

CICERO

Croatia-Italy Civil protection collaboRatiOn

D.2.1.1 Minutes of the exercise with video-photo documentation

Joint cross-border exercises to learn different
protocols in Italy and Croatia

Part II - Italy



Project acronym	CICERO
Project ID number	ITHR0400226
Project title	Croatia-Italy Civil protection collaboration
Specific objective	5.1 - Better cooperation for governance
Work package number	2
Work package title	Building capacities, improving collaboration in risk management for public authorities, stakeholders
Activity number	2.1
Activity title	Joint cross-border exercises to learn different protocols in Italy and Croatia
Partner in charge	LP - Pratiarcati
Partner involved	Part II – Unione Pratiarcati
Status	Final
Date of release	15/01/2025



Summary

1. Introduction	3
2. Joint cross-border exercises in Italy.....	4
2.1. Introductory information about joint exercises in Province of Padua	4
2.2. Topic, objective and scope of the exercises	5
2.3. Time and location of exercises	8
3. Exercise scenarios for joint cross-border exercise in Padua	12
3.1. Missing persons search at Parco Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto in Maserà di Padova ..	12
3.2. Dissemination of civil protection culture to the school population.....	17
3.3 Euganeas Hills Regional Park, Passo Fiorine – Forest Fire Fighting	21
3.4. Practical training in drone control.....	32
4. Briefing.....	35
5. Dissemination activities of good civil protection practices at the base camp	37
6. Video presentation of exercises	42

1. Introduction

The CICERO project answers to the need of better cooperation governance in the Programme area and in particular to the need to create a more extensive knowledge basis about legal and administrative obstacles and to implement a common collaboration in the domain of risk management. The common collaboration would also contribute to the reinforcement of institutional capacities of public authorities and stakeholders.

Two countries, Italy and Croatia, or more specifically, entities at the local level, are collaborating on the CICERO project: The Pratiarcati Union of Municipalities (public local



authority located in Veneto region; province of Padua) and Town of Labin (a unit of local self-government; located on eastern side of Istria County).

As part of work package number 2 entitled "Building capacities, improving collaboration in risk management for public authorities, stakeholders" and after joint cross-border exercises, first in Croatia, and then in Italy, this document is being prepared, which will try on a simple way display all performed activities, exercise scenarios and protocols. The intention of this document is also to "dissect" step-by-step the performed joint exercises.

As part of the joint cross-border exercises, there were also held joint exercises for controlling an unmanned aircraft, which is explained in more detail in the document entitled "D2.3.1 Training course program - Common training course to use a drone with support documentation" and rescue exercises from heights and depths, whose course for members of the Italian volunteers is described in the document entitled "D2.2.1 Training course program - Training courses on safety, on the use of ropes, harnesses, slips and in general on works at height".

Specific objective of this activity is improving skills and competences of Civil Protection groups across borders to deliver a better response to natural disasters and the project will enable them to perform a better communication through citizens.

About a hundred members of the civil protection system from Italy and Croatia participated in both joint cross-border exercises, and the fact that both were very well attended by citizens is pleasing.

2. Joint cross-border exercises in Italy

2.1. Introductory information about joint exercises in Province of Padua

After the first draft of the exercise, developed for the presentation of the project, several meetings were necessary to define and clarify the scenarios to be implemented in the Italian exercise.



The meetings were first held in a restricted format (CICERO project managers and the coordinators of the volunteer groups of the Pratiarcati Union), and then extended to the provincial and regional Civil Protection and forest fire-fighting bodies.

Inspections at the location in Passo Fiorine for the forest fire-fighting scenario began on 8 May with the Head of Extinguishing Operations. A second inspection was also held on 9 September in the presence of the Labin Fire Chief to confirm the scenario.

On 1 September, an exercise was held for the missing persons search scenario in the Maserà di Padova area, to test the location, volunteers and train the UAS team (drone pilots). A second exercise was held on 29 September at the Parco Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto, the final location of the scenario.

Two plenary meetings were held, dedicated to finalising all details with all Italian participants in the exercise, on Wednesday 21 September and Wednesday 8 October.

These were the participants in the meetings:

- Gruppo Comunale Volontari Protezione Civile Albignasego with Squadra Intervento Recupero Emergenza
- Gruppo Comunale Volontari Protezione Civile Maserà di Padova with Squadra Cinofili da soccorso
- Gruppo Comunale Volontari Protezione Civile Casalserugo
- Gruppo Comunale Volontari Protezione Civile Abano Terme
- Gruppo Provinciale Volontari Protezione Civile Provincia di Padova Nucleo Operativo
- Gruppo Provinciale Volontari Protezione Civile Provincia di Padova Sala Operativa
- Croce Rossa Italiana Comitato Maserà di Padova
- Croce Verde Albignasego
- Associazione Nazionale Carabinieri in Congedo
- Associazione Nazionale Alpini di Albigensego
- RDN - Rescue Drone Network

On Friday, 18 October at 5 p.m., a brief was held with all Italian and Croatian participants in preparation for the activities of the next two days. The brief was held at the Civil Protection headquarters in Albigensego.

