



European
Commission



Courtesy of the project (CERBERUS)

GETTING AHEAD OF FUTURE THREATS THROUGH TRAINING AND COOPERATION

Project name:

The establishment of the Central European Regional Mobile CBRN-E/Dirty Bomb First Responder Unit (CERBERUS)

Purpose:

Building a first responder unit to deal with a radiological, biological or chemical weapon incident

AT A GLANCE

Geographical coverage:

Budapest, Hungary

Project coordinator:

Keszenletti Rendorseg

Estimated budget:

€ 3 132 762

EU contribution:

90 % co-funded by the European Union

Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

Start date:

September 2018

End date:

September 2021

Overview

The project aims to create and maintain a regional, mobile, first responder unit that can react to the threats posed by the illicit use of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear materials, especially when they are combined with explosives devices. These devices are more commonly known as 'dirty bombs'. The project will develop cooperation and coordination abilities between cross-border and cross-sectoral first responders that, currently, does not exist within the European Union. This will be achieved by providing training for unit members, which will include practical, operational and knowledge-sharing exercises.

This evolution is initiated by dedicated bomb disposal agencies of Member States cooperating within the framework of the Central European CBRN-E¹ Training Centre, namely: Improvised Explosive Device Disposal unit of the Ministry of the Interior in Austria, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Department of the Czech National Police, the Hungarian National Police Bomb Disposal Unit and the Institute of Forensic Science of the Ministry of Interior in Slovakia.

Fail to prepare, prepare to fail – why it is important to have such a unit

The establishment of the first responder unit will allow for cooperation at an operational level among the EU Member States in response to these threats. In order to achieve this, the project will set up, train and equip the Central European Mobile chemical, explosive, biological, radiological and nuclear/ dirty bomb First Responder Unit. This, in turn, will greatly increase the preparedness of EU Member States' agencies and authorities to chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents, helping to ensure the safety of citizens.

¹ Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Emergency.



Training activities will consist of basic and advanced lectures as well as exercises covering the various ways in which chemical, explosive, biological, radiological and nuclear threats can occur. By the end of their training, unit members will be capable of deployment as members of a multi-national, first responder unit in any of the EU Member States that are collaborating on the project, to fulfil bomb disposal and crime scene management duties in a chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear-contaminated environment.

The overall result?

This project will result in a unique and important capability: the rapid deployment of the unit to areas that have suffered an attack in the central European region. The unit will be able to collect and analyse important data on chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear incidents, should they ever occur. Due to the high-risk nature of these types of attacks, the first responders will have access to the most up-to-date technology and resources to ensure that they and others, including civilians, can remain as safe as possible. Additionally, unit members will have special knowledge to provide guidance and advice on technical and forensic issues to the authorities of the affected area.

The availability and visibility of such assets will further increase EU citizens' sense of safety and security while adding to the overall re-enforcement of that security throughout Europe.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Overall, this project will benefit a number of areas, such as:

The chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear experts who are involved in the establishment of the unit within the framework of the Central European CBRN-E Training Centre;

The police forces of the central European countries, which will be trained and prepared for operating as unit members;

And ultimately, the citizens of the EU Member States because the unit will establish a chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear/dirty bomb response capability that is currently absent within the EU.

MORE INFORMATION

Project reference: ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 815310

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