



SAFE

Security and Freedom
for Europe

Fondazione SAFE
Mission Report
» 2022



*Calvarina ex-base
rendering of SAFE renovation project*

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Foreword

Another intense, challenging but very rewarding year has concluded, with important results achieved by Fondazione SAFE in all its areas of operation.

During 2022, we worked on the implementation of 20 projects, supporting over fifty public and private institutions, including civilian and military entities responsible for emergency management, law enforcement agencies, research institutions, private companies and international organizations. Thanks to our continuous effort in strengthening our relationships with key stakeholders in the security and defence sectors, we were able to sign six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Cooperation Agreements, respectively with Italian Defence Staff (SMD), University of Verona, NATO SFA CoE, Italian Air Force 3rd Wing, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT) and the French Gendarmerie. Forging new collaborations is part of SAFE's mission to promote a strong and productive network of complementary institutions that can ultimately contribute to high-impact projects in EU Member States and in EU neighbouring countries. Newly signed MoUs will not remain a formal step but will guide the creation of projects in the years to come, contributing to excellence, impact and innovation promoted by SAFE.

In 2022 we also kicked off five new projects and presented fourteen project proposals. Our increased activities – paired by growth of our team, which was joined by four young professionals – aligned to the growth strategy set by SAFE for the period 2020-2025 and contributed to the consolidation of SAFE reputation as a reliable coordinator of international innovative initiatives in the field of security, peace, stabilization and rule of law.

Looking back at horizontal results obtained, I am especially proud of our development in the Virtual Reality and eXtended Reality domain. 2022 marked the achievement of many mid-term objectives in this sector, including the process of digitalizing SAFE's Training and Testing Facility, the former NATO base Calvarina (Roncà, Italy) and the launching of SAFE first self-funded initiative for the creation of a fully tracked and immersive VR training scenario for emergency management operators. This project will unveil its full potential in 2023, but it already allowed to secure a functional demo in 2022, successfully tested by several SAFE partners in project events and meetings.

This innovative application of eXtended Reality will allow us to provide highly specialized, customized training modules for emergency management, CBRN and first response in general, placing SAFE at the forefront of investments and innovation in training and exercises for EU first responders. The presentation of our work in this field at the November 2022 ITSEC in Orlando (USA), in the context of the NATO research technical group on XR for CBRN training that we lead, marks another milestone in this evolution process.

The Calvarina base remained crucial also in our offer of HEAT (Hostile Environment Awareness Training) courses, which continued successfully with participation of NGOs personnel as well as civilian personnel deployed to EU missions. In 2022, four training sessions have been performed with over 50 participants from 12 countries, as well as a Training of Trainers session for EU Agencies security managers delivered in JRC Ispra. In the coming years this initiative will continue thanks to the signature of a three-years contract with the Italian Broadcaster RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana) for delivering of HEAT training to 160 journalists, proving the successfully vision SAFE had for supporting security awareness and security culture of civilian personnel deployed around the world.

In conclusion, 2022 proved to us that SAFE team has been able to continue its growth and consolidation, progressing in the implementation of research and innovation, training and testing initiatives but also beginning new, ground-breaking initiatives that will further enhance the Foundation role as a key player in its sectors of operation. Once again, all these results and achievements would have been impossible without the commitment, enthusiasm and vision of each team member— all together we will be able to continue on this path, transforming ideas into concrete actions, raising the security and freedom of all citizens of the EU and its neighbouring countries.

Andrea D'Angelo

President – Fondazione SAFE

SAFE Foundation

01.

SAFE is an independent not-for-profit Foundation, founded at the beginning of 2018 in Italy. Thanks to its own funds and by participating to projects funded by the European Union and other international actors, SAFE promotes high-impact research, training and development activities in the security, defence, peace, freedom and fundamental rights sectors.

Our History

2018

January 2018 – SAFE is founded as an Association and opens its office in Ravenna

2019

January 2019 – an operational office is opened in Soave (Verona). The team works on the design of the first SAFE-managed projects on security and rule of law

June 2019 – start of the first CBRN project in Lebanon guided by SAFE, and start of the activities in Libya

November 2019 – start of three DG Home-funded, SAFE-led projects, signed an Implementing Partner Agreement with OSCE for a project in the Western Balkans

2020

January 2020 – the SAFE Team grows, with new staff members in Soave, Ravenna, Rome and Beirut

May 2020 – start of discussions for the management by SAFE of the former military base at Monte Calvarina (Roncà)

June 2020 – SAFE works for the renovation of the historical building in Soave "ex-Mulino", which then becomes the headquarters of SAFE operational office in August of the same year

November 2020 – SAFE consolidates the work on countering evolving forms of organized crime, with several new projects launched in the EU and Mediterranean region

2021

January 2021 – SAFE transforms into a Foundation, formally recognized as an institution of public interest by the Italian State, after a year-long control and validation process

February 2021 – official signing of the agreement on the management and development of the former NATO base “Monte Calvarina”, to be transformed into a training and testing facility. Signing of an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Defence for the implementation of HEAT courses

July 2021 – SAFE is formally accepted as a member of the training centers network of the European Security and Defence College. SAFE’s staff grows, enriched by personnel of different nationalities

September 2021 – The first HEAT “be SAFE” course is held successfully, organized by SAFE and the Italian Ministry of Defence

November 2021 – signed the first military research project funded by the EU on Virtual Reality for CBRN training. The first NATO research project led by SAFE is approved

December 2021 – SAFE achieves new objectives with 18 projects in implementation and 69 collaborations in 23 countries

2022

January/February 2022 – Coordination of 7 real-life exercises (4 in Italy and 3 in Romania) in the frame of the RESIST project

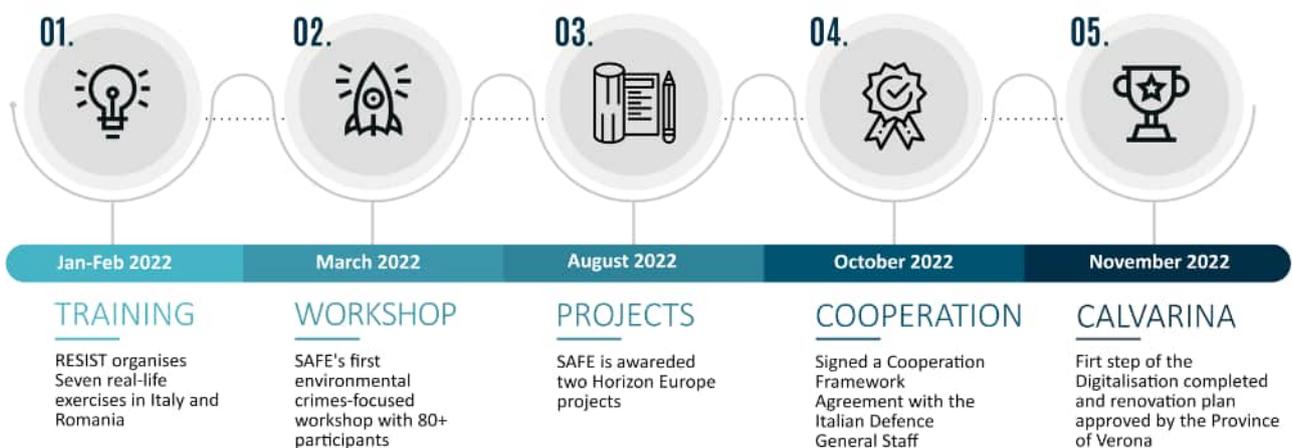
March 2022 – Organisation of a 3-days Workshop on “Drones Against Illicit Waste Trafficking” on the topic of environmental crimes, with more than 80 participants from 15 EU and Mediterranean countries

July 2022 – The digitalisation process of the Calvarina Base begins, with mapping of all buildings and design of the first VR scenario

August 2022 – SAFE is awarded two large R&I projects under the programmes Horizon Europe

October 2022 – SAFE Signature of a three-year Cooperation Framework Agreement with the Italian Defence General Staff (Ministry of Defence)

November 2022 – The province of Verona officially approves the renovation plan of the Calvarina Base



Values



Security

SAFE's work is characterised by projects and activities that contribute to a safer society, without limiting the fundamental rights of every citizen, but instead promoting the joint development of enhanced security and greater freedom.



Innovation

We want to reach our objectives with an innovative and effective approach. SAFE is composed by an ambitious team that knows how to operate with a high level of professionalism by generating new operating models, building tangible and sustainable innovation, on each day of its work.



Facilitating Connections

As a Foundation, we mainly work as facilitators, aiding the realization of innovative projects through the coordination of different actors from the public sector and research institutions, as well as experts from the private sector. We help creating and fostering connections among specialists and innovators, transforming ideas into tangible projects.



