



The following document aims at defining 2 fictive yet realistic threat scenarios taking place in Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Europa, during the inaugural event of GO!2025. The goal is to have a detailed description of the scenarios in order to be able to simulate them.

The format presented here aims to provide a structured approach to support the creation and simulation of the threat scenarios considered.

Scenarios

Here below the description of scenarios to be created and simulated through the SBS (Scenario Builder and Serious Gaming Simulator) tool.

1. GO!2025 – Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evrope – Scenario #1 – OPENING CEREMONY DAY TIME

Overview

Scenario title: GO!2025 Inauguration Ceremony

General description: On February 8, 2025, at 16:00, the GO!2025 European Capital of Culture inauguration took place at Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evrope, a symbolic square straddling the Italian-Slovenian border. The event attracted a large and diverse crowd, including local and international guests, government officials, artists, and the general public.

The ceremony featured live performances, speeches from dignitaries, and multimedia installations celebrating the shared heritage of Nova Gorica and Gorizia. A large stage was set up at the centre of the square, with giant screens displaying visuals. Local, national and international media covered the event, and security forces from both Italy and Slovenia have been deployed to ensure public safety. The event was highly coordinated, with designated areas for attendees, VIP guests, and security personnel. The event was concluded with an artistic performance and the people close to the stage will start dancing at some point in time celebrating European unity.

Location/Environment

Type of location: Transalpina / Evrope square

Type of space: outdoor

Crowd: 1.500 people gathering in Transalpina/Evrope square including approximately 250 VIPs (2 VIP areas). The event is highly institutional with Italian and Slovenian presidents participating, with selected VIPs and other accredited participants accessing only with ticket (registration required).

Security measures:

The GO!2025 inauguration took place under a comprehensive bilateral security plan, ensuring the safety of attendees, dignitaries, and performers while allowing for the smooth execution of the event.

1. Security Personnel & Coordination

- Joint security operations: Italian (Polizia di Stato, Carabinieri) and Slovenian (Policija, Specialna Enota) forces coordinated surveillance, crowd control, and emergency response.
- Event perimeter control: officers were stationed at all entry points to the square, with additional security deployed around VIP areas and the main stage.
- Crowd monitoring teams: trained personnel were positioned throughout the square to detect and respond to any unusual activity.

2. Access control & screening

- Designated entry and exit points: limited and controlled access through 2 access gates (1 in Slovenia, 1 in Italy). ID identification was performed in the crowd and scanners are present at the gates. Moreover, 2 VIP access gates were created to ensure separate access (1 in Slovenia, 1 in Italy). ~~In Slovenia VIPs arrived from the dedicated shuttle's parking area.~~
- Bag checks & metal detectors: security screenings were conducted at all access points thanks to mobile scanners positioned close by.
- Barrier systems: temporary fences marking the perimeter of the closed area and prevented overcrowding near the stage and VIP sections.

3. Surveillance

- CCTV Surveillance: cameras provided real-time monitoring of the crowd and surrounding areas.

4. Emergency & Crisis Response

- Medical & fire safety units: ambulances, paramedics, and fire brigades remained on site.
- Evacuation Plan: emergency exits are present to let people escape in case of need.

Other elements: Any other relevant static / dynamic element to be considered

Threat Scenario

Security staff: The security deployment for the GO!2025 inauguration was a joint operation between Italian and Slovenian authorities, ensuring a coordinated and rapid response to potential threats. The personnel were strategically positioned across key areas to safeguard attendees, dignitaries, and performers.

- Italian forces: Polizia di Stato, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza.
- Slovenian forces: Policija, Specialna Enota, and Slovenian.

- Counter-terrorism units: rapid response teams were on standby for immediate intervention in case of an attack.

Threat: Explosive Drone Attack

An explosive drone was launched from the Italian side of Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evropa, targeting the VIP area where high-ranking officials, including the Presidents (from Italy & Slovenia), were gathered. The drone posed an imminent threat to the dignitaries and the surrounding public.