2.2. Topic, objective and scope of the exercises

The objective of the second joint exercise is to improve and share forest firefighting techniques. At the same time, rope and height work techniques were fielded to improve the safety of operators. A missing persons search exercise will be carried out to test the support of the UAS team (drones) to the ground search and rescue teams. The activities



in Albignasego and Maserà di Padova are also aimed at the city population, in particular the school population with activities for children between 6 and 13 years of age at the Leonardo da Vinci and Valgimigli primary and secondary schools.

In particular, the scenarios include:

- **The purpose of scenario 1 (SCENARIO IN ALBIGNASEGO and MASERA' DI PADOVA- TORNADO and MISSING SEARCH)** is to test the ability of the drone team in carrying out a rapid inspection in conditions where access to the roof of the building has not been verified, in conditions of restricted space and with the need to quickly assess whether or not to intervene a team with rope work qualification to secure the roof (at the day care centre “Il Nodo” in Albignasego). Then the volunteers' ability to search for a missing person following the fright caused by the whirlwind is tested, with the use of all the tools available: trained volunteers, dog team, drone team support. The location was the Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park in Maserà di Padova. It was not possible to involve the pupils of the Maserà di Padova schools due to bad weather.
- **The purpose of Scenario 2 (SCENARIO IN ALBIGNASEGO ROPE WORK TEAMS INTERVENTION AND DIFFUSION OF CIVIL PROTECTION CULTURE TO THE SCHOOL POPULATION)** was to verify the training on rope work and work-at-height activities of the volunteers of the Pratiarcati Union, in collaboration with JVP, to check the state of a roof of a sports building potentially damaged by the tornado. Due to the adverse weather conditions, the activity took place on the manoeuvre tower set up at the base camp in Piazza del Donatore in Albignasego. The manoeuvres will be an opportunity to test the drone team's overflight capability, working alongside the ROPE WORK teams. At the same time, at the Valgimigli school in Albignasego, moments of information will be held for the school population in relation to the knowledge and prevention of natural risks, with activities for the dissemination of good civil protection practices in terms of both prevention and the behaviour to adopt in the event of an emergency. Croce Verde will manage an information point on health practices and will provide medical support to operations.
- **Scope of scenario 3 (EUGANEAN HILLS SCENARIO - FOREST FIRE FIGHTING)** The scenario envisages the detection of a forest fire starting from the external brazier of the Chiesetta di Sant'Antonio locality Passo Fiorine in the municipality of Teolo (PD), within the Euganean Hills Regional Park. Volunteer forest fire-fighting groups



will be activated, collaborating with the Labin JVP professional fire brigade and DVD forest fire-fighting volunteers. Italian Red Cross and Labin's medical volunteers will provide medical support to the exercise participants and will practice some simulations of interventions in an inaccessible environment

- **Scope of scenario 4 (BASE CAMP PIAZZA DEL DONATORE)** The scenario includes the setting up and opening to the population of the base camp on 20 October, where there will be activities to disseminate good civil protection practices to the population, a stand dedicated to the Department of Civil Protection's national risk communication campaign IononrischiO, a station to learn CPR practices, two first aid stations, the manoeuvre tower for rope work, and demonstrations of hydrogeological safety in one's own home.

The aim and scope of the exercises refer to:

- Acquiring new skills on active forest firefighting through collaboration with Labin's professional operators. The possibility of using equipment other than that available to the volunteer groups in the province of Padua, in particular knapsack motor pumps and helicopter tanks. Particularly for the Labin DVDs, it was possible to verify the intervention procedures of Italian forest fire-fighting volunteers.
- Comparison of different dog-handling techniques
- Improvement of drone flying techniques in urban and natural scenarios
- Verifying the effectiveness of communication initiatives to the population, both school and general public, through activities at schools and the distribution of leaflets to each family in the three municipalities forming part of the Pratiarcati Union.
- Verification of the necessary synergies between volunteers and public administrations for the coordination of emergency events.

2.3. Time and location of exercises

The exercises took place over 2 days: Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October 2024.

On the first day, Saturday 19 October, 4 locations were used:

- Base camp at Piazza del Donatore Albignasego with the Manoeuvre Tower for rope work
- Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park in Maserà di Padova for searching missing persons with drones and dog units
- Day care centre 'il Nodo' with drone overflights to check manoeuvres in urban areas
- Valgimigli Secondary School with 4 activities for 6 to 13 year olds

This is the timetable for Saturday 19 October:

- 08:00 Meeting of volunteers at the base camp in Piazza del Donatore for setting up camp
- 08:30 Briefing at base camp with the declaration of an emergency tornado affecting Albignasego
- 08:30 start of the exercise - departure of the teams
- 08:30 request for support in inspecting the day care centre 'Il Nodo' in via Mameli 7 and checking the building's roof
- 08:40 local police received a report of a missing person in Maserà di Padova Parco Dei Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto - Maserà di Padova dog team and K-9 Croatia team support and search team departure
- 08:45 second distress call at Valgimigli Secondary School
- 09:00 start of teaching activities at the school
- 10:00-11:00 activities at the manoeuvre tower in Piazza del Donatore for rope work training
- 12:30 debriefing of the day's activities

During the second day, two different scenarios are involved: the exercise at the Euganean Hills regional park in Passo Fiorine and the base camp set up and open to the population for the explanation of the Civil Protection system and good risk mitigation practices.

