



EU CBRN Security policy and activities

Wiktor WOJTAS

European Commission

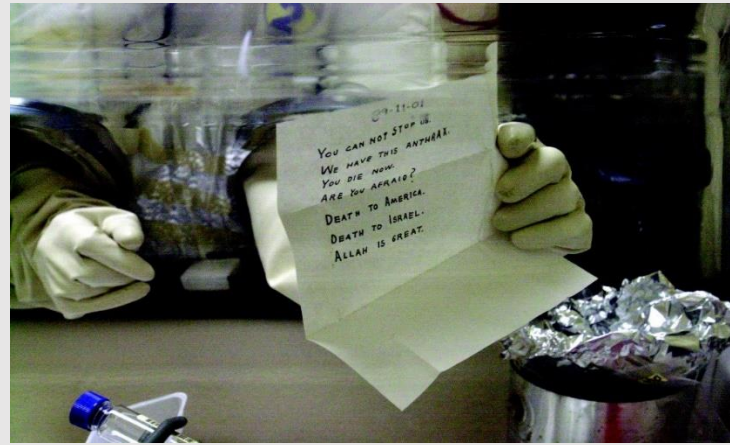
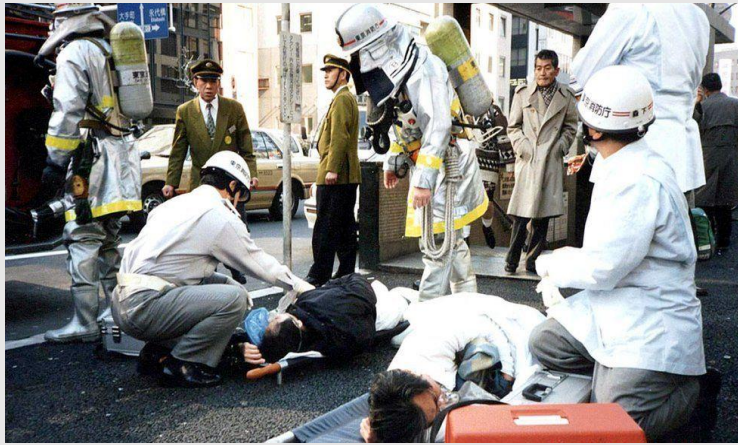
Strengthening Preparedness and Response to Biological Threats in Europe
23 MARCH 2026

CBRN terrorist threat



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CBRN threat – radiological threat



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Radioactive material stolen from Chernobyl monitoring lab: Here's what that means.

By Nicoletta Lanese published 23 days ago

Some of the materials could be used in dirty bombs.



Ukraine war: WHO says attacks on health facilities are rising daily

By Jim Reed
Health reporter

26 March



Thieves warned about stolen radioactive device



GETTY IMAGES

2 March 2022

Thieves have been warned about the risks of a radioactive device that was stolen from a van in Drogheda, County Louth.

It was taken from a parked van in the Highlands area of the town sometime between 18:00 local time on Monday night and 06:30 on Tuesday.

CBRN threat – chemicals

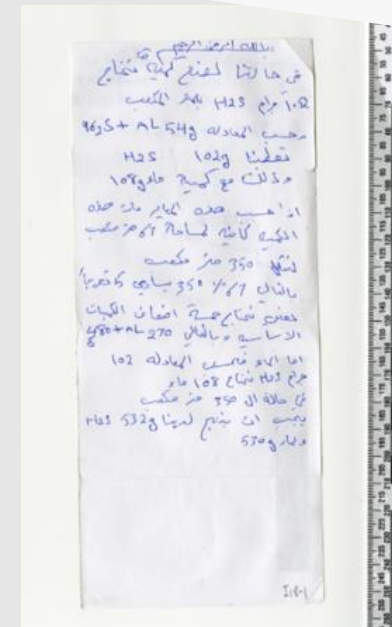


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- Australia – 2017
- Improvised chemical device – hydrogen sulphide
- Links with ISIS

- Could be constructed from household items
- Some threats are easily to construct
- Require some knowledge in handling
- Distribution inside closed areas hold high risk (theatre, convention, etc)



DANGEROUS JAPANESE 'DETERGENT SUICIDE' TECHNIQUE CREEPS INTO U.S.