Impact

We are committed in creating a positive impact on society with our projects. We strongly believe in generating social impact both on the territory where we are physically present with our offices and in all the contexts where we operate with our projects. Continuous independent monitoring and evaluation of our real impact is one of the strengths of our working methodology.

Our Impact

SAFE Foundation has worked on an international level in more than 30 EU and Mediterranean countries in 2022. Our projects involve public and private entities, from state institutions to law enforcement, from academia to research institutions and SMEs.



In 2022 we worked with partners from:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, Ukraine

Footprint



Total involved Partners: 55



Projects in implementation in 2022: 20



02.

Activity Areas

SAFE is composed by associates and specialists that have been working for more than 25 years in the security sector at an international level, for the implementation of strategic, high-impact operational projects. The Foundation aims at establishing a multidisciplinary European hub that allows to operate with reduced costs, combining technical capabilities with years of experience in the preparation and implementation of projects in the fields of security, defence and rule of law.

Sectors of activity:

- Security Sector Reform (SSR)
- Defence, Peace and Stability
- Freedom and Fundamental Rights
- Monitoring and Evaluation

SAFE's network of stakeholders and beneficiaries

Beneficiaries

SAFE offers the opportunity to public institutions to design innovative projects, identify the most appropriate funds for their implementation and receive support and facilitation in all management and impact measurement processes.

SAFE gathers different technical and managerial skills, which allow us to facilitate not only the designing phase of new projects, but also to effectively support – acting often as a coordinator – the exchange of information, best practices, and research in all the management phases of a European or international project.

The activities implemented by SAFE count on the partnership of:

- European Union and other international donors
- Government agencies at all levels, both central, regional and local
- Emergency services and Law Enforcement Agencies
- Armed Forces, excluding development of offensive capabilities
- Universities and research centers
- Private sector stakeholders as experts, SMEs and leading industries in research and development of the security sector

2022 Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

By the end of 2022, SAFE signed 6 Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements with public institutions and law enforcement authorities, and the activities aimed at consolidating the relationships with Italian and European security sector actors are continuously evolving. These agreements add on to the solid and ever-expanding basis of relevant cooperations arrangements with sector-specific stakeholders that SAFE has been cultivating since 2018. SAFE can count on a total of 16 agreements, with over 16 institutions.

This year's agreements include collaborations with:

- Italian Defence Staff (SMD)
- University of Verona
- NATO Security Force Assistance Centre of Excellence (SFA Coe)
- Italian Air Force 3rd Wing
- Italian Institute of Technology (IIT)
- French Gendarmerie

03.

Special focus – the new 3-year Framework Agreement with the Italian Defence General Staff (SMD)



Building on its experience in research, development and training projects in the security and defence sectors, SAFE Foundation signed a Framework Agreement for collaboration with the Italian Defence General Staff (SMD) in 2022.

The three-year Agreement defines the collaboration between the parties for the design and implementation of projects, training activities, workshops, seminars and other capacitive research and development activities in the field of security through the signing of specific Implementing Agreements with the different articulations of the Armed Forces.

Some priority themes, such as CBRN risk mitigation, the fight against terrorism and organized crime, technological development for prevention and defence purposes, virtual reality and the metaverse as new training tools, are already present in the existing collaborations between SAFE and SMD and will be further strengthened in the coming months thanks to this Framework Agreement. This important achievement confirms and expands the long relationship of collaboration between SAFE and SMD, which started already in 2018 and involved the implementation of more than 10 projects, with a global value exceeding 23 million euros. The excellent results obtained in the European-funded projects RESIST, VERTIgO, MEDI-THEFT, OPFA-CULT, OPFA-WASTE, EULEAD, EU Technical Assistance on CBRN risks mitigation in Lebanon and P73, as well as in the Horizon Europe and EDF projects started in 2023, EMERITUS and PERIVALLON (HE) and MoSaiC (EDF2021) represent the starting point for a collaboration that will contribute for an increasingly leading role for the Defence in the context of European projects.

The Framework Agreement also consolidates the collaboration between SAFE and the Armed Forces for the implementation of HEAT (Hostile Environment Awareness Training) courses dedicated to civilian personnel operating in countries characterized by a medium to high level of risk.

The Framework Agreement with the Defence General Staff will allow for a more effective promotion of Italian excellence in the European arena, particularly in the areas of training and development and use of innovative systems, fostering the emergence of new projects that will contribute to making Italian and European citizens safer, more secure and freer.

Calvarina Training & Testing Facility

04.

Since February 2021, SAFE Foundation has been entrusted with the management of the former NATO military base situated at Monte Calvarina (Roncà, Verona). The aim of the revitalization process of this public asset, which had been abandoned for decades, is the creation of a new center of excellence for the training of public operators (such as law enforcement, civil protection specialists, firefighters, defence sector institutions), the preparation of civilian personnel (NGOs, private companies, journalists, medical staff) working in conflict and post-conflict countries or areas characterized by great instability, and the testing of innovative technologies developed at EU-level for the security sector. In parallel with the refurbishment of the area, SAFE Foundation has been working since June 2021 for the creation, within this facility, of a virtual and extended reality training center simulating interventions in complex emergency management scenarios.

The Calvarina Base is now becoming a one-of-a-kind facility in Europe, thanks to its peculiar features which makes it the ideal place for large scale and immersive simulations, and the public-private approach which characterizes its development and operational exploitation. A fully fledged “Laboratory of the future” in SAFE fields of operation.

The facility:

The former NATO base denominated “Control Area” at Monte Calvarina has a unique position and structure. It’s located in the beautiful hills of Roncà, in the province of Verona (Italy), on the top of Mount Calvarina. The area consists of 25.000 smq of available space, 4 buildings and 2 bunkers and a landing platform for helicopters and UAVs. At about 700m high, it is an isolated area, just an hour away from Verona.

Activities:

Thanks to its unique structure, size and characteristics, the Calvarina base can be used for different types of activities, including:

- HEAT (Hostile Environment Awareness Training) courses for civilian operators deployed in conflict areas
- Training activities for emergency operators and law enforcement agencies
- Simulations and exercises combining real-life scenarios and virtual reality environments
- Test of new technologies for the security and defence sectors
- Virtual and eXtended Reality activities



HEAT: Hostile Environment Awareness Training

Organized by SAFE in collaboration with the Italian Armed Forces, the “Be Safe” HEAT courses have been designed to offer a high-quality training course to public and private actors’ civilian personnel, such as:

- Humanitarian operators and NGO personnel
- Journalists
- Medical staff deployed to territories in conflict or characterized by high instability
- Company personnel deployed to areas characterized by a medium to high risk for personal security
- Diplomatic personnel

The training is structured on relevant European standards and covers basic and advanced concepts on individual security and protocols for intervention/reaction in hostile situations. Special Forces of the Italian Army, Navy and Carabinieri are engaged in every training session, supported by SAFE specialized staff and role players, creating a unique and immersive training context. SAFE is also one of the two HEAT course’s providers in the EU for CSDP missions.

In the training and education sector, SAFE also signed a three-year Framework Agreement with the University of Verona which includes training activities for University students and staff. These activities encompass HEAT training and other type of simulations for students in the “Governance of Emergencies” Masters Degree

Real-life exercise during a session of BeSafe HEAT course



RAI HEAT for the training of journalists

Thanks to the renowned quality of its training courses, SAFE has been awarded an international tender for the provision of HEAT courses for the national public broadcasting company of Italy, RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana). SAFE signed a 3-year contract for the provision of ad-hoc HEAT courses in line with the needs and practices of media professionals deployed worldwide. HEAT courses, which will be rolled-out as of 2023, will be attended by RAI employees (journalists, technical operators and more) and will provide them with the fundamental competences to protect themselves in hostile environments.

Training and simulation activities

The Calvarina base, being located in a remote area with a combination of natural environment and semi-abandoned buildings, creates the perfect conditions for an immersive scenario in which numerous and varied types of simulations can be organized in a semi-controlled yet realistic setting. Main types of simulations performed to date include the following:

- Natural disaster management,
- Civil protection interventions,
- Emergency response for health care,
- Psychological support during an emergency,
- Simulation of police interventions and special operations

Focus CBRN for Prevention and Protection from Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear threats

The Calvarina base represents a unique example of a training area in which public and private actors can conduct training activities, simulations, exercises and testing of innovative procedures and products designed to improve CBRN response on a national and international level. Through our projects we created a network of 50+ entities at European level dealing with CBRN, to whom we make the Calvarina base available. SAFE Foundation is partner of the Italian Cluster CBRN-P3, an industrial and institutional cluster that links public and private institutions active in the prevention from and response to CBRN threats.



