



CBRN-E Safety of Sports Events

On 12 June 2025, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions on addressing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRN-E) risks at mass gatherings, with particular attention to major sporting events (<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9908-2025-INIT/en/pdf>).

These conclusions drew, among other sources, on the outcomes of the Safe Stadium project—a European initiative dedicated to developing tailored protection systems to enhance CBRN security at sports facilities. MSK Žilina was a proud participant in the project, contributing to the design and validation of safety and security procedures.

Thanks to its involvement in the project, MŠK Žilina has become a pioneer in the field of CBRN safety among Slovak football stadiums. This proved to be a significant advantage during Slovakia's organization of the UEFA European Under-21 Championship this year, in which MSK Žilina successfully hosted four matches, demonstrating its ability to apply best practices in safety and security management.

Participation in the project significantly strengthened MSK Žilina staff's knowledge, awareness, and response capabilities in the event of accidental or intentional incidents, including terrorist attacks involving chemical agents (e.g., chlorine) or biological agents (e.g., T2 toxin or anthrax). Particularly valuable were the training sessions, workshops, and large-scale exercises organized by the project coordinator University of Lodz, with support from partners. Those initiatives allowed to test project procedures, cooperation with law enforcement agencies (police, fire fighters), use of detection equipment and personal protection equipment. One of the exercises were conducted as a follow up of the project with cooperation with Slovak International Security and Emergency Management Institute, as a preparatory phase for UEFA European Under-21 Championship.

It should be highlighted that the science based solutions developed in the project were designed together with sport facilities, football clubs, and sport event organizers, making sure that the specific needs of sport facilities were at the core of their applicability and usefulness.