



Funded by
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ARZ 2023
CBRN Field Exercise

ARZ 2023

A Field Exercise to Counter CBRN Terrorism

23-26 October 2023

Beirut, Lebanon

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

1. Type and general scope of the exercise

Under the patronage of the Lebanese Government, within the framework of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN CoE) and in line with the CBRN National Action Plan of the Republic of Lebanon 2023-2028, a field exercise focusing on countering CBRN terrorism will take place in Beirut, Lebanon from 23 to 26 October 2023.

The field exercise has been named ARZ, meaning cedar in Arabic and which is the symbol of Lebanon to reflect the solidity of the Lebanese institutions that have shown commitment and resilience to react to the numerous challenges Lebanon has been facing during the last few years, including those with a CBRN dimension such as the explosion at the Port of Beirut and the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARZ 2023 will be an opportunity to test and validate the capacities developed by Lebanon in the CBRN area. It will also be a tool to measure the needs of the Lebanese institutions involved in the response to CBRN events and to identify the areas that need to develop new capabilities. This exercise is part of a series of activities for the Middle East region



that started with ARZ 2021, continued with the preparatory field training “ARZ 2023” conducted on the 23rd of May 2023 and will continue with an exercise to take place in 2024 in Jordan.

The exercise is led by the National CBRN Coordinator of Lebanon, Dr Bilal Nsouli, and is funded by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) of the European Commission. ARZ 2023 is co-organized by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) jointly with the On-Site Assistance Expert for the Middle East Regional Secretariat (CBRN CoE Project n. 94). ARZ2023 is also supported by and designed in close coordination with the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), the CoE Projects n. 73 “Protection of Critical Infrastructures”, the CoE Project n. 94 “On-Site Technical Assistance to the EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariats” and the CoE Project n. 97 “Improvement of the Chemical Security and Safety in the Middle East”. ARZ 2023 benefits from the technical support provided by the Governments of Italy (which also leads the evaluation process), France and Spain. Finally, several international organisations including the IAEA, OPCW, UNOCT, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, UNODC, UNODA, Fondazione SAFE and the League of Arab States are partners of ARZ2023 and support the exercise as members of the evaluation team or as observers.

The ARZ 2023 scenarios will mainly cover the capacities at the operational level, although considering some strategic aspects (e.g. response plans). It will focus on the following areas:

- Management of leak of chemical material triggered by a terrorist action;
- Search for CBRNE materials, improvised devices and their components;
- Detection, identification, sampling and investigation related to CBRN materials from a counter-terrorism and forensic perspective;
- Extraction, medical treatment and decontamination of victims in a CBRN incident, with a focus on mass casualties;
- Countering CBRN terrorism at the operational level;
- VIP protection in a CBRN incident;
- Awareness regarding attacks with unmanned aerial vehicles and other dissemination technologies;
- Disinformation and communication with the public.

2. Objectives

- Improving the response capacities to chemical, radiological and nuclear threats
- Fostering and promoting interagency coordination and cooperation between participating sectors, institutions and agencies
- Enhancing capacities related to sampling and identification of CBRN materials, taking into consideration forensic aspects attacking the terrorist network
- Reinforcing coordination capabilities to investigate an incident involving CRN materials
- Improving medical treatment capacities after CBRN incidents, specifically focusing on mass casualties



- Raising the visibility of the EU CBRN CoE initiative in Lebanon
- Testing existing SOPs
- Improving VIP protection capabilities in a complex CBRN environment
- Responding to attacks with unmanned aerial vehicles, including the disposal of such devices enhanced with CBRN payloads
- Testing and validating the capabilities built through the implementation of the activities of the CoE Project n. P73 “Protection of critical infrastructures”.
- Preparing the ground for the implementation of project n. 97 “Improving the Chemical Security and Safety in the Middle East” and assessing the capacities in other CBRN risk mitigation areas.