A suicide technique that mixes household chemicals to produce a deadly hydrogen sulfide gas became a grisly fad in Japan last year. Now it's slowly seeping into the United States over the internet, according to emergency workers,

CBRN threat – toxins (ricin)

How Do You Really Dispose of Ricin?

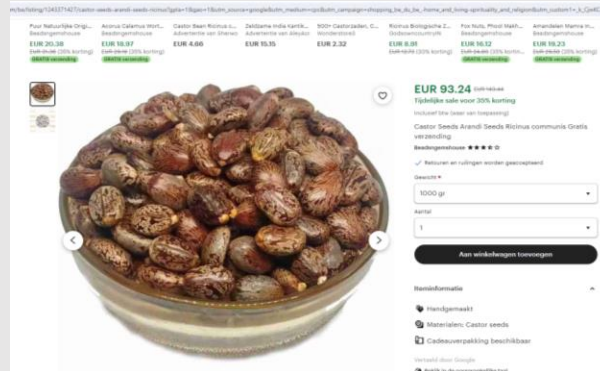
BY ALAN SIEGEL

JULY 23, 2012 • 6:37 PM



Walter White (Bryan Cranston) in last night's *Breaking Bad*.

Photo by Ursula Coyote © AMC.



Germany thwarted biological attack: police

Suspect was found in possession of deadly poison and bomb-making materials.



Cases

- In 1978, Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian writer and journalist who was living in London, died after he was attacked by a man with an umbrella. The umbrella had been rigged to inject a poison ricin pellet under Markov's skin.
- On 13 June 2018, police arrested a Tunisian producing ricin in his apartment.
- In 2017, Betty Miller, 71, was charged with manufacturing the deadly toxin ricin in her Vermont retirement community and testing it on residents
- On 2024, Jason Kale Clampit was arrested for producing ricin for the stated purpose of setting traps for trespassers (sentenced to 8 years for Possession of Biological Weapon).

2009 EU CBRN Action Plan

2017 Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks

2020 A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond

2025 ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy

2026 CBRN Preparedness and Response Action Plan



Brussels, 18.10.2017
COM(2017) 610 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and
nuclear security risks

Policy framework - objectives

- (1) Reducing the **accessibility** of CBRN materials,
- (2) Ensuring a more robust **preparedness** for and response to CBRN security incidents,
- (3) Building stronger **internal-external links** in CBRN security with key regional and international EU partners, and
- (4) Enhancing our **knowledge** of CBRN risks.



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EUSECTRA - European Nuclear Security Training Centre

Radiological Crime Scene Management

*Dedicated session for **Law Enforcement
Networks** on detection and elements of the
radiological crime scene management*

Radiological threat trainings for EODs

*Cross-border exercise – Hungary – October
2024*



2018 & 2022 workshop on security of radioactive sources

- Cooperation with the US Department of Energy (+ FBI)
- Purpose: to review and **discuss best practices** related to preventing and responding to a security incident where radioactive sources are in use (focus in 2022: medical facilities)
- Format: an interactive event with **scenario-based discussion**; presentations of case studies; small group discussions on the security culture, alternative technologies etc
- Target group: **law enforcement, regulators, site operators**



Follow-up to the workshops:

- Feedback from the participants: **need to discuss in depth** at the local/regional level
- **Less countries** -> more added value
- More practical approach -> working with **actual sites**

TTX exercise in Iasi, Romania (2023)



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Cooperation with the US Department of Energy on radiological threat



- **2023 table-top regional exercise**
 - Iasi, Romania
 - 25-27 September
 - **RO, BG, MD**
 - Radiological security at medical facilities



EU Home Affa... @EUHomeAffa... · 4m ···

🇪🇺 @EU_Commission, 🇺🇸 @NNSANews & 🇷🇴 #CNCAN conducted a joint regional exercise on response to radiological theft events at medical sites in Romania.

