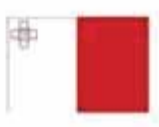




# SIMIT 2015 MALTA - SICILY



Italia-Malta Programme – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013  
*A sea of opportunities for the future*  
Project part-financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds



*Investing in your future*



# SIMIT 2015 MALTA - SICILY



**SIMIT** is a project aimed at developing an integrated Civil Protection Network between Malta and Sicily, that targets the forecast, prevention and mitigation of risks, as well as the planning and management of emergencies that emanated from such risks, with particular reference to seismological, hydro-geological and volcanic risks.

**SIMIT** is an EU co-financed project sponsored by the Italia-Malta 2007-2013 European Regional Development Fund, European Territorial Co-operation 2007-2013 and the following are the project's partners;

- Presidenza della Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento della Protezione Civile
- Civil Protection Department Malta
- Università di Catania
- University of Malta
- University of Palermo

In order to test out the project's findings an earthquake exercise simulation is to be held in Gozo between the 30th of August and 6th of September 2015, the main objectives being;

- To test the Civil Protection Department Malta and Presidenza della Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento della Protezione Civile strategic operative plan during a simulated deployment.  
The Civil Protection Department will simulate the eventuality of being overwhelmed with requests and will in turn request the assistance of the Presidenza della Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento della Protezione Civile.
- Incorporate elements of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism in the exercise to widen the scope of the exercise and simulate the involvement of the afore mentioned mechanism.
- Provide a training platform for project partners and Non Government Organisations that provide services in the field of Civil Protection. Participating teams will be able to test their capabilities at a technical and operational level.
- Provide an awareness platform for the local media as well as the general population in order to broaden the knowledge on such risks as well as actions to be taken in such an eventuality.
- Test the response capabilities of the Emergency Services in Gozo due to the double insularity issues.

The exercise will simulate the following scenario;

On the 3rd of September 2015 at 18.05hrs the central Mediterranean area 120 kilometres South West of Malta is hit by an earthquake magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale lasting 20 seconds. The impact is felt throughout the Maltese Islands but more so in Gozo where damage is more intense. Several of Malta's Critical Infrastructures are hit requiring immediate attention by the Civil Protection Department and other Emergency Services.

Over the next hours as the scenario develops the following activities will occur;

- A full scale communication exercise between the Civil Protection Department and the Presidenza della Regione Siciliana - Dipartimento della Protezione Civile over a period of three days involving scheduled updates, requests for assistance and ad hoc meetings to discuss the emerging situation.
- Regular table top communications and scheduled updates with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in particular the Emergency Response Co-ordination Centre, which regulates such emergencies and requests assistance on a European level.
- Host nation support exercises where incoming humanitarian assistance and rescue teams are assisted to be able to render their services in the shortest time possible.
- Evacuation of 250 persons, inclusive of persons with disabilities from Gozo to Malta, where they will be hosted for 48 hours in emergency sheltering.
- Several ongoing operational exercises for a duration of 72 hours which will test the operational capabilities and limits of emergency services, non government organisations that work in the field of Civil Protection as well as foreign humanitarian teams participating in the exercise.
- A media centre which will be available for local and international media to facilitate broadcasting of information on the **SIMIT** exercise.
- Extensive use of social media and modern telecommunication technologies inclusive of CCTV technologies to transmit information to the general population about the **SIMIT** project, awareness on risks and mitigation and the work carried out by the Civil Protection Department and other emergency services.