Proposed main scenarios

1. Terrorist attack at the sea-port in the cargo loading area

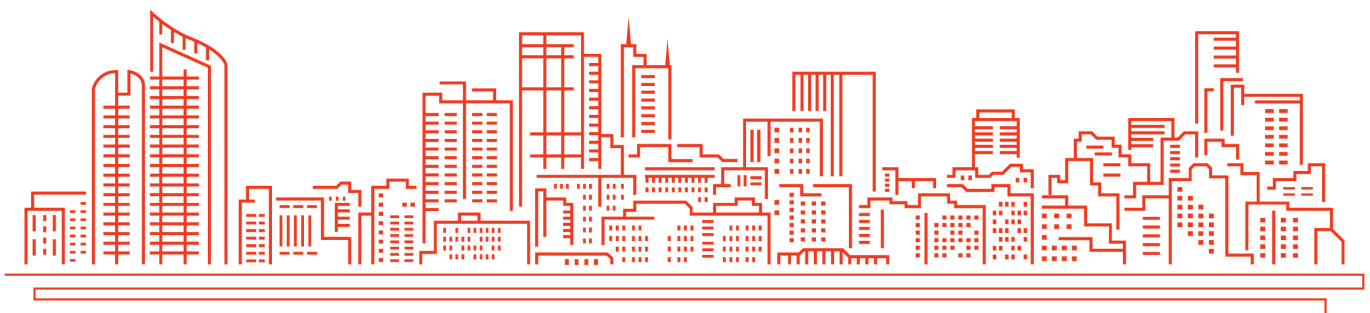
- A truck is used to conduct a terrorist action at the port: it starts hitting workers before crashing against a container that contains chemicals, which results in the release of chemicals.
- A second attack outside the hot zone targets first responders and bystanders, changing the situation and producing mass casualties in a potentially contaminated environment.
- The President of the Republic is visiting the victims in the hospital. This situation is exploited by the terrorists who attack the hospital with rockets loaded with chemical agents.
- The attacks leave on the ground also unexploded ordnance. Over social media, there are several versions of what happened, feeding the threads of misinformation.

2. CBRN terrorist attacks against a high-visibility event and another public place

- A high visibility event attended by the Prime Minister and a large crowd is attacked with chemical mortar shells.
- Attackers are neutralized and evidence is collected to pave the ground for a reaction against the terrorist network and related assets.
- A building is searched identifying chemical, biological and radiological hazards as well as IED (improvised explosive device) components.
- Another attack is conducted in an indoor public place. Terrorists take hostages from the visitors of a cinema.

3. Participants

The Lebanese institutions that will take place in the exercise are the following:



- Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)
- Internal Security Forces (ISF)
- Governmental Guard
- Presidential Guard
- Civil Defence
- Red Cross
- Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission
- Beirut Fire Brigade

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Lebanese authorities will host the exercise with the support of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence and other international partners.

The exercise planning group is composed of the following:

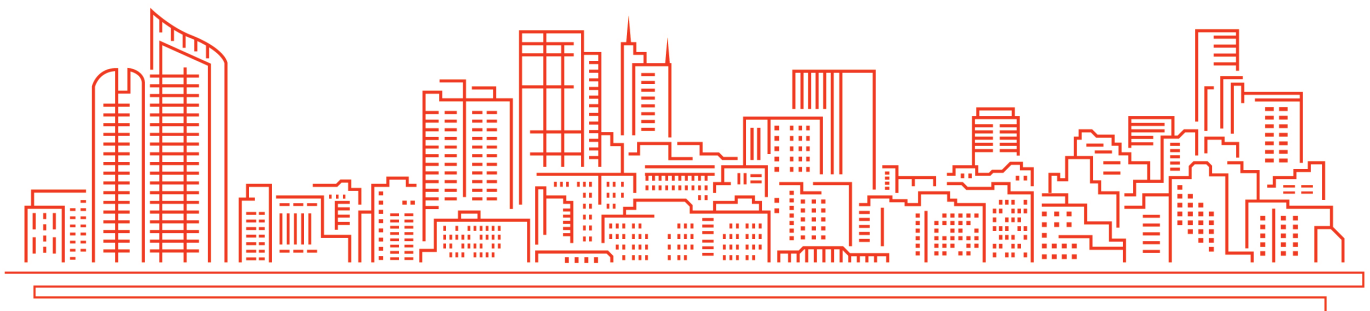
1. The CBRN National Coordinator – CoE National Focal Point
2. Exercise director and a deputy (LAF, ISF)
3. Head of Lebanese agencies taking part in the exercise
4. UNICRI's Middle East Regional Coordinator
5. International experts: OSA (on-site assistance) and European Union
6. Representatives of participating national institutions
7. Relevant International organisations and partners
8. Representatives of dedicated institutions responsible for logistic and financial expenses.