- 👮 Local and national law enforcement agencies
- ☢️ Radioactive source facility operators
- ⚠️ Regulatory authorities

#securityEU

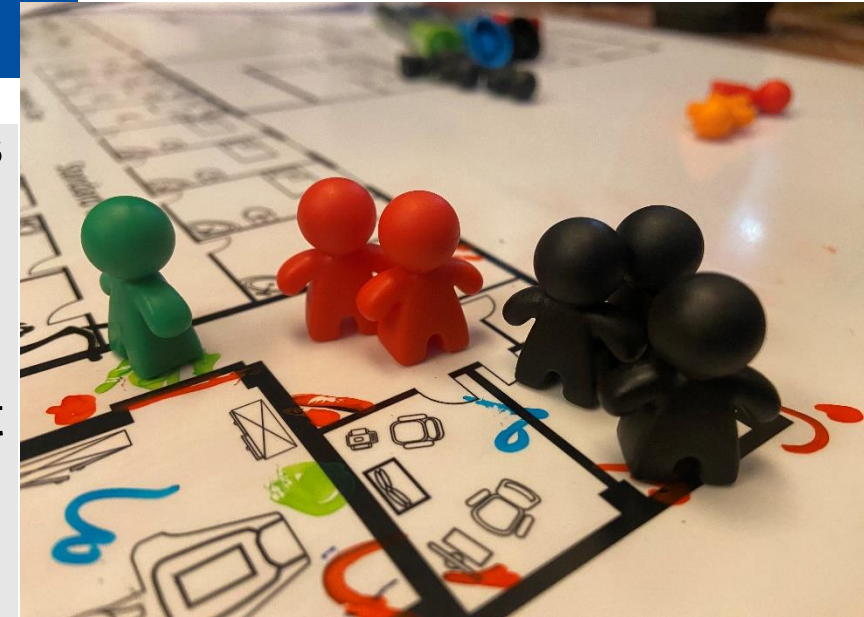


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🔄 EU Home Affairs reposted

TTX exercise in Iasi, Romania (2023)

- **Cross-sectoral** representation of the participating countries (police, gendarmerie, emergency, public health, regulator, operator...)
- **National Capabilities Briefs** (briefing on current capabilities and procedures for response to a radiological theft event)
- **Hospital visit**
- **Scenario-based discussion** (from planning of the security measures – through receipt and confirmation of an alarm through response deployment and arrival on the scene – to engagement with the terrorist)
- Excellent **feedback** from the participants



TTX exercise in Bydgoszcz, Poland (2024)

- Participants from **PL, CZ, SK, HU** and **UA**
- **Cross-sectoral** representation of the participating countries (police,, emergency, public health, regulator, operators...)
- **Pre-event online meeting**
- **Scenario-based discussion** focusing on **security of transport** of radioactive sources
- **Live exercises** by PL authorities
- Excellent **feedback** from the participants



Komisja Europejska  @EUinPL · Dec 4

Jak wyprzedzić terrorystów? Jesteśmy dziś z @EUHomeAffairs na ćwiczeniach oddziałów kontrterrorystycznych polskiej Policji   Inicjatywa jest częścią działań Komisji Europejskiej  w zakresie zwalczania zagrożeń.

Obecność mediów dopisała - dziękujemy!

poland.representation.ec.europa.eu/events/transpo...