Real-life first response CBRN intervention exercise

Testing of New Technologies for the Security Sector

The rapid and continuous evolution of the international context and its most recent challenges in the individual and global security sector require a specific focus on the role of technological innovation applicable to the security sector. These new technologies aim to improve prevention and protection of communities from risks generated by natural or man-made events. Several research areas (such as robotics, AI, virtual reality, medicine, biology, etc.) can be fundamental to generate new processes and tools which support first response operators in emergency situations. The testing of such applications and products is one of the key steps to validate new technologies: the Calvarina base offers the perfect location to test their functionalities in a semi-controlled environment.

Expanding the type of technologies tested in the area, in the framework of other EU-funded projects (Horizon Europe EMERITUS and PERIVALLON projects), the Calvarina Facility will serve as innovative testing ground for the testing of satellite-based monitoring sensors, deployed in support of European law enforcement agencies investigative work.

Calvarina base virtualization test



Virtual and eXtended Reality

Fondazione SAFE provides the possibility to carry out testing activities of new technologies at the Calvarina base, also offering eXtended Reality (XR) capabilities. SAFE has invested in the virtualization of one building at Calvarina (approximately 500 sqm), where several VR and XR scenarios are currently being developed and tested, inter-alia in connection to the following projects coordinated by the Foundation:

- EU-funded EDIDP2019 - VERTIgO (Virtual Enhanced Reality for inTeroperable training of CBRN military and civilian Operators), aimed at creating a European Simulation Platform and its integrated CBRN VR mask
- EU-funded EDF2021 - MoSaiC (Real-time Monitoring and Sampling of CB menaces for improved dynamic mapping of threats, vulnerabilities and response capacities)
- NATO STO Research Technical Group HFM-NMSG-354, which focuses on the Study, Design, Building and Deployment of a CBRN XR Training Platform

SAFE also welcomes testing activities in the context of self-funded projects and collaborations with private companies, such as the ongoing effort to create a virtual training scenario for chemical safety and security training.

Innovation in the "laboratory of the future"

The enhancement activities implemented by SAFE in the last years allowed to understand the potential of the area and to carry out, thanks to the technical support of the architectural firm AMAA and the Polytechnic University of Turin, a series of comprehensive surveys and mapping of the area and a participatory design for a complete and ambitious long-term redevelopment of the area.

A fundamental phase of discussion took place with the involvement of the Municipality of Roncà, the Ministry of Defence and the operational bodies of other Ministries involved in SAFE activities, as well as Universities and research centers. This allowed to outline the joint will of the Foundation and the Municipality of Roncà to create a public-private partnership aiming at the total redevelopment of the area and its management in the long term, recovering an asset of historical as well as social importance, making a local, National and European vision coexist in the redevelopment plan.

This project is so unique that it has been selected, directly by the curator, to be presented (one of the two Italian projects, over the total of sixty exposed) from May 2023 to November 2023 at the Venice Arsenal, the most prestigious space of the Venice "Biennale Architettura 2023", entitled "The Laboratory of the Future."



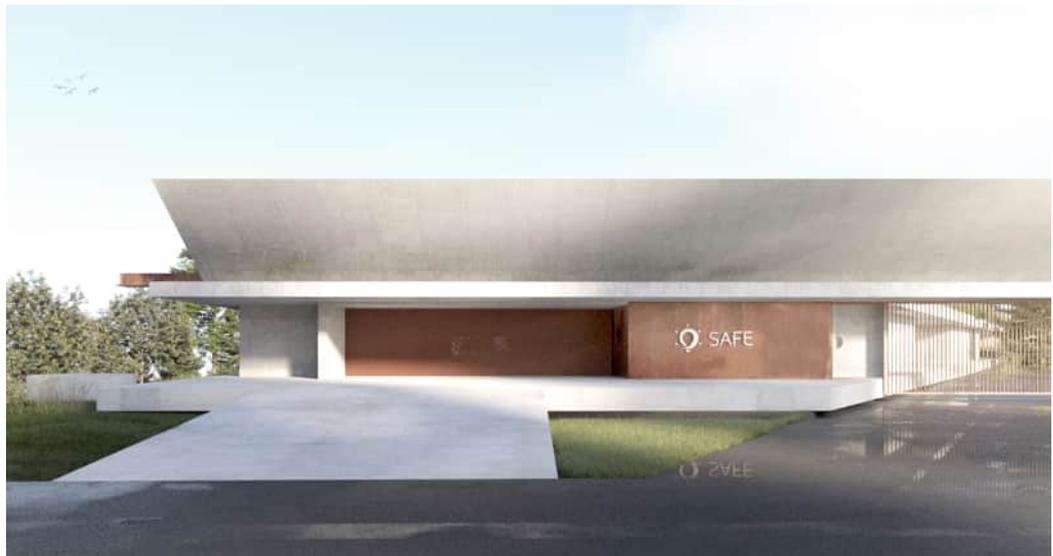
Rendering of the renovated buildings and surrounding area

05.

The renovation plan: redevelopment and revitalization

The comparison and participatory planning have allowed for the realization of an organic, ambitious, realistic and innovative redevelopment project, approved by the competent authorities with the landscape authorization of the superintendence and province of Verona (resolution no. 3208 of 04/11/2022).

A project capable of representing a turning point on the local level (both from an environmental and landscape point of view, as well as socio-economic, cultural and innovation induced), an important contribution on the national level (with the creation of a highly innovative training hub, capable of supporting the training efforts of actors such as Civil Defence, Fire Brigade, Armed Forces, Police Forces) and a unique level of innovation at the European level (through the creation of a multipurpose space for training and exercises, structured to fill present gaps and enabling the site to attract researchers, universities, research centers and personnel from institutions such as the European Union, NATO, and the United Nations).



Renovation project: rendering of the entrance of the "new" Calvarina base

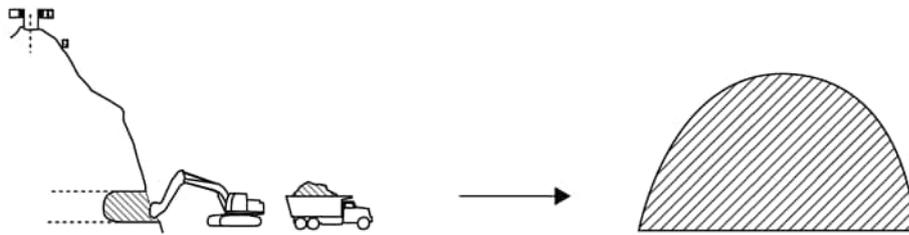
The renovation plan: facilities

The renovation plan includes flexible, multi-functional areas that can be adapted according to the needs of end-users. Among the facilities and areas foreseen by the project are included:

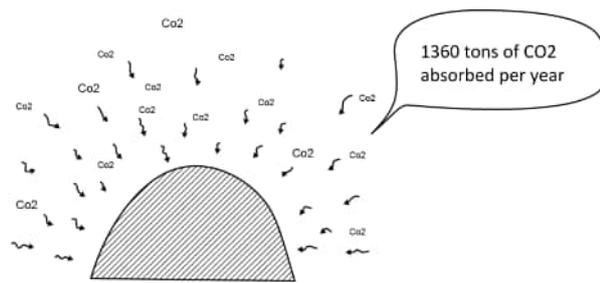
- Tunnel for real-life exercises
- eXtended Reality training areas
- Classrooms and meeting rooms
- Lodging and canteen

The renovation plan: environmental impact

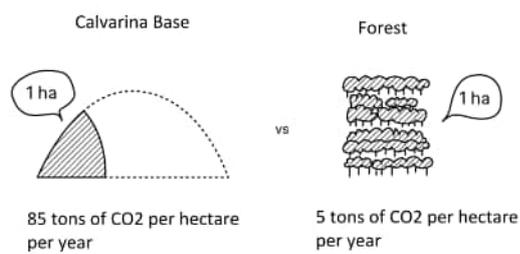
Last but not least, the renovation project brings forward a great ambition on the environmental level, foreseeing the reuse of part of the land from the national HST (High Speed Train) excavations to recreate the ancient profile of the Calvarina volcano and establish a new forest planted with native species, capable of absorbing more than 1360 tons of CO₂ per year.



Plan of the excavation to rebuild the Calvarina terrain



Environmental impact of the renovation plan





06.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

**20
22**

Law Enforcement Networking

Promoting networking among Law Enforcement Agencies is crucial to improve transnational cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information, capabilities and best practices.

SAFE is committed to supporting and managing Law Enforcement networks, where it serves as the operational and management coordinator and (among others) it is tasked with identifying and facilitating new funding and network development opportunities.

Security Sector Reform (SSR) Training

SSR training is critical in consolidating the operational capacity and skills of Law Enforcement Agencies (and their personnel) but also for Public/Private Critical Infrastructure (CI) Operators.