These are the details for Sunday 20 October:



09:00 Opening of Base Camp Piazza del Donatore Albignese to the population. Each group presented an outline programme to involve the population. Present were the stands of

- Croce Rossa Italiana
- Croce Verde Albignese
- Pronto Soccorso Padova
- Sala Operativa Provinciale e Nucleo Operativo Provinciale
- Associazione Nazionale Alpini
- GCVPC Maserà di Padova + Cinofili
- GCVPC Casalserugo
- GCVPC Albignese
- Iononrischio GCVPC Abano Terme
- Exercise Tower
- RDN - Rescue Drone Network
- JVP Labin
- DVD Labin and others
- Croce Rossa Labin

Training was held on the certified and tested structure for the training of teams with qualified rope and altitude workers, approximately 10 metres high, with an inclined plane. From about 08:00 to 12:30 in the Euganean Hills Regional Park at Passo Fiorine, in the municipality of Teolo, a forest fire drill was held.

Participants:

- Regione Veneto Director of Shutdown Operations
- AVISP - Veneto Agricoltura – Team AIB
- Croce Rossa Italiana
- PC Montecchio Maggiore ODV - area di base NON MONTANA province of Vicenza
- Gruppi volontari di PC e AIB dell'area di base NON MONTANA province of Padua
- RDN Rescue Drone Network
- JVP Labin
- DVD Labin & Others
- Labin Red Cross



Locations:

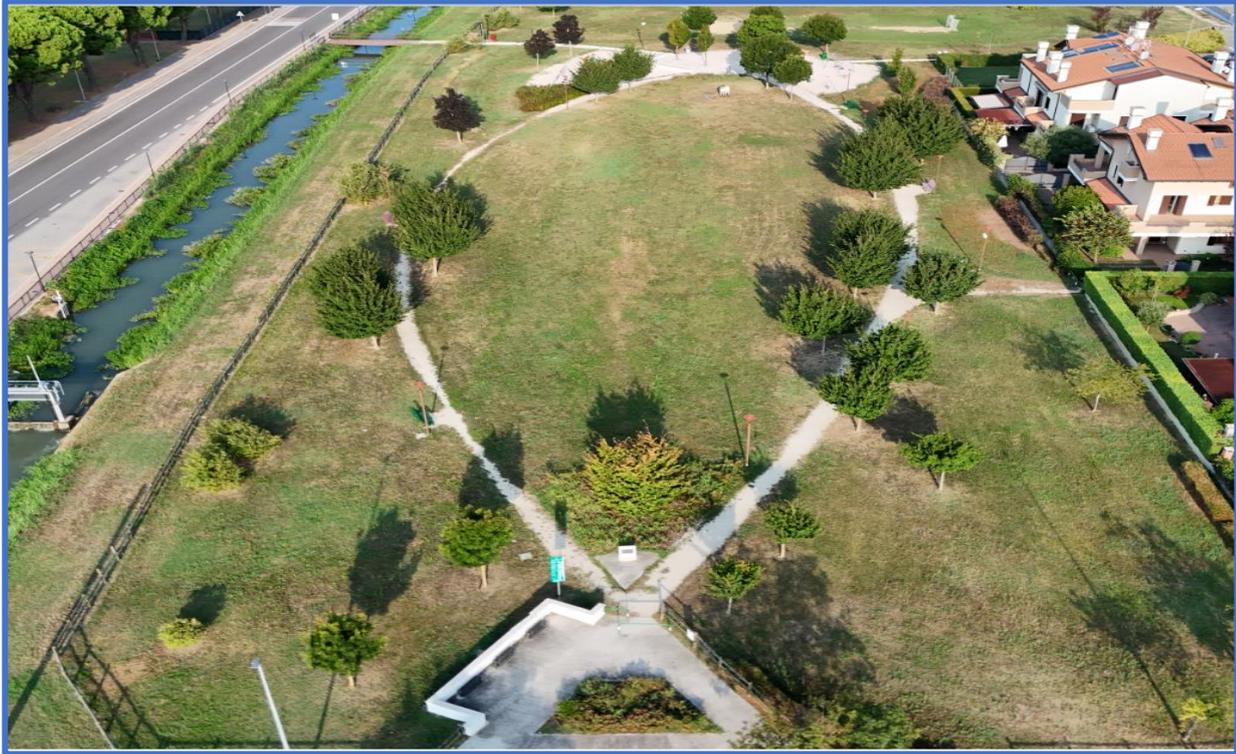


Photo 1: Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park Maserà di Padova, location of 1st exercise



Photo 2: Passo Fiorine Teolo, Regional Park Eugeneas Hills, scenario of 3th exercise