5. Evaluators and Observers

5.1. Evaluators

A team of international evaluators, coordinated by a CBRN expert appointed by the Italian Government, will be composed of members from the following organisations:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- UNICRI



- INTERPOL
- The NATO School
- Italian Army
- Austrian Armed Forces/On-Site Assistance Expert for the Middle East
- Guardia Civil EUROGENDFORCE - (Spain)
- Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention – French Police (France)
- SCK CEN (Belgium)

5.2. Observers

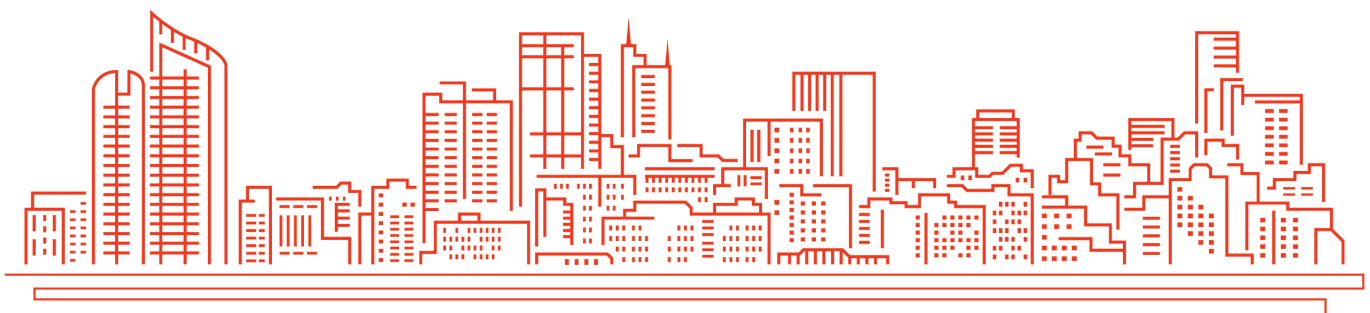
- International organisations (UNOCT, EUROPOL, League of Arab States, UNODC, UNODA)
- EU and EC representatives, including the Joint Research Centre
- Expert delegates from countries cooperating in CBRN issues with Lebanon (Oman, United States)
- Delegates from MIE partner countries of the CBRN CoE initiative
- Heads, Regional Coordinators and OSA Experts of the EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariats
- Implementers of relevant projects

6. Timeframe for planning and exercise rollout

The exercise shall take place in October 2023 within the premises of the Internal Security Forces Academy of Aramoun, located south of Beirut. The planning group will need to gather at least twice before the event in person, in line with the below timeline table. In addition, various virtual meetings will be conducted, organized by UNICRI and supported by the OSA expert.

Timeline

Time	Meetings and conferences
6 April 2023	Food for thought, discussion with potential partners on scenarios, funding, hosting, participants and other relevant details.
23-24 May 2023	Initial planning conference: Coordination meeting, logistics meeting, to be conducted after the “preparation exercise” and P73 final ceremony. Agreement on scenarios. Starting point to prepare exercise documents. Starting the preparation of the scenarios, precisely scenario 2 (responsible institution for UAV procurement and piloting)
6-7 July 2023	Experts meeting, technical planning conference





13-14 September 2023	Final planning conference
18 October 2023	Internal preparatory meeting for Lebanese participants
23-26 October 2023	ARZ 2023 exercise

7. Preliminary agenda

The exercise is scheduled to last for 4 days including the preparatory day that will target only the Lebanese participants, the organising team and evaluators. **Externals and observers are welcome from day 2 until day 4.** The field exercise will take place at the Aramoun Training Village while the visibility event may take place at the Grand Serail in Beirut (TBC).

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	26-Oct
8:30 – 14:00	8:30 – 14:00	8:30 – 14:00	10:00-12:00
Preparatory Day only for organising team and evaluators	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Visibility event
Technical opening session. Briefing on logistics, safety and security for Lebanese participants and the team of evaluators. Exercise and scenario briefing, identification of roles and roles and responsibilities during the field exercise, radio communication, and static display of equipment.	Opening Ceremony Terrorist attack at the sea-port	CBRN Terrorist attack against a high-level visibility event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of the exercise • Main findings of the evaluation • Certificate award ceremony • Conclusions • Press conference
	14:00-15:00	14:00-17:00	
	Hot wash-up, after action review, evaluation	Hot wash-up, discussion round on emerging threats, after action review, evaluation	