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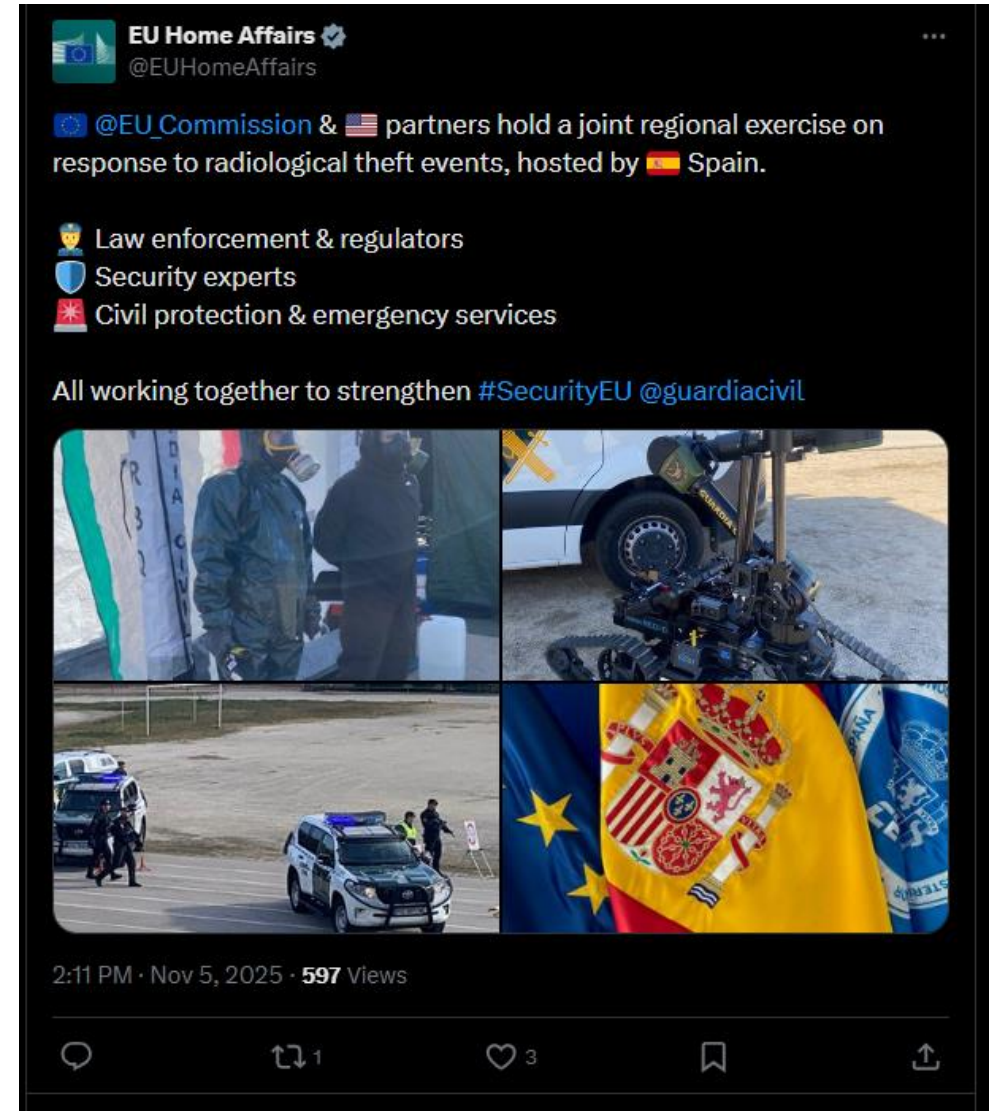
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TTX exercise in Madrid, Spain (2025)

- Participants from **ES, PT** and **Morocco**
- **Cross-sectoral** representation of the participating countries (police,, emergency, public health, regulator, operators...)
- **Scenario-based discussion** focusing on the theft of radioactive sources from the medical facility
- Additional **hybrid threat** element - blackout
- **Live demonstrations** by Guardia Civil and Policia National
- Excellent **feedback** from the participants



Ukraine-related trainings



Radiological and Nuclear Material – Detection, Identification and Monitoring Training

- Organised jointly with Europol and Portuguese authorities (PSP, Environment Agency)
- Two session in May 2025
- Participants: 33 from 19 Member States

Objectives:

- To present the specifics of police activities in crime occurrence with or possible presence of RN materials.
- To acquire or improve the skills of first responding personnel in the context of a scene with the occurrence or possible occurrence of RN materials (Assessment, prioritization, safety rules, sampling and items seizing, decontamination)
- To emphasize the need for close and effective cooperation of all responding forces/personnel (first responders, intelligence officers, investigators, forensics).
- To exchange experiences, best practices, and current trends in the field of RN/E



Enhancing our knowledge of CBRN risk

Detection trials - continuous work in cooperation with law enforcement networks, Member States authorities, private stakeholders, as well as other Commission services

