GCC, Middle East and North Africa regions, as well as international organisations such as the IAEA, the WCO and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

The first Joint Regional Workshop between the EU CBRN CoE Initiative for the GCC region and the Gulf Cooperation Council Emergency Management Center (GCC EMC) was conducted in 2018 in Kuwait on CBRN Threats.

Several virtual training sessions were held during 2020 and 2021 to enhance regional capacities in all CBRN fields, particularly in radiological safety and security, as well as in chemical and biological substances risk mitigation.

10 International Expert Gatherings focusing on the preparedness to a second wave of the pandemic were organized by UAE in partnership with the EU CBRN CoE In 2020.

A new CBRN Hub was established in UAE in collaboration between the GCC Regional Secretariat, the Knowledge Group of Abu Dhabi University, EU-JRC, NATO, Interpol to serve as a platform for future training on CBRN for the UAE, the GCC Region and Internationally.

In October 2021, the GCC Regional Secretariat participated in the INTERPOL Biosecurity Initiative Enhancing Biological Incident Prevention table-top exercise in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

15 National Focal Points Round-Table Meetings were held, including in Abu Dhabi, Kuwait City, and Brussels.

5 Heads of Regional Secretariats Meetings held at the EC Headquarters and virtually between 2014 and 2022.

1 CBRN CoE Academy held in Turin, Italy (2022).



Projects

The region participated in **8 projects**, **3 of which are ongoing**:

Project: P82

Capacity Building for Medical Preparedness and Response to CBRN Incidents in the GCC countries



Project: P89

EU P2P Export Control Programme for Dual-use Goods - Middle East



Project: P80

Strengthening the CBRN Centre of Excellence Regional Secretariat for the Gulf Cooperation Council Region

Background

The EU CBRN CoE is funded and implemented by the European Union (EU). The Initiative is led by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) of the European Commission (EC), in close coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS). The EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides technical support to Partner Countries, while the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) ensures coherent and effective national, regional and international cooperation. Other relevant International and Regional Organisations and experts also contribute to the Initiative, which represents the EU's largest civilian external security programme.

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