The drone managed to bypass initial defences and continued its trajectory toward the VIP section.

Possible impacts:

- Casualties & Injuries: the explosive payload could have caused mass casualties among VIPs and surrounding attendees. Even after neutralization, falling debris from the drone resulted in minor injuries among the public. Panic and crowd movement increased the risk of other injuries.
- Psychological & operational impact: the panic and chaos caused by the drone attack disrupted the event and created fear among attendees. A successful detonation in the VIP zone would have had severe diplomatic and political consequences.

Countermeasures / security procedures: the anti-drone security protocol was a critical component of the event's security measures. Despite its implementation, the drone attack posed a significant threat, requiring immediate and multi-layered defensive actions:

- Threat neutralization & response: attacker launches drone attack, and this latter reaches the VIP area, causing an explosion and several casualties.
- Evacuation & crowd control: presidential security teams immediately initiated VIP evacuation protocols. Security personnel deployed a structured crowd evacuation strategy, including designated exit points to prevent a stampede or secondary incidents.

Timeline (ordered detailed steps):

1. Phase 1 (16:00-16:20) – Opening ceremony begins

The GO!2025 opening ceremony is in full swing at Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evropa. The square is filled with a large crowd, including dignitaries, officials, and attendees from both Italy and Slovenia. The Presidents and other high-profile figures are gathered in the VIP area on the Italian side of the square.

A lively atmosphere prevails as performances take place on stage, and the audience enjoys the celebrations. Security forces are actively monitoring the event from designated locations.

2. Phase 2 (16:20-16:25) – Drone identified and approaching

The Italian security team detects an unidentified attacker entering the restricted zone from the Italian side. Before being intercepted, the attacker launches the drone that started flying at a low altitude, moving toward the VIP area. The Italian team immediately alerts their Slovenian counterparts, initiating real-time communication to track the drone's movement.

Both teams monitor drone's trajectory while evaluating potential countermeasures. The crowd remains unaware of the threat as security forces work swiftly to neutralize the situation.

3. Phase 3 (16:25-16:35) – Drone explodes, chaos

As the drone reaches the vicinity of the VIP area, the drone detonates. The explosion produces direct harm to the crowd and drone debris scatters across the square, landing in areas where the public is gathered.

The explosion causes death, panic and confusion among attendees. Some people begin rushing toward exits, while others fall to the ground for safety. Minor injuries occur due to falling debris and the crowd's reaction.

Security forces immediately move in to secure the area, while medical teams rush to assist the injured. The public address system is activated, monitoring the crowd and follow emergency procedures.

4. Phase 4 (16:35-17:00) – Presidential evacuation and crowd management

Following protocol, the crowds are evacuated from the scene under the protection of their security teams. The Slovenian and Italian authorities coordinate to implement a structured crowd evacuation, directing attendees toward safe exits to prevent stampedes.

Emergency services secure the impact area, ensuring no additional threats are present. By 17:00, the square is largely cleared, and investigations into the origin and perpetrators of the attack are underway.

Other: Any other relevant information (e.g. constraints)

A **2D map of the environment, with the location of elements** (e.g. stages, fences, scanners, patrolling areas, entry points, exits, etc.) and people (e.g. general public, security staff, etc.) is attached.

2. GO!2025 – Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Europe – Scenario #2 – OPENING CEREMONY – NIGHT TIME

Overview

Scenario title: GO!2025 borderless party DJ event

General description: As part of the GO!2025 European Capital of Culture celebrations, an event starting at 21:00 took place at Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evrope, featuring renowned international DJs: DJ DADDY G (Massive Attack) and Andy Smith (ex Portishead). The event transformed the historic border square into a vibrant open-air dance floor, attracting thousands of attendees from Italy, Slovenia, and beyond.