Photo 3: Base camp Piazza del Donatore Albignasego, scenario of 4th exercise

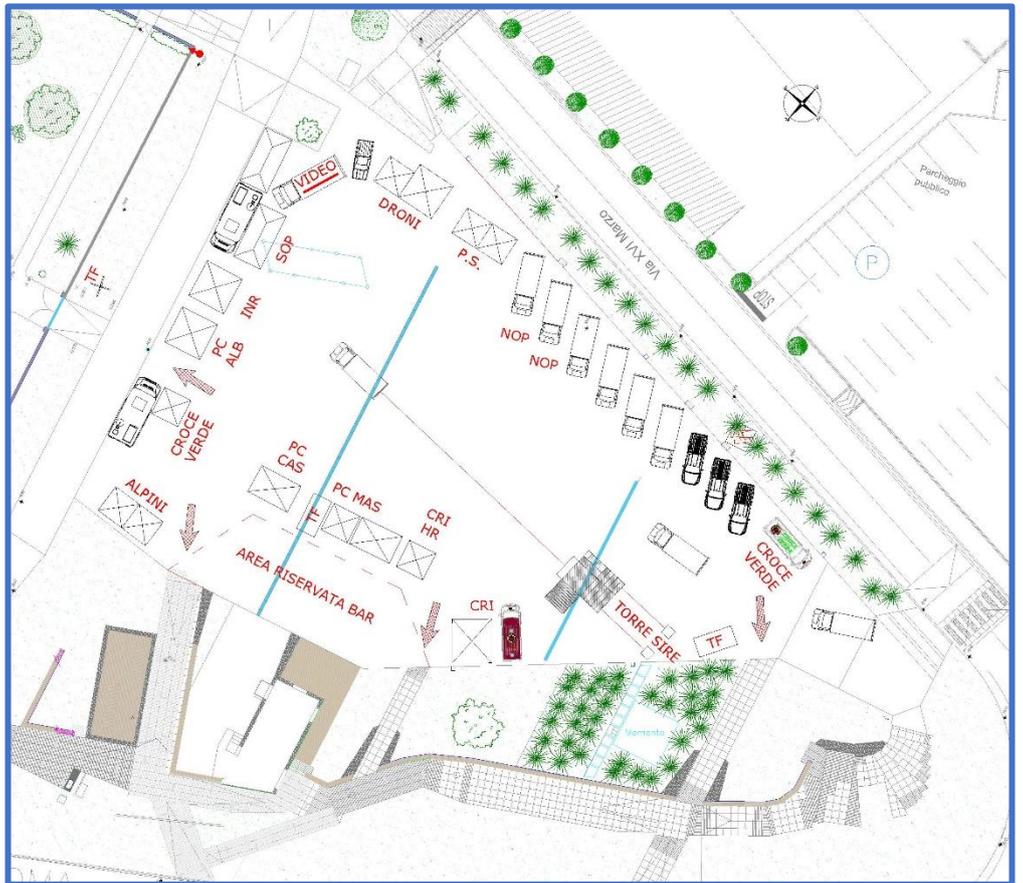




Photo 4: base camp Piazza del Donatore Albignasego, scenario of 4th exercise

3. Exercise scenarios for joint cross-border exercise in Padua

Below are vividly described scenarios for joint cross-border exercises, which were held from October 19-20, 2024 in Padua.

3.1. Missing persons search at Parco Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto in Maserà di Padova

3.1.1. Day 1 - scenario 1

After a whirlwind hits the area of Albignasego and Maserà di Padova, a person, frightened by the atmospheric event, disappears from 'Il Nodo' day centre for people with disabilities. His bicycle is found near the Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park in Maserà di Padova and the



base camp is alerted, from which the volunteer search teams and dog handler teams depart. They are joined by UAS pilots to coordinate operations from the air.

Below is the report of the exercise:

The joint exercise) took place on Saturday 19 October in Maserà di Padova Parco Dei Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto. The day was immediately cloudy with sporadic short downpours, then on wet ground with medium-height vegetation, favourable to keeping track for the dog units. The following groups took part in the event, with a total of 23 personnel:

- GCVPC Maserà di Padova
- GCVPC Casalserugo
- GCVPC Albignasego
- Croce Rossa Italiana Comitato di Maserà di Padova
- Cinofili da soccorso Protezione Civile
- JVP Labin
- DVD Labin
- Labin Red Cross
- Rescue Drone Network (Roberto Noventa)
- Associazione Nazionale Carabinieri in Congedo

A quick briefing was given on the formation of the search teams, assignment of radio frequencies, operational definitions of tasks. The comb search team is given all known information about the missing person. The first search started at 8.45 a.m., with a comb search team on the ground, consisting of 10 volunteers plus a team leader. The search led to the discovery of some items belonging to the missing person. At 9.12 a.m., the team ends the search, requesting the intervention of a dog team consisting of an Italian dog instructor and 4 civil defence volunteers. The instructor adopts the 'cone' search tactic. The volunteers are instructed on the correct way to accompany the search so as not to disturb the work of the dog, which signals the discovery of the missing person with a very clean bark.