SAFE supports highly specialized training and capacity building activities, both through internal EU projects and technical assistance to EU partner countries in Europe, the Balkans, Easter Europe, the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Police Reform

SAFE guarantees constant strategic as well as technical support to police forces in the design and implementation of innovative projects, with the aim of fostering and strengthening synergies and exchange of best practices, enhancing cooperation among law enforcement agencies with an increasingly European and international nature.

Target areas are fight against organized crime, financial investigations, prevention of radicalization and counter-terrorism, forensic investigations, cybercrime, environmental crimes, and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

Innovation in the Security Sector

SAFE actively supports innovation in the security sector, both through its own funds and through the support of public and private actors in joining forces to design and implement high-impact, EU-funded projects. SAFE facilitates the connection between researchers and practitioners, to ensure effective R&D, testing in real-life environment and technologies update.



Trainings

18



Studies
performed

9



Events

18

PERIVALLON - Protecting the European territory from organised environmental crime through intelligent threat detection tools

€ 5.379.572 €

🕒 12/2022 - 11/2025

🌐 Spain, Greece, Italy, UK, Austria, Germany, Romania, Belgium, Sweden, Moldova, Israel, Estonia

Partners



PERIVALLON aims to develop an innovative environmental crime detection and investigation platform that will build upon the concept of multidimensional integration of heterogeneous multimodal sensor data, ranging from earth observation data (satellite images), video streams from cameras mounted on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and X-ray scans, to information gathered from publicly available online sources and related administrative documentation. In particular, the platform will aim to integrate, semantically interpret, correlate, summarise, and visualise the available multimodal evidence based on the latest advancements in AI technologies in order to support decision makers in detecting and investigating environmental crimes.

SAFE is leader of WP 6 and responsible for the implementation of training, testing, and demonstration activities concerning the PERIVALLON set of technologies dedicated to EU LEAs and Border Guards, according to 4 Pilot UCs. SAFE Training & Testing facility will host most of the operational and practical sessions offering the ideal setting to perform capacity building activities and test realistic scenarios in semi-controlled environment. Furthermore, SAFE will contribute to the definition of a tailored Intelligence Picture, and ensure the overall monitoring of PERIVALLON Impact Pathways.



Funded by



Horizon Europe programme



EMERITUS - EnvironMental cRImes' inTelligence and investigation protocol based on mUltiple data Sources

€ 5.525.062 €

🕒 09/2022 - 08/2025

🌐 Austria, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, UK, Romania, Moldova

Partners



EMERITUS is an innovation project funded under the Horizon Europe programme, that aims at implementing a protocol for effective environmental crime investigation, leveraging on the integration of innovative monitoring and analysis technologies (drones, satellite data, virtual sensors, geo-intelligence data, etc.) and on a complementary training programme aimed at fostering environmental enforcement authorities intelligence and investigation capabilities, at national and cross-border level. To achieve these goals, the consortium will implement 4 coordinated workstreams, involving law enforcement authorities, platform technical development , networking and validation in realistic conditions, leveraging on four selected use cases (UCs) concerning water contaminant source detection, water storage centers monitoring, cross-border illegal waste trafficking control and identification of illegal waste discharge sites in broad areas.

SAFE is leader of WP 4 and responsible for the implementation of training, testing, and demonstration activities concerning the Integrated System of technologies dedicated to EU Law Enforcement Agencies and Border Guards. SAFE Training & Testing facility will host most of the capacity building operational and practical sessions and scenarios testing in semi-controlled environment.

Funded by



Horizon Europe programme





MEDI-THEFT – Data sharing and Investigative Platform against Organised Thefts of Medicines

€ 1.579.251 €

🕒 11/2021 - 10/2023

🇮🇹 🇧🇪 🇷🇸 🇲🇪 Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro

Partners



Pharmaceutical theft represents an increasingly threatening phenomenon due to the high commercial value and to limited access to some medicines. The nature of this crime has become transnational with medicines often being stolen in one country and then reintroduced in the official market of another country. The MEDI-THEFT project aims at boosting the operational activities of LEAs and other public and private stakeholders in counteracting the theft and reselling of medicines and investigating of suspicious activities. The project consortium, composed by national health authorities, law enforcement, drug regulatory authorities, anti-counterfeiting and security systems organizations, and specialized research centres, aims at developing an intelligence-based platform available to EU LEAs for more effective investigations through enhanced data collection, analysis, and sharing in the context of the organized theft medicines.

In light of its mission to support institutional partners, SAFE provides both strategic and managerial assistance to AIFA, which acts as institutional coordinator of the MEDI-THEFT project, to ensure a sound and effective implementation of the foreseen actions and corresponding project outcomes. SAFE is also leader of the Work Package 5 focused on project Communication and Dissemination.

Funded by



Internal Security Fund





OPFA-CULT - OPERational FACility supporting the fight against illicit trafficking in CULTural goods

€ 441.946 €

🕒 04/2021 - 04/2023

📍 Italy, Belgium, Romania

Partners



With the support of



The illicit trafficking of cultural heritage represents a growingly dangerous phenomenon. On one hand, organized crime considers this type of trafficking as a relatively low risk/high reward market (including, for example, money laundering). On the other hand, the cooperation between European and international organized crime is becoming an opportunity for revenue for local organizations and a potential bargaining chip for illicit transactions. OPFA-CULT project aims at promoting international cooperation between law enforcement in the field of illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, by providing professionals of the EU police forces a financial operational support for ongoing investigations and by facilitating the creation of partnership networks for the definition of harmonized investigative methodologies. Building on the successful investigations led by the Carabinieri (Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage) and the experience of the Romanian Gendarmerie in protecting cultural heritage, OPFA-CULT promotes peer-to-peer cooperation between specialized law enforcement agencies, by funding ad-hoc training, mentoring and skills exchange activities. Since January 2022 OPFA-CULT is an EMPACT Operational Action.

SAFE is directly responsible for the management of the Operational Facility and the disbursement of the allocated EUR 200.000 to support investigations carried out by EU Member States' LEAs in the field of illicit trafficking of cultural goods. The Operational Facility is used to support ad-hoc capacity building activities and peer-to-peer meetings, with priority to cooperation for identification of high-value targets and related operational meetings, based on the specific requests coming from LEAs.



Funded by



Internal Security Fund



OPFA-WASTE – OPERATIONAL FACILITY for fighting illicit waste trafficking

€ 523,293 €

🕒 02/2020 - 11/2022

🌐 Italy, Latvia, Romania

Partners



OPFA-WASTE is a European project that aimed at supporting the realization of real investigation activities connected to Illicit Waste Trafficking. It was managed by a Consortium consisting of highly specialized European Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) which were coordinated by the Arma dei Carabinieri. OPFA-WASTE offered all agencies with policing responsibilities at the European level the opportunity to benefit from technical and economic support in the realization of investigation activities. In this context, OPFA-WASTE aimed at promoting international cooperation among law enforcement, through sharing harmonized investigative methodologies in the field of Illicit Waste Trafficking. Thanks to the creation of an Operational Facility, both Member States and EU Partner Countries were able to ask for financial support aimed at supporting transnational investigations connected to waste trafficking through the provision of training courses, specialized consulting, technical discussion meetings and strategic guidance. Thanks to the support of EUROPOL and OLAF, OPFA-WASTE has proven to be a point of reference at a European level for the sharing of best practices and methodologies and for the analysis of data through the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA).

Supported by



SAFE led the management of the Operational Facility and the disbursement of the allocated EUR 300.000 to support investigations carried out by EU Member States' LEAs in the field of illicit waste trafficking. Thanks to the management of the Operational Facility, OPFA-WASTE carried out more than 12 trans-regional activities including operational meetings and investigations, workshops, and research studies.

Funded by



Internal Security Fund





Support to BAMIN (Balkans Asset Management Interagency Network)

€ 504.000 €

🕒 03/2020 - 09/2022

🌐 Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Belgium, Ireland, Slovenia, Ukraine, USA, UK

Implemented by



BAMIN project is an informal network of Offices or Agencies for the management of assets confiscated from criminal organizations. It included members from 17 countries in EU, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, as well as observers such as UK and United States. The network's main objective was to improve the efficacy of the management and exploitation (selling, institutional or social reuse) or disposal of confiscated criminal assets. By belonging to the network, Agencies/offices and national police forces and judicial sector experts could exchange information and operational practices, and implement joint training activities and mentoring sessions. BAMIN brought together "asset management" experts, in order to support jurisdictions in the effective and efficient management of confiscated assets, aiming to maximize the economic and social return that derives from their intended use. Additionally, members of BAMIN could exchange technical, strategic and operational information through the Secretariat managed by SAFE to improve asset management both in national procedures and in case of cross-border seizures and confiscations.

