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Title

Enhancing CBRN first response in the framework of the CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative: the case of South-East and Eastern Europe region.

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Project 44, "Strengthening CBRN first response capabilities and regional cooperation in South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine", is a EuropeAid CBRN centres of excellence project, led by SCK•CEN. The project is divided into 6 work packages where 5 partners share the responsibilities to meet the set objectives in 36 months starting January 2015. Project 44 aims at improving the preparedness and response capabilities for accidental, malevolent and natural events that would lead to releases of chemical, biological radiological or nuclear (CBRN) material. The main objective of the project is to enhance the response capabilities and promote inter-agency and regional cooperation in CBRN first response in the South-East and Eastern Europe region. The project activities include improving or building capacity for detection and ensure well trained first responders. This is obtained by investigating what is already existing in this framework, both from the legal point of view and from the technical point of view (equipment and knowledge). To enhance the legislative part, the national legal frameworks were investigated. A focus on the existing working procedures lead to a significant improvement. Furthermore a gap analysis of CBRN first response equipment was performed, resulting in a new project via which CBRN first response equipment is provided to the partner countries in this region. Training in CBRN first response for local trainers is developed and several CBRN exercises are being organised and held.

Every country has its CBRN risk profile. Based on this specific scenarios for exercises are being developed. During the year 2016 table top exercises were carried out in 3 different countries Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro. We aim to share with the participants the different challenges and progress achieved in this project so far.