Four medical rescuers are sent to the scene to check the condition of the missing person, who is stabilised and transported on a stretcher to the ambulance, which is ready to leave for the nearest hospital at 9.45 am.



A second search is organised for a second missing person at 9.58 a.m., with a team of 8 volunteers combing for objects and returning to base at 10.18 a.m.

The search is initiated with the help of the dog search team with handler and Border colli dog from the K9 Labin team, followed at a distance by 4 accompanying volunteers at 10.23 am. Due to the dog's incorrect behaviour, distracted by the presence of volunteers, the dog unit is replaced with a Labrador retriever without the presence of accompanying volunteers, which begins the search at 10.35 a.m. and at 10.40 a.m. signals with a clean bark that the missing person has been found, which is recovered and transferred to an ambulance at 10.50 a.m.

The Italian and Croatian dog handlers established that the search tactics were quite similar, while they differed on the dog's habit of being accompanied by strangers.

The UAS drone team filmed the area from above before it began to rain, as a preliminary check of the search area.

Below is a step-by-step presentation of the first scenario.

Presentation 1: Step-by-step of the 1st scenario

1/ missing persons search team in line



2/ Team UAS



3/ Examination and immobilization of injured persons



4/ Examination
and
immobilization of
injured persons



5/ Going at the
hospital



3.2. Dissemination of civil protection culture to the school population

3.2.1. Day 1 - scenario 2

The rainy day prevented rope manoeuvres from being carried out from the Multipurpose Hall in front of the Valgimigli Secondary School and 4 activities were organised inside the school, involving 13 classes (260 pupils) with their teachers, on the following topics

- Safety School - explanation of materials and personal protective equipment for rope work and forest firefighting (harness, helmet, ropes, connectors, descenders, gloves, knots)
- Explanation of the CICERO project and the Civil Protection System (how each person is an integral part of the Italian civil protection system, as a citizen)
- Storytelling about weather events: DHARIA and good Civil Protection practices during a whirlwind (from KNOWING, to KNOWING TO DO, to KNOWING TO BE with comic strips created by Civil Protection volunteers)
- Informative activities by the Albignasego Green Cross health rescue teams on the correct call to the Single Emergency Number and on cardiopulmonary resuscitation methods

Four specialised teams are formed to receive groups of 3 classes and each group is shown how to approach various civil protection issues.

At the same time, a joint training session is held at the base camp between the Italian teams and the Labin JVPs of qualified ropeway workers. The training is held on the 10-metre manoeuvring tower and the adjoining inclined plane and was interrupted at 11 o'clock due to bad weather. Different techniques for approaching rescues and abseiling from heights were compared.

Presentation 2: Step-by-step of 2nd scenario



1/ Personal Protective Equipment



2/ Croce Verde resuscitation manoeuvres



3/Explanation of the Civil Protection System



4/ abseiling on the manoeuvring tower



5/ drone training in the rain



3.3 Eugeneas Hills Regional Park, Passo Fiorine – Forest Fire Fighting

3.3.1. Day 2 - scenario 3

During a barbeque from the outdoor brazier of the Chiesetta di Sant'Antonio in Passo Fiorine in the municipality of Teolo (PD), inside the Euganean Hills Regional Park, a fire started in the surrounding undergrowth. The fire rises towards Passo Fiorine and an initial attack is made on the tail of the fire by accessing it from below through an agricultural forestry track that branches off from via Trespole di Teolo (45.353N, 11.660E). A line of about 330m fed by means of a BB4 tank and pump is set up, which will start from via Trespole (alt. 270M) to the Chiesetta di Sant'Antonio (alt. 330 M).

In the meantime, the regional forest fire-fighting structure (Director of Extinguishing Operations of the Forestry Service) from Passo Fiorine (alt. 347 m) will send men and vehicles of the Base Area Coordination. On the hairpin bend closest to the Alta Via n.1 path, a 7,000-litre tank will be installed, which will be supplied by a tanker truck and will feed a line of approximately 500 m up to the small church of Sant'Antonio, where a tank with a backpack motor pump will be positioned to provide direct attack on the fire front. JVPs are requested to work alongside the teams with the knapsack motor pump and the helicopter-mounted rubber tank.

Sanitary scenario: having reached the small church of St. Anthony to prepare the basin for the attack, the volunteers spot a person inside the cave in a state of confusion and with a burn on his arm. They request the intervention of health workers who reach the cave and after an initial assessment accompany the injured person to the ambulance for hospitalisation.