BAMIN is the only informal operational network of governmental asset management practitioners worldwide, supported by an experienced network Secretariat. SAFE leads the BAMIN secretariat management and, within the project lifecycle ensured the organization of 8 steering group meetings, training sessions for over 200 officials and 3 Annual General Meetings, addressing overall more than 400 participants from 27 different jurisdictions



Funded by





RUNNER – dRone UNit Network against Enviromental cRime

€ 37.963 €

🕒 04/2021 - 04/2022

🇮🇹 Italy

Implemented by



Supported by



Supported by the dronEUnit and OPFA-WASTE initiatives, RUNNER promoted the creation of a discussion group interested in the exchange of best practices and fostered the growing synergy and cooperation among law enforcement agencies through the sharing of harmonized investigative methodologies aimed at facilitating a faster and more suitable data sharing. Apart from the drafting of operational guidelines as the result of a joint effort between sector operators (e.g., Carabinieri and local Turin Police) and internationally prominent institutions (e.g. EPPO), RUNNER culminated in the organisation of a 3-days workshop where innovative solutions and technologies to support investigative activities have been presented to an audience of more than 80 practitioners.

Organized by SAFE, the RUNNER project was very successful, involving 60+ institutional delegates, practitioners and experts, including participants from Interpol, OLAF, FRONTEX and judiciary and law enforcement representatives. It has been a unique chance for representatives to participate in significant discussions and exchange of information on best practices, new technologies and methodologies for the fight against environmental crimes. During the main RUNNER event in March 2022, participants had the chance to attend multiple technical discussion panels as well as practical drone simulations at SAFE Training and Testing Facility, located in the Calvarina base. RUNNER delivered a set of Operational Guidelines focused on the fight against Illicit Waste Trafficking, which have been reviewed and validated by high-level legal and operational experts.



Funded by





RESIST Project - Resilience Support for critical Infrastructures' through Standardized Training on CBRN

€ 1.033.941 €
 ⌚ 11/2019 – 04/2022
 🇮🇹 🇷🇴 Italy and Romania

Partners



Notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, RESIST managed to define and roll-out a standardized CBRNe joint training programme for the establishment of “CBRNe Intervention Groups” within public and private operators of Critical Infrastructures/public spaces targeting 97 operators from 10 pilot Critical Infrastructures (CIs). The theoretical training activities have been integrated with practical sessions and real-life exercises during which the beneficiary operators had the chance to prove they acquired the necessary skills to: i) intervene, when possible, reducing the immediate effects of a CBRN event; ii) adequately coordinate with the competent authorities to guarantee a timely and informed intervention; iii) ensure the provision of minimum services and /or contribute to the safety of the Critical Infrastructure itself.

SAFE implemented RESIST project as coordinator. Among key results, 8 real-life exercises were performed between November 2021 - March 2022 (5 in Italy and 3 in Romania), involving all 10 pilot CIs with more than 250 practitioners. Networking events and activities created synergies with sector-relevant EU funded projects, reaching out to a network of 50+ entities Europe wide involved in CBRN activities. The presentation of the CBRN Label to CEN/ CENELEC exceeded expectations. RESIST was invited by the relevant CEN Working Group to apply for a CEN Working Agreement aimed at translating the RESIST CBRN Awareness Course into a European Voluntary Standard for all Critical Infrastructures.



Funded by



Internal Security Fund



DronEUnit - Network of EU Law Enforcement Drone Units

- € Self-funded
- 🕒 Since 01/2020
- 🇪🇺 Spain, Italy, Greece, UK, Germany
Latvia, Norway, Sweden

Initiative promoted by



The City of Turin – Local Police Drones Unit and Fondazione SAFE agreed to take the leadership of a growing network of Law Enforcement Agencies that operates drones to guarantee the security of urban areas in the European Union and its partner countries. The creation of the Network of EU Law Enforcement Drone Units – named DronEUnit – aims at facilitating information-sharing, best practices and experiences in the field of urban security, involving the use of unmanned vehicles. DronEUnit is a unique platform where practitioners can discuss about the currently available technologies as well as potential solutions to deal with emerging threats. Thanks to DronEUnit, police officers have the opportunity to share their experiences with colleagues from other countries and meet representatives from a certified community of private sector and academia experts with the common goal of enhancing the security of EU public spaces.

The dronEUnit Initiative was founded in collaboration between SAFE and the City of Turin – Innovation Department. As a result of this synergy, SAFE plays the role of strategic and operational partner in support to the City of Turin, which represents the Network from an Institutional point of view. Against this backdrop, annual events have been jointly organized providing to relevant stakeholders the ideal platform where to share lessons learnt and good practices concerning the use of drones and novel technologies for law enforcement applications in urban scenarios.



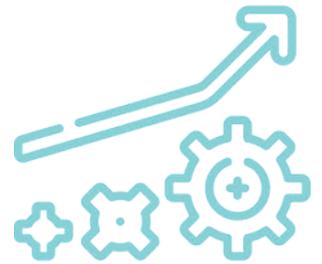
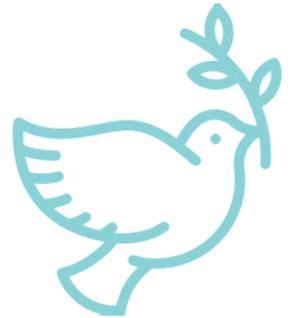
Funded by





07.

Defence, Peace and Stability



20
22

Defence sector – Transfer of know-how and innovation

SAFE promotes peace as a funding element of its work and consider the joint work with the Armed Forces of EU and non-EU countries crucial, both for the development of new technologies for the safety of citizens, and the transfer of know-how in conflict or post-conflict countries, as well as activities in the framework of Security Force Assistance (SFA). SAFE acts as a research and capacity building partner for EU and NATO funded projects in the area of technological innovation.

Disaster risk management and emergency management

To effectively address risks and emergencies, SAFE believes in an approach based on Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. In the field of disaster and emergency management, SAFE actively cooperated with institutional actors with the aim of improving existing operational procedures and encouraging the use of innovative solutions.

Protection of Critical Infrastructures

Critical Infrastructures (CIs) can be threatened by dangerous events, natural or man-made, involving operators, armed forces and emergency responders. Through its projects, SAFE enhances the preparedness and response capability of public and private operators of Critical Infrastructures in several countries, in line with national and international regulations.

CBRNe innovation and risk mitigation

Protection against CBRN intentional or unintentional events is crucial for global peace and security. SAFE actively supports and promotes innovation in the CBRN field, including innovative equipment, training courses and cutting-edge technological solutions (including the use of virtual and augmented reality for training, an area where SAFE stands at the forefront as “trend-setter” at European level). SAFE is committed to make CBRN research less expensive, more widespread and interconnected, breaking the barriers between public and private actors.

Mediation and peacebuilding

Peace is a fundamental facilitator for economic, social and human development. SAFE supports local and international actors facilitating dialogue opportunities, specialized training and technical assistance.



Trainings

10



Studies
performed

31



Events

11

MoSaiC - Real-time Monitoring and Sampling of CB menaces for improved dynamic mapping of threats, vulnerabilities and response capacities

€ 4.401.671 €

🕒 12/2022 - 12/2025

🇮🇹 🇦🇹 🇩🇰 🇪🇪 🇳🇱 Italy, Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Netherlands

Partners



The project MoSaiC will provide innovative sensing capabilities and real-time dynamic mapping of CB threats to enhance preparedness and response capabilities by military assets in permissive and non-permissive environments. This will be obtained through the use of low-cost and advanced Chemical and Biological sensors mounted on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Unmanned ground Vehicles (UGVs) operating autonomously or semi-autonomously, with data feeding in real time to a Command and Control (C2) and data visualization system. Data regarding Detection, Identification, and Monitoring (DIM) of CB threats will be rendered in 3D in real time or near real-time and using Virtual Reality (VR) for multiuser interaction and decision making.

SAFE is MoSaiC project Coordinator, leading all management, internal monitoring and quality control of the project, as well as internal and external communication, inter alia with the EU and with the MoDs of Austria Denmark, Estonia, Italy and The Netherlands, which formally support the project. SAFE also leads a technical task regarding the study of existing communication networks and their functioning in emergency contexts. SAFE also supports the exploitation WPs, providing its Calvarina testing & training facility to conduct relevant activities related to the development of reliable and advanced mapping navigation modules for UAVs and UGVs, as well as the testing of the combined final solution designed by MoSaiC.