Goals:

- Enhanced use of CBRN-E detection devices in the field of law enforcement, e.g. in the rail or aviation context
- Strengthened early detection of potential threats during regular patrols and in response to suspect items
- Contribute to early detection of potential threats to ensure safety of officers



CBRN detection pool of Member States experts

 **EU Home Affairs** 
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📸 Behind the scenes during the [#EUAfricasummit](#)

✈️ Protective Security Advisers (PSA) on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials and drone detection action at [@BrusselsAirport](#)

✅ Thank you for keeping us safe!
[#SecurityEU](#)

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15:29 · 18 Feb. 22

 **EU Home Affairs** 
@EUHomeAffairs

Our EU [#ProtectiveSecurity](#) Advisors (PSA) were on the ground this week with a [#security](#) debrief for [@UntoldFestival](#) in Romania 🇷🇴 🎵 [#UntoldMagic](#)

The PSA team was on site for 4 days of excellent cooperation with authorities & organisers.
[#EUProtects](#)
More [→ europa.eu/!8PnYXH](#)

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19:23 · 11 Aug. 22



Internal Security Funds - projects



TRANSTUN: a public-private initiative which addresses CBRN risks related to European Critical Infrastructures in cross-border tunnels



SAFE STADIUM: Integrated large **sport facilities** protection system supporting the CBRN security of mass events



HOTHREAT: Tailored CBRNe protection measures for **hotels and conference centres**



MALL-CBRN: Creation of CBRNE protection system for large area shopping malls



CBRNe4rail: CBRNe preparedness for passenger rail transport hubs



UNICOPS: **Universal CBRNE protection system** supporting the safety and open nature of higher education institutions.

Safe Stadium

CBRN security on large **sport facilities**

Partners from:



Research & technology experts

- University of Lodz, PL (Leader)
- International Security and Emergency Management Institute, SK
- Dynamic Safety Corporation, PL
- Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, IT
- National Institute of Aerospace Technology, ES

Sport facilities

- Real Madrid FC, ES
- Lech Poznan, PL
- MŠK Žilina, SK
- City Arena of Culture and Sport, PL

LEA, security, training experts

- SERIS Konsalnet, PL
- Hochschule für den öffentlichen Dienst in Bayern, DE
- Spanish National Police, ES
- Regional Police Headquarters in Lodz, PL
- Warsaw Metropolitan Police, PL

Starting point: CBRN level of Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery – based on SAFE STADIUM research phase:

- There is no audit tool for identifying weaknesses focused on CBRN risks,
- Policies, plans and procedures are sometimes not required by law and are frequently simply not there,
- CBRN knowledge and awareness is low,
- CBRN training and exercises are minimal, and the level of capability is generally low.

Goal: Comprehensive **security procedures, recommendations** for improvements in infrastructure and equipment; tools and templates for **vulnerability** and **risk assessment** or preparing **security plans**