Presentation 3: Step-by-step of the 3rd scenario



1/
Sant'Antonio
Abate Church



2/ laying of
hoses



3/ heli-transportable tank



4/ heli-transportable tank filling



5/ medical aid



6/ fire attack



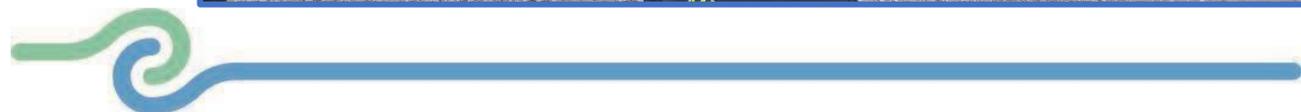
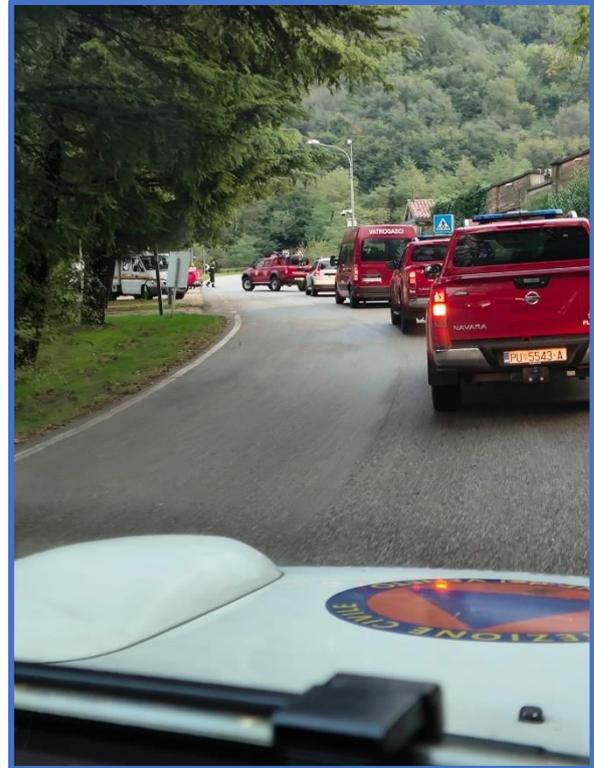
7/ tank removal



8/ end of operations



9/ moving column



3.3.2. Day 2 – scenario 4

Starting at 9.00 a.m. on 20 October, the Base Camp in Piazza del Donatore in Albignasego was opened to the population, and each of the participants met with the population to disseminate good civil protection practices. Until 12.30 p.m., the SIRE and JVP rope teams took turns on the manoeuvre tower, setting up a cableway, hooked up to a rescue vehicle, through which manoeuvres were carried out to recover injured persons and lower them to safety. Recovery manoeuvres of injured workers were also performed, simulating the need to rescue other workers.

There was a good turnout and interest in the various activities on offer, shown below.

