

Summary of the visit of the Minsk Delegation to the City of Viggiano.

The five-days official visit of a delegation from Minsk in Viggiano, ended on November 4, 2015. This event is a follow-up of the visit of July 27-29 to Minsk of a delegation from the city of Viggiano and the meeting between the mayor of Minsk and the mayor of Viggiano. As part of the city to city learning process the two administrations have signed in Viggiano a Memorandum of Understanding which identifies the areas of common interest regarding the process of strengthening community resilience and recognizes the importance of cooperation in the field of civil protection and of an effective disaster prevention, preparedness and response in order to minimize the effect of disasters on people, property and the environment. In particular the two cities have identified the Natech risk as one of the important area of cooperation and of sharing the information and knowledge.

The official visit took place from October 31 to November 4 with the participation of Begun Dmitry, Head of the Minsk City Emergency Department, Vasuk Sergey, Head of the Territorial Division, and Ivanov Artem, Head of the State Emergency Prevention and Elimination System of Minsk City Emergency Department.



On the morning of November 1st the Minsk delegation participated to the regional meeting of the volunteers of Civil Protection (Gruppo Lucano) which concluded a two days simulation of a major earthquake. The delegation visited the structures of a tent city and participated in a public event at the presence of local and regional authorities, and of representatives of the cities of Vonitza (Greece) and Cittanova (Croatia).



In the afternoon the delegation attended a workshop on “Resilience: the role of local institutions and of active citizenry”. During the workshop Begun Dmitry presented the civil protection model of the city of Minsk. The conclusion of the workshop was held by Gianni Pittella, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

The morning of November 2nd was dedicated to the visit to the city of Matera, nominated European Cultural Capital for the year 2019. In particular the delegation from Minsk visited the Sassi di Matera, ancient cave dwellings which are an Unesco World Heritage Site.

In the afternoon the delegation visited the Italian Space Agency Center in Matera, one of the three major world centers where the Continental Drift is studied with satellite technologies. After a technical presentation the delegation visited some of the major installations of the Center dedicated to earth science studies and to civil protection applications.



On the Morning of November 4th the delegation visited the installations of the regional coordination center of the Gruppo Lucano of civil protection in Viggiano, in particular the “crisis room” and the monitoring network facilities. Subsequently from the heliport in Viggiano, which is managed by the Gruppo Lucano, the delegation departed on a helicopter of the Italian National Rangers. During the flight it was possible view a large surrounding area including important facilities (Oil Center, Water Reservoir) and the Appennino Lucano National Park. The delegation had the chance to view the complexity of the landscape in which the civil protection system must operate. Finally the delegation visited an installation of the Italian Fire Fighters in the nearby city of Villa d’Agri.

On the afternoon of November 4th the delegation met in the Viggiano City Hall with the Mayor and the Council Members. In an official ceremony a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the representatives of Minsk and of Viggiano. The memorandum identifies as major areas of collaboration:

1. sharing the information and knowledge in the field of following directions: emergency management, technological disasters risk reduction with particular attention to NATECH disasters, fire prevention, investigation into the causes of emergencies, education and professional development, response to accidents and catastrophes, first aid rendering, and civil protection;
2. cooperation for the mutual development of the capacity for people and territory protection against natural and manmade emergency situations;
3. implementation of the Memorandum through the exchange of specialists, organization of the visits, participation in the educational programs, development and implementation of the international projects, and organization of joint events.



Following the signature of the MofU the delegation participated to a public meeting with the population of Viggiano where representatives of both cities presented the content of the MofU and the common areas of resilience building that the two cities intend to implement.

