

# CONSORTIUM



KEMEA - THE CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES



SOBT - SPECIAL COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT



EUC - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CYPRUS



IICT - INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AT THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



CP - CYPRUS POLICE

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title: Confrontation of CBRN-Terrorism Threats

Project acronym: COBRA

Type of funding scheme: ISF-Police Action Grant (Call: ISFP-2018-AG-CT)

Topic addressed: Protection

Start date of the project: 1st Oct 2019

End date of the project: 31st May 2023

Total Cost: EUR 1 644 529.01

Total EU Contribution: EUR 1 454 075.12

Grant Agreement No: 861789

Co-ordinator organization name: The Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Greece

Partners: KEMEA (Greece); SOBT and IICT-BAS (Bulgaria); EUC and CP (Cyprus)



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## COBRA PROJECT

**FIELD EXERCISE IN BULGARIA,  
28 FEB - 1 MAR 2023**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION  
AND HOME AFFAIRS



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S INTERNAL SECURITY FUND - POLICE UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO 861789.



## TRAINING

The field exercise was conducted in Bulgaria from February 28 to March 2, 2023, which included related organizational activities and its analysis.

The objective was to rehearse standard operating procedures of the Bulgarian national agencies in the event of a terrorist threat including the use of a "dirty bomb" and the kidnapping of hostages at Sofia Airport.

The exercise was led by the Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism Directorate (SOBT), with assistance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Sofia Municipality, and Sofia Airport.

On March 1st, the exercise began early in the morning. The terminal was attacked by two people carrying weapons and a backpack containing obvious metal canisters.

One of the hostages was able to call 112, he was able to alert the authorities. The Border Police and the Sofia Airport Security Directorate activated their response protocols and established a perimeter to prevent the situation from escalating, as well as a crisis headquarters to coordinate personnel and resources.

The operator alerted the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Operational Duty Center and the Sofia Municipality.

The officials of the Capital Municipality built a Command Control, a Tactical Operational Center, a Health Center and a Military filter station.

Negotiators from the Institute of Psychology made contact by telephone with the terrorists and after difficult negotiations managed to arrange the evacuation of the injured.

the SOBT officials took control of the lounge, neutralized the terrorists and brought the situation under control.

Following the evacuation, a bomb squad was dispatched to deal with the improvised explosive device.

Employees of the Metropolitan Municipality, were allowed to carry out an air pollution test and secure the containers in this reasonably safe atmosphere.



## WORKSHOP

On March 2nd, an analysis of the exercise was conducted with the help of all representatives from the field exercise to highlight the strengths and flaws in the execution of the exercise.

National officials representatives began discussions regarding future cooperative initiatives in the interest of enhancing interaction and cooperation in the event of terrorist attack.



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