EDEN Project launches the first demonstration activities to validate innovative methodologies for tackling CBRNE threats.

The use by terrorists of CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive) agents and accidents involving CBRNE are threats to all populations and infrastructure demanding a timely action of prevention and response by appointed institutions. This is why the European Commission is readily committed to support Research & Development to improve the CBRNE resilience both at national and international level.

This is the case of the EDEN (End-user driven DEmo for cbrNe) European project that started in September 2013, which is aimed at investigating improved solutions for preventing and responding to CBRNE threats.
The main task of EDEN is to validate the functionality of tools and procedures, developed and integrated by the 36 partners of the project, which encompasses Industries, Academia and Research Centres, through eighteen close-to-real demonstrations.

The demonstration activities are centred on three different sets of scenarios concerning Biological and Chemical threats in the food chain, attacks to industrial facilities and accidents involving toxic chemicals and Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (RNE) emergencies arising from attack to nuclear facilities and from radiological dispersal devices (RDD).
Up until the end of the project, scheduled for December 2016, EDEN has a packed agenda of demonstration activities with some already executed and with others in the final phase of preparation.

From January to May 2015 Poland has been the scene for three demonstrations related to RNE emergencies. They included a series of workshops devoted to a simulation of attacks to a virtual nuclear facility, a full scale in-field exercise with active participation of end-users such as fire fighters, rescue services, governmental authorities, border guards and many other and an initial table-top exercise.
The next demonstration for the RNE scenario is planned at the ENEA Research Centre in Frascati (Italy) where, with the presence of end-users coming from all over Europe, there will be tested innovative techniques for remote monitoring of RDD and methods to tackle the smuggling of radiological material.

For the scenarios involving chemical events, a table-top demonstration was carried out in June 2015 in Norway. The two-day demonstration was dedicated to medical aspects of a large-scale chemical warfare agents (CWA) attack. Meanwhile, the preparations are progressing for full-scale demonstration and a table-top exercise is planned respectively in Antwerp (Be) and in Rome (IT) during the autumn of 2015.

Finally, the activities relating to the demonstrations for BC threats to food chains, scheduled for April 2016, are going ahead on schedule with relevant tests in Italy and Spain.

Cooperation between European stakeholders in the CBRN areas and practical demonstrations are the key features of the EDEN project. The demonstration activities are the test bench where EDEN will prove the added value brought by the EDEN project to the security of European citizens and to competitiveness of the European industry in the CBRNE area. Active participation of end-users for evaluating the outcome of the demonstrations is strongly encouraged. For more information on how to get involved it is possible to contact the coordinator of the EDEN End User Platform at the email address *p.tessari@iai.it, the Supplier Platform michael.loescher@eu-vri.eu and the SME Platform at stephen.swain@cbrneltd.com*.