Presentation 4: Step-by-step of the 4th scenario

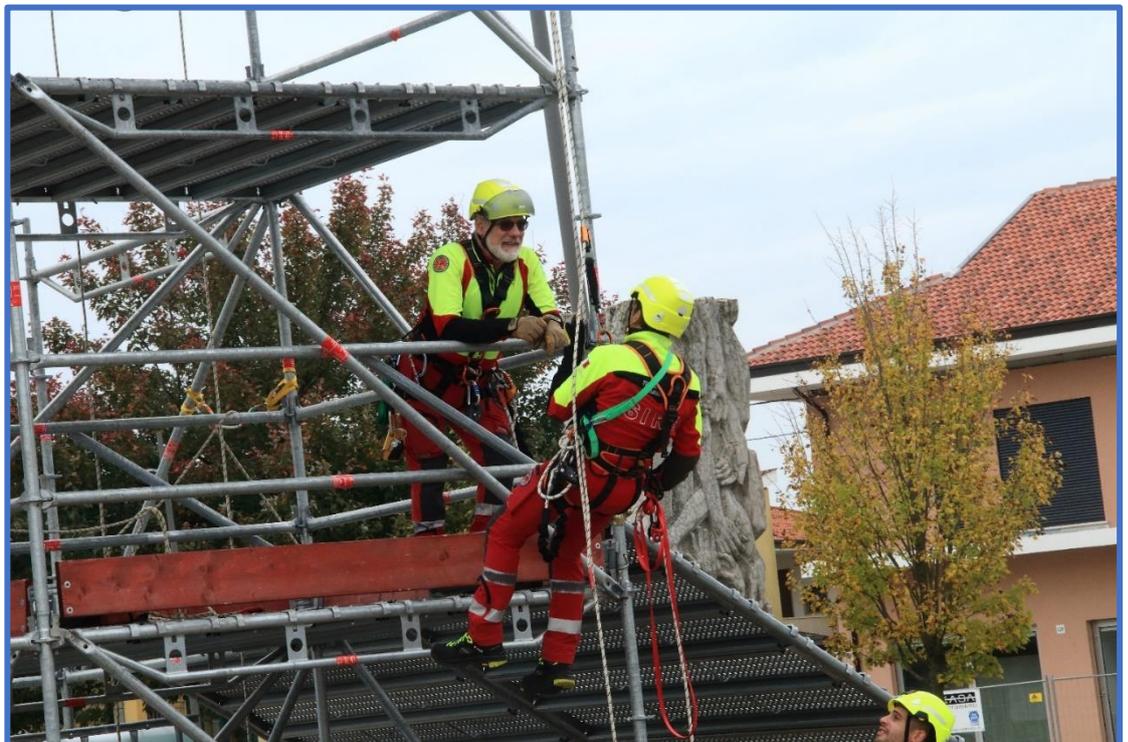
1/ manoeuvre tower



2/ropeway



3/abseiling



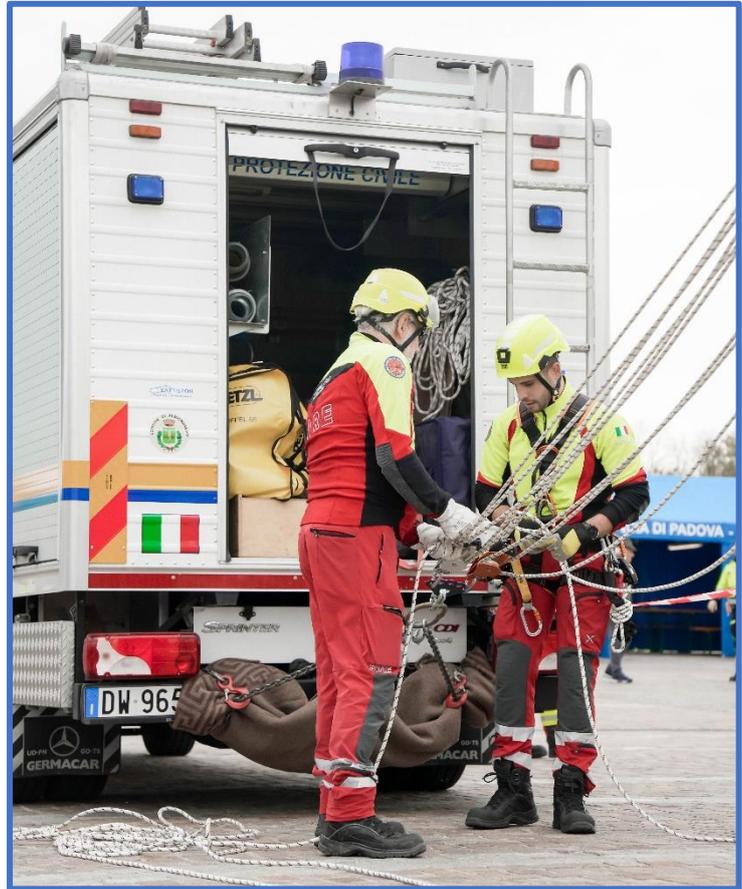
4/preparation to abseiling



5/absailing



67/ construction of the ropeway



7/ recovery of an injured rescuer



3.4. Practical training in drone control

In February, March and April, volunteers from the civil protection groups attended the A1_A3_A2 drone flying certification and qualification courses.

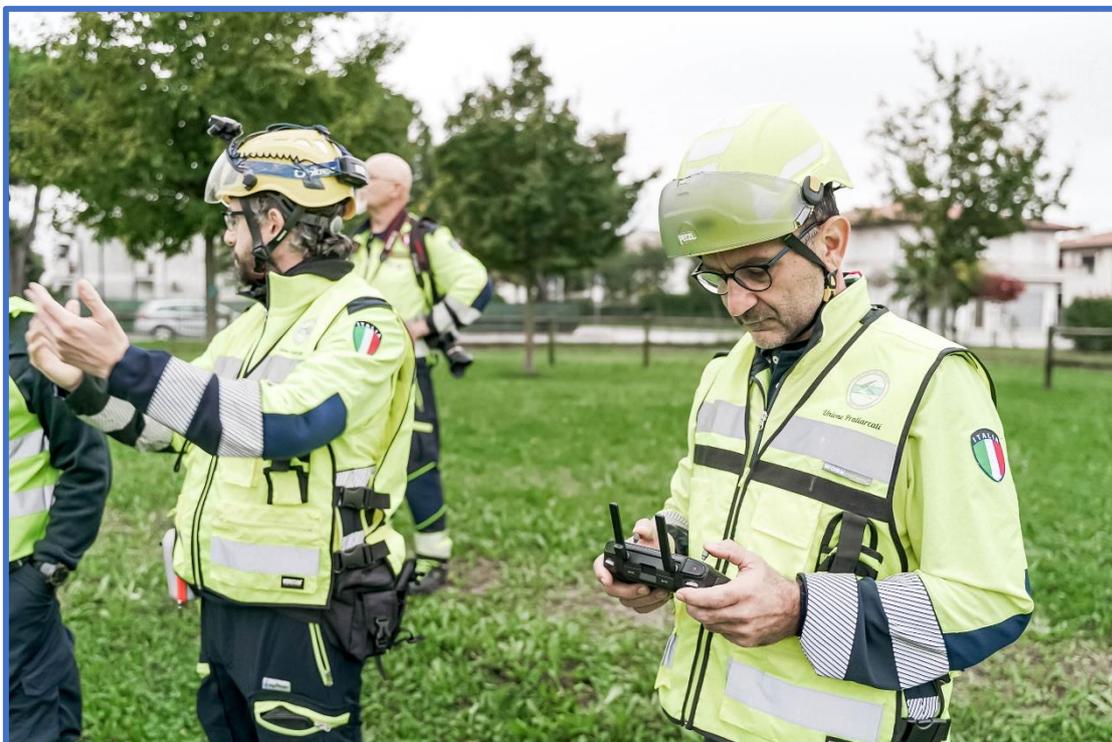
Throughout the period between certification and the drill on 2 October, the pilots trained periodically and assiduously in order to verify the skills they had acquired and maintain the necessary manual dexterity and coordination in flight.

