

SIMULATION, CRITICALITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

1. Simulating the protection of the Adriatic Seaway

Within the research activities, Table Top Exercises were organised. «This type of activity involves a simulated response to a hypothetical natural or man-made disaster. These exercises are easier and faster to plan and execute than full scale exercises, which involve the mobilization of resources to a remote location or the use of actors as victims. Table top exercises are especially helpful in testing emergency response procedures and enabling communications and coordination between personnel who typically do not work together. The focus of a table top exercise should always be on identifying and eliminating emergency response deficiencies before an actual emergency occurs.

The focus of a table top exercise is not actually on solving the problem, but on working through the steps to respond to the problem. In some table top exercise, no solution is clearly attainable. In others, the components of the solution are provided to the participants as the table top exercise progresses. However, participants can: Test and validate organizational operational and policy level response plans in problem identification, interagency coordination, integration of resources and crisis resolution; Help representatives of various departments and organizations become more familiar with one another's personnel, capabilities and vulnerabilities; Develop and refine internal and external communications, cooperation, teamwork and confidence; Improve understanding and familiarity with the Incident Command System and the Unified Command System; Identify gaps in plans and resources; Train personnel and clarify roles and res-

possibilities in emergency situations»¹.

The table top exercises focused on two scenarios in the Adriatic Sea: an oil spill from a tanker cruising in international waters; and a terrorist attack to a ferry also cruising in international waters. A moderator facilitated the interactions among participants whilst ISIG staff graphically elaborated the development of the scenarios and took record of your contributions. Participants were asked to describe the actions their organisation/institution would undertake in the event of each type of disaster taking into consideration the interactions with other stakeholders. Moreover, participants were encouraged to bring to our attention potential CIs and actors which might had been left out when the exercise were planned. The next paragraphs gather the results of the simulations.

1.1. Simulation 1: Simulating an oil-spill in the Adriatic

1.1.1. t₀ - Early warning

An oil tanker traveling along the Adriatic Sea is experiencing grounding or collision, with the risk of oil leakage.

We decided on purpose to fix neither a precise position of the vessel nor its flag, and this for 2 reasons: on the hand to get from the participants to the table top exercise as much information as possible, and on the other hand not to exclude any of them as possible actor of the simulation. Thus our tanker is on international waters, and we figure out that its early warning would be received by more than one Country.

The scenario in fact is organized in two main phases: this so called t₀ phase, and the following t₁.

This twofold scenario has been drawn on the base of the field-work we carried out so far within the project.

The t₀ is then the opening phase, in which we figure out that the proper recipients, according to national contingency plans and international regulations (Coast Guard, Maritime rescue coordination centers, Port Authorities, etc.), get the early warning message from the oil tanker.

1. And for further info: <http://www.infragardmembers.org>.



During the final conference the following information were given by the Coast Guard of Trieste to amend the results of the table-top exercise as far as the Italian stakeholders are concerned. The Italian

law regulating the response to early warning in the event of a risk of oil spillage out of a tanker is the law 979 of the 1992, art.11-12. The recipient of the early warning from the tanker is the radio station of the closest Coast Guard. The local Coast Guard will inform the MRCC in Rome, dialogue with the tanker, and gather the information about the position and load of the vessel. The MRCC in Rome will inform the Ministry of Environment. At the end of this chain of alert diffusion, we can say that the t_0 is over. For the passage to the t_1 the crucial point is whether the possible spillage and fire is considered of small or large magnitude. In fact, there are in Italy two operative strategic plans for such a crisis: the local one, and the national one. If the crisis is evaluated as apt to be handled at the local level, obviously the local plan is enforced. If the crisis seems to go beyond the forces of the local Coast Guard, the national plan is enforced.



The actor who decides on this aspect is the Ministry of the Environment, on the base of the proposal from the Head of the local Coast Guard involved. This means also that the local Coast Guard is

allowed to dialogue directly with the Ministry of Environment in Rome, and not only via the MRCC. In the case A (local emergency), the actor in charge is the local Coast Guard, that involves a number of other actors, according to the needs and criticalities of the situation. The actors are the local fire brigade, the local Civil Protection, and any other agency whose contribution is found helpful. It is important to remark the role of the private company Castalia. The latter has yearly contracts at national level with the Ministry of Environment, for providing water cleaning services. In a local emergency event, the Coast Guard may ask the Ministry of Environment the permit to involve the equipments of Castalia, that are displaced in all the most important Italian ports. The permit of the Ministry is necessary to cover the expenses of the cleaning operations. In the case B (national emergency), the Ministry of Environment alerts the national Department of Civil protection, that takes the lead of the operations. The national Civil protection will involve all other subjects mentioned (Castalia, local Coast Guard, local fire brigade, etc.) as supporting actors. As regarding the other Countries of the Adriatic basin, the actor in charge of informing them about the operations is the MRCC in Rome.