Funded by



European Defence Fund



NATO STO HFM-NMSG-354

Study, Design, Building and Deployment of a CBRN XR Training Platform

€ Self-funded by participating nations

🕒 01/2022 - 01/2025

🚩 Italy, USA, Latvia, Belgium, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria

Countries



Developing extended reality (XR) simulations supports the efficiency and effectiveness of trainings for NATO nations military operators. XR training is especially beneficial in the CBRN field, with many advantages, such as a lower environmental burden, lower health risks and better availability of complex scenarios. Following-up on the long-term scientific study HFM-273 and the HFM-339 activity, the Research Task Group HFM-NMSG-354 has been approved by NATO, having as main objective the creation of a training software and hardware designed to produce effective XR CBRN defence mission operator training, in multiple real-life scenarios. The specific objectives of this panel include studying state-of-the-art in XR applications for CBRN training and basic scenarios, as well as studying immersiveness of the training experience and the prospective integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications. Several NATO countries are participating to this Activity as volunteers (classified as NATO Secret), under the coordination of SAFE, including Italy, USA, Latvia, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, Spain and Austria.

As Chair of this NATO RTG, SAFE ensures the smooth progress of all activities, from design to deployment. In line with its parallel activities in the context of project VERTIgO, SAFE oversees the development of four XR training scenarios, and is directly responsible for the definition of a Concept of Operation for the integrated XR CBRN Mask and the development of a system demonstrator.



Sponsored by





VERTiGO – Virtual Enhanced Reality for inTeroperable training of CBRN military and civilian Operators

€ 2.736.613 €

🕒 12/2021 - 11/2023

🇮🇹🇧🇪🇦🇹 Italy, Belgium, Austria

Partners



Virtual Reality applications and 3D virtual setting technologies have revolutionized the design of new computing platforms and the way real environments are replicated in the educational/training field. By pushing the limits of technologies in the areas of processing, sensing, and graphics, end-users are able to gain a better simulation experience in high-risk environments. The VERTiGO project supports an integrated approach to conflicts and disaster relief by creating a new, harmonized tool supporting virtualization and simulation of CBRN defence training. The overall objective of the project is the study, design and validation of a European Exercise Simulation Platform (EESP) for the application of VR to CBRN training. The immersiveness of the experience can also be facilitated by the development of a prototype of an ad-hoc hardware solution, which integrates a VR headset and CBRN mask for enhanced realism and user experience.

As coordinator of project VERTiGO, SAFE oversees the management and coordination of all project partners. SAFE is also directly involved in a series of research activities on state-of-the-art CBRN training as well as in the definition of key project outputs, such as the Concepts of Operations of the EESP and the integrated VR CBRN Mask. SAFE leads the elaboration of VR training tutorials on the use of the EESP, and its innovative scenario building component, which will allow end-users to design CBRN VR training scenarios independently.



Funded by



European Defence Fund



EULEAD PHASE III - European Union Libya Expertise, Advisory and Deployment

€ 4.500.000 €

🕒 06/2022 – 11/2023

🇱🇾 Libya

Partners



Building on the experience of Phases I and II, this third phase of the EULEAD project aims to support Libya's institutional development towards a stable, functioning country through the deployment of expertise in the area of stabilization and human security so that Libyan institutions execute their functions in a conflict sensitive and human rights compliant manner. All support will be implemented in complementarity with the European Union in Libya, international partners, and Libyan stakeholders, both at local and national levels in a way that reinforces stability and development to lay the groundwork for longer-term reform. Activities include the support to the Libyan Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to enhance their capacities to counter money laundering and terrorist financing as well as to support the National Safety Authority in their firefighting capacities.

SAFE is in charge of Workstream 3 which will strive to develop and deploy technical assistance through capacity building actions (such as framework assessment, mentoring and advisory, procurement of equipment, public financial management, training programs), technologies and innovative processes in support to first responders and security actors.

Funded by



The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace



Technology Building Block 7 – CBRN Hazard Management

€ 150.000 €
 🕒 12/2022 - 08/2023
 🇪🇺 EU Member States

Partners



The Project aims at designing and developing a roadmap of components for CBRN Hazard Management. The objective is to improve current capabilities in the field of individual, collective, and equipment protection against CBRN agents, as well as to achieve an enhanced level of hazard management, to reduce the potential impact of CBRN attacks. To reach those ambitious goals, the Consortium will first conduct an assessment of existing Hazard Management technologies and capabilities, followed by an assessment on EU/NATO and non-EU countries on activities, programs, and funding opportunities to increase Hazard Management capabilities. Finally, the project will see the development of Terms of Reference defining an innovative Portfolio of projects concerning CBRN Hazard Management with the aim at proposing a tailored Action Plan for enhancing EU Autonomy.

Acting as a Co-coordinator of the project, SAFE is responsible for overseeing the quality of the overall project implementation, providing strategic advice and quality review of technical outputs produced by project partners, according to their respective technical expertise. Moreover, thanks to its in-house technical experts, SAFE holds a crucial role in supporting Consortium partners in defining the above mentioned Terms of Reference, which will be essential to guide the EDA funding strategy in the next future. SAFE is acting together with a Consortium comprises 17 entities among core Partners and supporting Partners from 5 EU Member States representing different types of Stakeholders active in the CBRN sector, especially pertaining to the technical/scientific and research sector.



Funded by





CBRN Protection of Critical Infrastructures in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon

€ 2.999.200 €

🕒 07/2019 – 06/2023

🌐 Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon

Partners



The EU is enhancing its relationship with Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon and seeks to support these countries' development into a stable, democratic, politically open and economically strong neighbours. In this frame it is committed to exchange best practices in the field of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) disaster (natural and man-made) prevention, preparedness and response. The Centres of Excellence Project 73 strives to reduce vulnerabilities of critical assets, systems and network. P73 project in Lebanon provides the setting of protocols for implementation of physical protection, acquisition, installation and testing of appropriate CBRN detection systems. Furthermore, the project provides the training of personnel responsible for the protection of specific critical physical and virtual assets and infrastructures (CI) in Lebanon, as to achieve critical command chain protection through capacity building programme.

SAFE is the leader of the EU CoE P73 Lebanese component, focused on the protection of Chain of Command Critical Infrastructures from CBRN events. Since 2019, the Grand Serail and the Governmental Guard have been engaged as primary project beneficiaries. SAFE delivered and coordinated over 20 weeks of specialized CBRN trainings in favour of the Governmental Guard, with the support for the organization of the large-scale exercise "ARZ 2021". Other project activities have been implemented in support to the management of the COVID19 pandemic as well as the post 4th of August 2020 explosion. SAFE coordinated the organization of a 6-weeks training program for the Presidential Guard Brigade, with the deployment of five military CBRN instructors from the Italian Army.



Funded by



Instrument For Stability



EULEAD PHASE II - European Union Libya Expertise, Advisory and Deployment

€ 3.500.000 €

🕒 10.12.2020 – 09.06.2022

🇱🇾 Libya

Partners



Building on the experience of Phase I, this second phase of the EULEAD project aimed to support Libya's institutional development towards a stable, functioning country through the deployment of expertise in the area of stabilization and human security so that Libyan institutions execute their functions in a conflict sensitive and human rights compliant manner. All support was implemented in complementarity with the European Union in Libya, international partners and Libyan stakeholders, both locally and nationally in a way which reinforces stability and development to lay the groundwork for longer-term reform. More specifically, SAFE was in charge for supporting Libyan security institutions through the development and deployment of technologies and innovative processes (with a focus on advanced data analysis and tools), ensuring the adherence to ethical principles and data privacy regulations. Some of the activities included monitoring online disinformation, the involvement of local influencers to counter them and spread useful information, the support to first responders with the development of a chatbot.

SAFE has achieved relevant results in supporting local institutions and the Libyan population through the development and deployment of technologies and innovative processes. SAFE supported the Libyan Financial Intelligence Unit in combatting money laundering and terrorism financing as well as the 1415 Emergency Number through the creation of a conversational platform for Libyan citizens to report emergencies in real-time. SAFE also monitored online disinformation to assess main narratives circulating in the Libyan digital landscape to detrimentally influence local opinions. Lastly, SAFE has partnered with local influencers to develop web-series videos on relevant topics for the Libyan population such as COVID-19 disinformation narratives and domestic violence.



Funded by



The Instrument contributing
to Stability and Peace



08.

Freedom and Fundamental Rights



20
22

Social Innovation

As SAFE, we are strongly committed to the definition and management of Social Innovation projects that can act as multipliers for the development and empowerment of local territories and their citizens, with a particular focus on young generations.

We work alongside numerous local authorities to create innovative and sustainable solutions designed for dealing with the social needs of communities. Our proposals have several objectives, such as the promotion of the harmonious development of the local socio-economic fabric (by offering training and giving support to young people), encouraging supportive corporate ethics, but also facilitating the integration of social and work processes to benefit the most vulnerable.