Internal Security Funds - Safe Stadium exercises



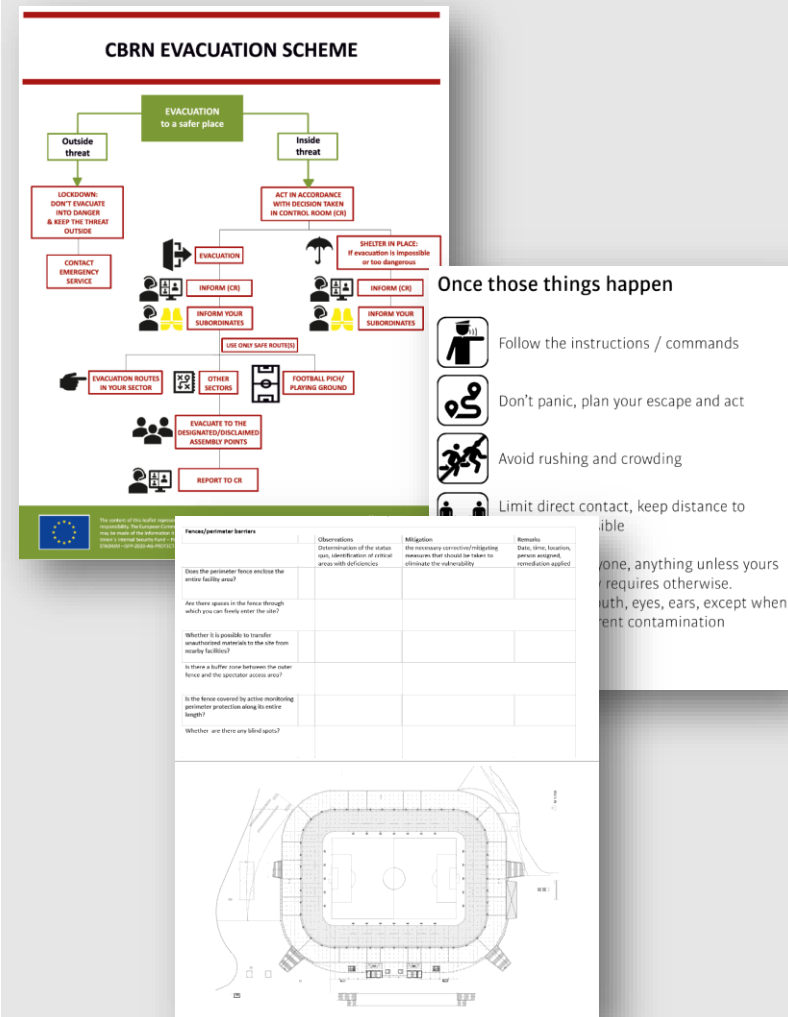
Aims:

- To validate project results & procedures.
- To strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and communication (first responders, LEA, fire fighters).

Conclusions:

- Joint exercises were very well received and should be repeated on regular basis.
- Simple and graphic materials are preferred.
- Focus of crucial CRBN concepts & procedures.
- Maintaining cooperation between sport facilities & first responses is crucial.

Internal Security Funds – Safe Stadium results



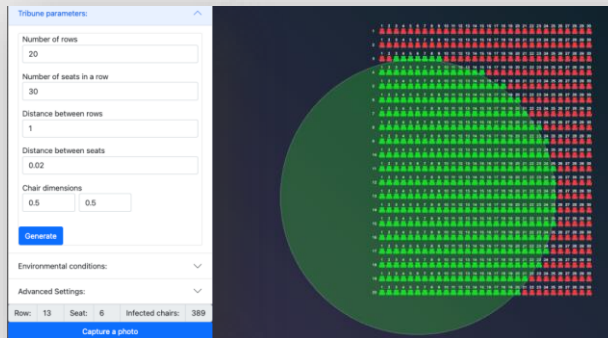
Procedures, tools, plans and guidelines:

- CBRN procedures, tools, plans and guidelines
 - ✓ Recognition, response, reporting
 - ✓ Reduced exposure procedures
 - ✓ Shelter in place
 - ✓ Improvised decontamination
- Evacuation & crowd management guidebook
 - ✓ Crowd behaviour
 - ✓ First response procedures
- CBRN-MED for sport facilities
 - ✓ Triage basic principles
 - ✓ First aid principles
- Guidelines for recovering the facility after CBRN act



Infrastructure, ICT & equipment recommendations:

- Recommendations guide to evaluate and improve infrastructure
- ICT solutions for sports facilities
- Detection and protection equipment manual and recommendations



Epidemiological response:

- Introduction to infectious disease spreading models
- Electronic tool dedicated for establishing the potential contamination zone



Flexible training materials:

- Trainer's handbook (PPT & subject cards)
- Trainee handbook suitable for self-study
- Short brochures with basic CBRN concepts and procedures
- E-learning course combined with VR simulations
- Animated movies

Slovakia - Preparation for EURO U21 Championship

International Security and Emergency Management Institute and MŠK Žilina organized CBRN multiagency exercise with scenario of simulated chemical attack within the stadium's facilities, specifically in a restroom, where toxic industrial chemicals were released intentionally as part of a criminal act.





Thank you!

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