During the two days of the exercise, despite the initial bad weather that prevented flying, there were plenty of training opportunities for both Italian and Croatian pilots. The base camp at Piazza del Donatore in Albignasego provided the appropriate safety context and variety of scenarios useful for coordinating the various experiences and flying aptitudes, always in compliance with safety regulations, for the operators and participants in the training phases. In the open field, drones were used to verify and coordinate search operations for missing persons from above, highlighting the need for good radio coordination between the operators in the search phase and the pilots in the air, in order to take advantage of overflight capabilities to focus on areas where the drone cannot take the place of volunteers and search dog handlers.

1 / Verifying weather conditions to fly



2 / Training in
drone control
Italian pilots



3/ Training in drone
control Croatian
pilots



4/ Training with termic camera



4. Briefing

To verify and better organise the exercise, a joint inspection was carried out with the commander of the Labin fire brigade on 09 September.

The sites of the forest fire drill at the Euganean Hills Regional Park, Piazza del Donatore near Albignasego, and the Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto Park in Maserà di Padova were inspected.

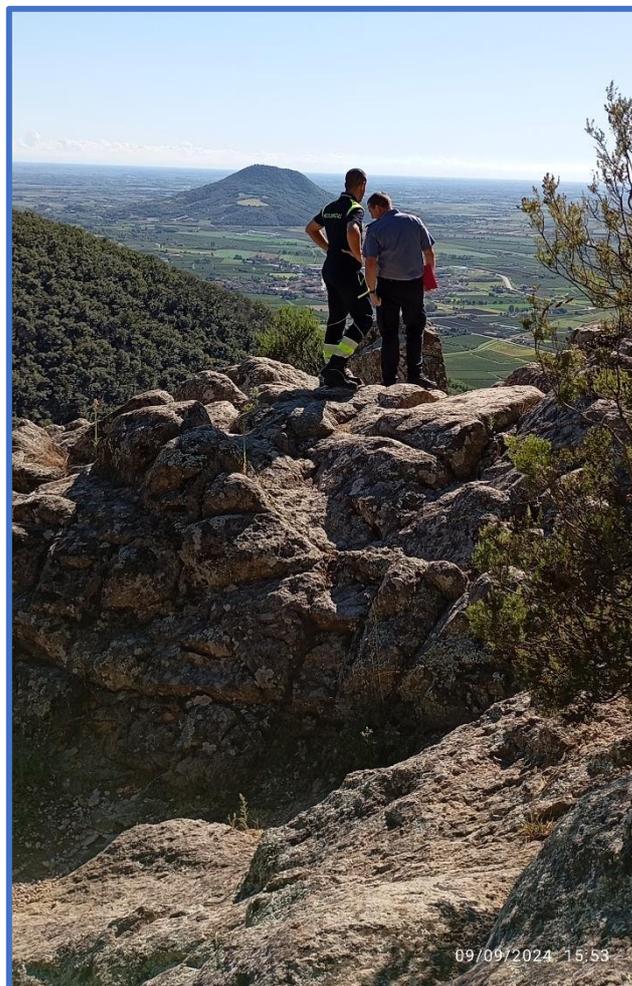
On the same day, the technical compatibility of the fire-fighting equipment of the Albignasego GCVPC with that of the Labin fire brigade was checked to ensure that all equipment could be used by both fire-fighting teams during the exercise. The Veneto Region also participated in the inspection with the Non-Mountain Base Area Firefighting Operations Manager.

On Saturday 19 October at 8 a.m., a general briefing was held for all the operational managers of the groups participating in the exercise to align themselves on the activities, weather conditions and timetables of the various scenarios.

1/ site inspection on Eugeneas Hills



2/ site inspection on Eugeneas Hills



3/ verifying materials and equipments in GCVPC Albignasego Headquarter



5. Dissemination activities of good civil protection practices at the base camp

Citizens had the opportunity to learn some Civil Protection practices such as how to secure their own doorstep against flooding, with sandbags, knowledge of the risks present in their territory and when flooding events are intended (national IononrischiO communication campaign), and cardiopulmonary resuscitation manoeuvres in children and adults, as well as disobstruction manoeuvres in case of ingestion of foreign bodies.

1/ national IononrischiO communication campaign



2/ National IononrischiO communication campaign



3/ Explanation of the Civil Protection System in Albignasego



4/ children leave their own thoughts on Civil Protection



5/ children Using DAE



6/ resuscitation
manoeuvres



7/ flood security



8/ flood security





6. Video presentation of exercises

In addition to the photo-documentation of the exercises performed in Padua, Italy, a video presentation of the same is published at this link on a Youtube channel:

<https://youtu.be/sqHvhs0U7dw>