During the last few years, SAFE - in partnership with the "socially-oriented" company ETHICS srl - has supported public and private entities nationwide in the creation of business incubators and innovation workshops aimed at young entrepreneurs, emancipating young talents, and encouraging them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by their territory. In collaboration with schools, we designed innovative and replicable projects to fight high schools' educational poverty and together with public bodies and other strategic players in the area, we have developed new forms of public-private community welfare. Our social innovation projects are implemented both in Italy (where we are present with our offices) and in other countries where we operate.

Rule of Law and Protection of Fundamental Rights

At SAFE we believe that only a free society can appropriately dedicate itself to the security challenges it must face, involving all social groups in a common effort for a safer future.

SAFE combines the promotion of increased security with the protection of fundamental rights, working to ensure that increased security parallels increased freedom. Our projects address these issues through the promotion of training activities for judges, prosecutors and judicial operators, collaboration with civil society organizations, fight- disinformation, support the role of women, and support activities in favor of vulnerable groups and minorities.



Trainings

15



Events

2



Odino - Officine D'INNOVazione

€ 550.000 €

🕒 01/2020 – 08/2023

📍 Soave and Verona (Italy)

Implemented by



Supported by



“Officine D’InNOvazione-ODINO” main objective was to support young people (16-30 years old) on the Veneto territory during their entry in the workforce through the organization of specific theoretical and practical educational activities, in the robotics and industrial field and in the wine market field. The activities’ leitmotif is technological innovation. To guarantee the utmost level of conformity with the curriculum, courses, seminars and other project activities were coordinated with the territory’s trade schools and based on an extensive analysis of abilities and skills that businesses require from future employees. Project activities started in October 2020 and were conducted in Verona (robotics/ industrial sector) and in Soave (wine market sector) and involved more than 20 local companies, the organization of at least 30 events and more than 1.000 hours of specialized education aimed at about 800 local young people. ODINO’s long term mission is to transform itself into a stable institution on the Veneto territory and extend its activities in other parts of Italy.

SAFE is leading all activities of the “Officina dell’Innovazione” (innovation workshop) based in Soave. In its 2 years of activity, the Soave Workshop has involved a total of about 250 young people from the Verona area in training activities related to innovation in wine-making processes. With the support of a network of about 30 local businesses in the wine sector - the Officina in Soave has organized 14 training courses, 2 extracurricular training sessions and more than 10 events consisting of institutional meetings and networking activities.

Funded by



EUROMED JUSTICE – Provision of training services for criminal justice practitioners withing the framework of EuroMed Justice V

€ 808.898 €

🕒 11/2021 - 07/2023

🌐 European Member States, South Partner Countries

Partners



EuroMed Justice is a capacity building programme that aims to create a tool for cross-regional judicial cooperation for criminal issues. The main objective is to strengthen strategic cooperation amongst national judicial authorities in South Partner Countries (SPCs), between SPCs and EU Member States and with EU judicial cooperation instances. In the context of the EuroMed Justice V Programme, the SAFE and EPLO Consortium organizes a series of 21 trainings involving about 350 justice professionals covering thematic areas in the field of international cooperation of criminal matters with support from EMJ PMT and CrimEx. The project will engage in its activities a total of 450 judges and prosecutors as trainees. The current program follows four thematic areas: International cooperation in criminal matters in the Euro-Mediterranean region, Procedural criminal law and investigative techniques, Criminal law, Cybercrime and environmental crimes. 9 trainings are dedicated to criminal justice practitioners from SPCs, 6 to justice practitioners from EU Member States and 6 to criminal justice practitioners from SPCs and EUMSs.

SAFE is the leader of project implementation. SAFE team has been responsible for preparation of training methodologies and action plan, as well as the overall organisation (technical and logistic) of over 12 training sessions for EU MS and SPC judges and prosecutors on International Cooperation in criminal matters in the Euro- Mediterranean region, Procedural Criminal Law, Criminal Law, Cybercrime and Environmental Crimes, engaging altogether over 270 professionals from sixteen countries.



Funded by





09.

Monitoring and Evaluation

**20
22**

A specific Monitoring and Evaluation structure tailored to the Rule of Law sector

A Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at SAFE is in charge of supporting donors in the elaboration and implementation of innovative monitoring and evaluation schemes in the specific context of security, defence and rule of law projects, outlining the technical and social impact of their actions.

This Unit builds on a solid expertise in delivering high quality services to assess and monitor efficiency and impact of programs and interventions, helping our partners to better understand how to improve efficiency across their management system, better focusing their activities and use of scarce resources, thus increasing the overall short- and long-term impact of their interventions and increasing the chance of long-term sustainability.

SAFE in-house evaluation team combines an experience of over 25 years in evaluation, having assessed over 300 projects and programs worldwide in the areas of Security, Home Affairs, Fight against crime and the Rule of Law sector, for a total combined budget of over 1 Billion Euro.



Studies
performed

3

External review of the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) and Support to Monitoring and Evaluation of ICAR Operational Strategy 2021-2024

€ 54.521 € and 28.689 €

🕒 08/2019 - 01/2020 and 07/2020 - 12/2024

🌐 Worldwide

Implemented by



In 2019, SAFE had been selected to implement the external review of ICAR activities, with the objective to assess the effective implementation of the Operational Strategy 2017-2020, as well as inform the new 4-year operational strategy. The review conducted implemented a series of desk analysis, remote interviews, field missions (Kenya, Malawi, Peru), online surveys and bilateral discussions with ICAR staff, donors, advisors and beneficiaries. After the completion of the evaluation of ICAR's actions, SAFE continued to support ICAR in the definition and implementation of an internal Monitoring and Evaluation strategy of the new Operational Strategy 2021-2024. The support activity was complemented by the development of a passport of indicators to assess outcomes, outputs and cross-cutting issues.

After performing an external review of ICAR in 2021, SAFE elaborated the results framework for the organization and continues its advisory role towards ICAR by providing an independent and external mentoring on M&E processes and systems, inter alia on the set-up of a Value for Money (VfM) assessment methodology and Impact measurement methodologies.

Funded by



Independent Reporting Mechanism – Action Plan Review

€ 8.930 €

🕒 04/2022 - 12/2023

🇮🇹🇳🇴 Italy, Norway

Implemented by



In April 2022, SAFE signed an Agreement with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Secretariat to carry out a series of evaluations in partnership with the OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM). The OGP is a unique international partnership which includes 76 countries, 106 local governments and thousands of civil society organizations. Within the framework of OGP, governments and civil society jointly commit through bi-annual Action Plans to promoting transparent, participatory, inclusive and accountable governance. Each Action Plan includes different commitments, covering topics such as anticorruption, open data, lobbying, civic participation and more. The IRM is OGP's accountability arm and the main means of tracking progress in participating countries. It provides independent, evidence-based reporting to hold OGP members accountable and support their open government efforts.

In 2022, SAFE performed jointly with the IRM a review of Italy's 5° Action Plan (Action Plan Review 2022-2023) and a final evaluation of the results achieved in Norway's 4° Action Plan (Results Report 2019 – 2022). The partnership between SAFE and the IRM is an ever-expanding one and will continue in 2023.



Funded by



Review of Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST) programme results

€ 32.000 €

🕒 12/2022 - 05/2023

🌐 Worldwide

Implemented by



In December 2022, SAFE signed an Agreement with the United Nations University — Centre for Policy Research, an independent think tank part of the United Nations system, for the evaluation of the results achieved by the FAST initiative between 2021 - 2022. FAST (Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking) is an initiative that aims to mobilize the financial sector against all forms of Modern Slavery, including human trafficking, forced labor and child labor. Within this framework, FAST works, inter alia , with public and private entities such as banks, investors, survivor support organizations, financial regulators and policymakers, implementing activities with the overarching goal of reducing the risk of modern slavery through the incorporation of modern slavery risks into financial sector regulation and practice.

SAFE will undertake a review of the FAST initiative to assess its performance and provide recommendations for the delivery of outcomes envisioned by the FAST 2020- 2023 Results Framework. Among the elements analyzed will be the programme's relevance to its goals, effectiveness of activities, contribution to the reduction of modern slavery, and sustainability of the programme.

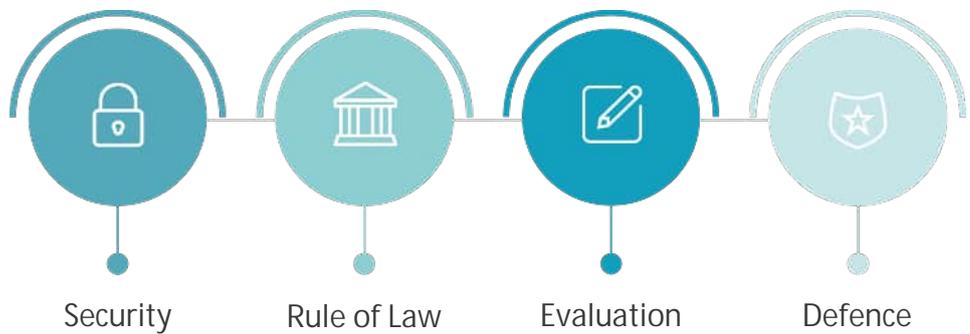
Funded by



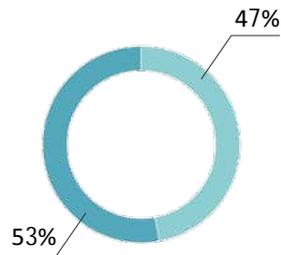
Staff

10.

