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CBRN Centres of Excellence
An initiative of the European Union

South East and Eastern Europe Regional Secretariat

Profile

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

ESTABLISHED: 9 July 2013.

LOCATION: Tbilisi, Georgia.

OVERALL GOAL: Strengthening Partner Countries' capabilities in mitigating CBRN risks.

Partner Countries

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Ukraine

Food contamination
Risk Mitigation
Accident
Waste Management
Terrorism
CBRN
Biological
Chemical
Disease Outbreaks
Safety and Security
CRIME
Radiological
Strategic Trade
Nuclear

Regional Priorities

- CBRN risk assessment
- CBRN capacity building
- Biosafety & Biosecurity
- CBRN Infrastructure Protection and Security
- Enhance border control of CBRN materials
- CBRN national legislation
- Food Safety and Defense
- CBRN Forensics Capabilities
- Transport safety and security of CBRN materials
- Strategic Trade Control of Dual Use Goods
- CBRN public awareness

22 Regional Round-Table Meetings of the National Focal points were organised. Over 30 workshops were organised with the National CBRN Teams in the region. 10 Online Webinars were organised to discuss the COVID-19 country priorities expressed in the fields of response, exchange of best practice and success stories. 4 practical training sessions on ISO 31000 in Risk Management and CBRN risk assessment were conducted.

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, and North Macedonia carried out the Needs Assessment Questionnaire workshops. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia have finalised their National CBRN Action Plans (NAP) or similar documents. CBRN donor's coordination conference will be organised for those countries which have completed the process of developing their CBRN National Action Plans.

The SEEE CBRN Regional Action Plan was unanimously adopted and endorsed by NFPs of the SEEE region. Countries of the SEEE Region join the European Network of CBRN Training Institutions, titled e-NOTICE Network, after conducting regional awareness-raising workshops.

The SEEE Region produced the Prosecutor's Guide to Chemical and Biological Crimes in close coordination with the OPCW and IAP, using regional subject matter expert. In 2024 A Prosecutor's Guide to Radiological and Nuclear Crimes was published in cooperation with the IAEA, the JRC, the UNODC, and the IAP. Five training courses were developed to operationalize these Guidebooks: "Table Top Exercise", "Building a case for prosecution", "Mock Trial", "Train the Trainer" and "CBRN Criminalisation".

Projects

30 projects have been implemented in the region, of which the current 3 is ongoing:

Project: P88

Strengthening of CBRN Medical Preparedness and Response Capabilities in SEEE countries

Project: 100

Strengthening of Front Line Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures

Project: 101

Enhance of CBRN Critical Infrastructure Protection and Security

Methodology

7 National Teams

6 Completed Needs Assessment Questionnaires

5 CBRN National Action Plans officially approved

Background

The European Union (EU) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative is funded and implemented by the 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, which represents the EU's largest civilian external security programme.

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