



European  
Commission

# BE PREPARED: WHY THE MELODY PROJECT IS IMPORTANT FOR EUROPE



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## Project name:

A harmonised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agent (CBRN) training curriculum for first responders and medical staff

## Purpose:

Building a more harmonised CBRN curriculum for Europe

## AT A GLANCE

### Geographical coverage:

EU-wide

### Project coordinator:

SCK-CEN (Belgium Nuclear Research Centre)

### Estimated budget:

€ 3 103 481

### EU contribution:

90% co-funded by the European Union

### Type of funding:

Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP)

### Start date:

November 2018

### End date:

October 2021

## Overview

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents may be released as a result of accidents; for example, a rail or road accident with a truck carrying chemicals. It is also possible that the release is caused intentionally, for example, by terrorist actors. According to the latest EU CBRN action plan, there are credible indications suggesting that terrorist groups might have the intention of acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or weapons, and are developing the knowledge and capacity to use them. First responders need to be prepared, and their needs for training must be addressed, so that they are better able to perform their tasks under dangerous circumstances, whatever their cause.

## The purpose of the project

The main objective of the MELODY project is to develop and deploy a harmonised chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training curriculum for first responders and medical staff, such as ambulance drivers, paramedics and emergency room personnel, by harmonising and strengthening the training curricula.

The objectives set out for the project will be achieved through a number of work packages, leading to a draft curriculum which, through consultation with end-users and practitioners, such as police, firefighters and emergency service personnel, will determine what the required training needs are.

## How will the objectives be achieved?

The objectives of the MELODY project will be achieved with a well-functioning consortium of experienced experts in the field of CBRN, and through the creation of a comprehensive collection of training curricula and teaching materials. The curriculum will be based on identified professional training needs of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear first responders, gaps in the existing training curricula and teaching materials.



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Delivering a harmonised CBRN training curriculum, including training guidelines with explanations for users deployed and evaluated by the target audience, will contribute to better equipping practitioners and operational personnel to be successful in their roles and take on their responsibilities with confidence.

Once the curriculum has been established, the project team will organise demonstration activities in order to raise awareness about the project's accomplishments. Ultimately, these activities are designed to allow European Member States to include CBRN in the training curriculum for first responders.

### What results can be expected?

Through the use of training trials, field exercises, and continuous efforts in raising awareness on the project and its activities, a more solid CBRN response will emerge throughout Europe. The trials and exercises will serve as a platform for both testing the findings of the project and identifying areas for improvement – should improvement be required. Additionally, through the involvement of a number of training facilities, this project will lead to the identification of new opportunities for cooperation among training institutions.

### BENEFITS OF MELODY

It will create a comprehensive collection of existing CBRN training curricula and teaching materials.

It will foster cross-sector cooperation through multi-agency training.

It will promote the harmonisation of European Union preparedness and responses to CBRN incidents.

It will enhance the protection of public spaces and urban areas via training, sharing of best practices and awareness raising activities.

### MORE INFORMATION

**Project reference:** ISFP-2017-AG-PROTECT 814803

**Title:** A harmonised CBRN training curriculum for first responders and medical staff

**Website:** <http://melody.sckcen.be>