Expertise

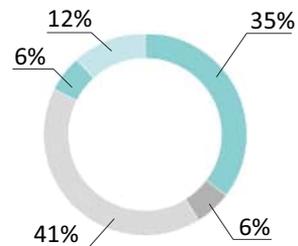


Gender



- Men
- Women

Degree



- Economy
- Humanistic Studies
- International Rel.
- Law
- Other

Our work is made possible thanks to our Team: we are a young, ambitious and innovative group of people coming from all over the world.

SAFE's Associates have a highly-specialized background in the development of projects on a global level, technical background on security, defence and rule of law, and are supported by a diverse group of collaborators with a unique mix of skills.

SAFE is also supported by a Panel of Senior Advisors, that leads from a technical, ethical and strategic point of view.



Andrea D'ANGELO

President

Manager and project Director for over 100 large EU funded TA projects focusing on SSR, innovation for law enforcement, civil-military cooperation, rule of law and human rights. M&E expert, implemented security-related covering over 1B€ of EU funding. His academic background includes a degree in international economics, a Master in Laws and a post-graduate in Criminology.



Silvia D'ADDA

Financial Director

Developed over 80 international projects in the EU, the Balkans, Eastern European countries, Northern Africa, Middle East and Central America. M&E in-house expert, Silvia holds a degree in international economics, a Master in International Cooperation and Master in Project Management at Boston University. She is fully fluent in English, Italian, Spanish and French.



Federico BENOLLI

Senior Associate

Senior Associate, Project Manager and CBRN Expert. He supervises SAFE's strategic business development and implementation with a focus on Technology Innovation linked to CBRNe, Security and Intelligence. Graduated in Criminal Law, and specialized with two Master's Degrees focused on Forensic Science as well as novel technologies for Security, Defense and Intelligence. Federico has 15+ years of experience in the Security and Intelligence domain and has implemented EU and international funded projects for a total budget of approximately 60M€. He is also an Officer of the Selected Reserve of the Italian Army.



Federica GENNA

Senior Associate

Senior Associate at SAFE and current Member of the Management Board. With an academic background in International Relations and International Security, Federica is an experienced project manager and researcher in the fields of defense, good governance, and the rule of law. Prior to joining SAFE, Federica worked for the Council of Europe, NATO and the Dutch consultancy Ecorys. At SAFE, Federica supports business development and acquisition efforts and manages a number of projects for an overall value of more than EUR 3 million. She is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Italian and conversational in Russian.



Emmanuel BOUQUOT

Senior Associate

Former French Gendarmerie CBRN National advisor, Emmanuel's specific background includes a university Master degree in Science and Technology. Emmanuel works as Key Expert for the EU CoE P73 project "CBRN Protection of Critical Infrastructure in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon", implemented by SAFE for the Lebanese component. With over 30 years of experience in military and homeland security, he has extensive skills in the development and operational conduct of specialized CBRN training and is also a lecturer for several international organization and CBRN centres.



Sara FERRANDI

Senior Associate

Project Manager with professional background in UN and EU Agencies working with government administration in different countries. Focus on environmental sustainability, Disaster Risk Management (DRM), CLimate Early Warning Systems (CLEWS), Mediterranean migratory patterns, Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Project team coordination experience on the field.



Alessandro D'AUTILLIO

Associate

Graduated in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs - Politics and International Security, at the University of Bologna and in the lifelong learning programme in Communication and Politics for Operators in Crisis' Areas, completing a training with the Italian special forces and one in Lebanon. Alessandro is implementing projects in the Western Balkans, Middle East and North Africa, focusing on Asset Management and CBRN. Alessandro also organized a large-scale exercise on CBRN protection of Critical Infrastructures in Lebanon and coordinated the delivery of 40+ different training sessions



Alessandro CASTAGNETTI

Associate

Alessandro is a Senior Data Analyst and Economist specialized in Applied Economics. After his bachelor's and master's degrees, he obtained a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. He has done research periods at the New York University and published scientific research in prestigious academic journals. He collaborates in the implementation of international projects that require data processing and analysis. He also manages European projects in the fight against environmental crimes.



Rachel DOUAIHY

Associate

Rachel acquired her experience in project implementation through USAID and EU-funded projects in the fields of security-related research, public administration capacity building and civilian-security engagement in the Lebanese context. She is part of the SAFE team implementing the Lebanese component of the EU CoE P73 Project “CBRN Protection of Critical Infrastructures in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon”, as well as other projects in the Middle East and North Africa region. She holds a BS in Biology and MA in International Affairs and Diplomacy from Notre Dame University in Beirut. She is fluent in Arabic, English, French, and Italian.



Simona FORTE

Associate

Engaged for over 6 years in the consulting and fundraising activities for the Non-Profit sector, Simona is in charge for SAFE Social Innovation projects at regional and national level. She holds a Master Degree in European Project Management and she has been working for the last years in projects supporting vulnerable groups and promoting entrepreneurship.



Valentina AMBROSI

Financial Manager

Valentina graduated in Economics and Business Management from the University of Trento where she took a course on financial planning for small and medium-sized enterprises. After her studies, she was responsible of the administrative, financial and logistics management at an Italian manufacturing company with international reach. She is currently attending the Executive Master in Social Enterprise and Non-Profit sector at the Università Cattolica of Milan. At SAFE, Valentina is in charge of corporate accounting and financial monitoring of multiple donor-funded projects.



Davide GALLO

Junior Financial Manager

Davide graduated in Economics from the University of Padua. During his studies, he participated in the Erasmus+ program at The Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, thanks to which he was able to further his studies in European Studies. His academic record shows excellent results in subjects such as finance theory, corporate finance, quantitative business methodologies and determinations, and international economics, while his study period abroad has allowed him to expand his horizons in European economics, global development issues, and international human rights law. Davide, a native Italian speaker, is C1 IELTS certified in English, and has a basic level of French and Spanish.



Erika CORSO

Communication Manager

Erika has an international background and experience in the Communication and Marketing field. After her master's degree in Languages, Economic and Legal Institutions of Asia and Mediterranean Africa, she specialized in the communication and digital marketing field. She specialized in Social Media Management, Copywriting and Digital Marketing. At SAFE, Erika is responsible for the management and strategic planning of the Foundation's communication channels, as well as for the communication and dissemination activities of funded projects and other initiatives. Erika is fluent in English and Chinese, and has a basic understanding of German and Spanish.



Miriam PÖHNER

Junior Project Manager

Miriam holds a BA in International Relations and Management from the University of Applied Sciences in Regensburg, Germany, and is currently enrolled in the master's degree of Local Development at the University of Padova. In the masters, she focuses on capacity building of cities in Europe through network cooperation. She gained experience in the security field, specifically with Critical Infrastructure protection and cybersecurity as an assistant in a project on Critical Infrastructure protection in the cross-border region of Eastern Bavaria and the Czech Republic at the University of Applied Sciences in Regensburg, Germany.



Stefano MAZZARO

Junior Project Manager

Stefano holds a BA in International and Diplomatic Sciences and a MA in Strategic Sciences. He also attended specific courses dealing with the stabilization and reconstruction of areas affected by armed conflict and conflict analysis. In 2020, he obtained a University Master in International Humanitarian Law and Law of Armed Conflict at the Italian Center for Higher Defence Studies in Rome. From January 2021 to December 2021, he worked as external consultant at the NATO Stability Policing Centre of Excellence of Vicenza.



Maria ILLETERATI

Junior Project Manager

Maria graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Relations and Human Rights from the University of Padua with a grade of 110 cum laude. During that course of study, she did an Erasmus at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, Croatia. Afterwards, she got a Master's degree in governance of emergency in at the University of Verona. She did an internship at the Third Wing of the Military Air Force in Villafranca di Verona. She supports in the implementation of projects in the field of justice.



Andrew MUNIZZA

Project Assistant

Andrew obtained a Bachelors Degree in International Relations at the Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Penn-sylvania. He recently obtained a Masters Degree in World Politics and International Relations at the University of Pavia with a thesis titled "Schengen Information System II: The Roles of Security and Data Protection". He previously worked as Liaison Officer for the European Council at their field office in Venice, and he also participated at a NATO Model event through the University of Bologna in Forlì.



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