A large stage with an advanced sound system and dynamic light installations was set up at the centre of the square. LED screens, laser projections, and visuals enhanced the immersive experience. The event drew a younger, festival-like crowd, with people dancing, socializing, and enjoying the music in a lively but controlled environment. To ensure public safety, a coordinated security presence from both Italian and Slovenian authorities was in place. Bag checks, access control, and surveillance teams monitored the event, while medical units were on standby. The atmosphere remained festive as people celebrated immersed in a cross-border cultural experience.

Location/Environment

Type of location: Transalpina / Evrope square

Type of space: outdoor

Crowd: around 3,000 people from Italy, Slovenia, and beyond. Concert setting.

Security measures:

- Two access gates: 1 from Slovenia, 1 from Italy.
- Fences delimiting the perimeter of the square.
- Free access.
- Fewer law enforcement agents (LEAs) compared to the afternoon event.
- Medical units stationed on both sides of the border.

Other elements: Any other relevant static / dynamic element to be considered

Threat Scenario

Security staff: Italian and Slovenian law enforcement personnel deployed around the area, with surveillance teams monitoring the square. Due to the nature of the

event, the number of LEAs was lower compared to the daytime inauguration ceremony.

Threat: knife attack.

An attacker armed with a knife was first spotted at the railway station on the Slovenian side of the square. The individual moved toward the concert area and began attacking people at random, causing fatalities and injuries.

Slovenian law enforcement officers (LEAs) spotted the attacker early and immediately alerted their Italian counterparts. The attacker ran through the square toward the Italian side, causing panic among attendees. A limited number of individuals attempted to stop him, but most fled in fear. Slovenian police forces pursued the attacker on foot, crossing into Italy in accordance with bilateral security protocols and agreements. Italian and Slovenian LEAs worked together to neutralize the attacker on the Italian side. Emergency services were activated, securing the area and treating the injured. Italian Red Cross volunteers and ambulances from both Slovenia and Italy responded, but emergency vehicles from one side could not cross into the other. However, paramedics were able to reach injured individuals on both sides by foot. Italian emergency response was coordinated by the regional centre, while Slovenian emergency services were managed by local authorities.

Possible Impacts:

- Casualties & injuries: 1 fatality confirmed at the scene, 3 people wounded, requiring immediate medical attention. Additional minor injuries due to the panic and rush to escape the scene.
- Psychological & public safety impact: attendees experienced panic and fear, leading to chaotic crowd movement. The sudden violence shocked the festival atmosphere, disrupting the event. Some bystanders attempted to intervene, increasing personal risk.
- Operational challenges: coordinated law enforcement response between Italy and Slovenia was critical in stopping the attacker. Emergency response limitations due to cross-border restrictions on vehicles required close collaboration between Italian and Slovenian medical teams. Public evacuation efforts were complicated by the large crowd, darkness, and limited exit points.

Countermeasures / security procedures: The security response to the attack was designed to minimize casualties and restore order while maintaining cross-border coordination. Law enforcement officers from both Italy and Slovenia quickly activated emergency protocols, ensuring that the attacker was neutralized before further harm could be done. The presence of pre-established patrols and surveillance teams allowed for swift identification and pursuit of the suspect.

Despite the rapid police intervention, the attack caused mass panic, leading to chaotic crowd movement and difficulties in emergency access. The limited number of law enforcement personnel at the nighttime event, compared to the daytime inauguration, meant that securing the area took additional time. However, the bilateral security agreement enabled Slovenian forces to cross into Italy for pursuit, ensuring that the attacker was stopped before further escalation.

Medical response teams faced logistical challenges due to cross-border restrictions on emergency vehicles, requiring close coordination between Italian and Slovenian paramedics. Trained crowd stewards and event staff helped direct attendees toward emergency exits, mitigating the risk of a stampede. The incident disrupted the festival atmosphere, leading to an early termination of the event and an immediate security reassessment for future gatherings.

Timeline (ordered detailed steps):

1. Phase 1 (21:00-22:30) – Concert in full swing

The GO!2025 DJ event is in progress, with a large crowd of 3,000 people dancing in Piazza della Transalpina / Trg Evrope. The stage, sound, and light installations create a dynamic party atmosphere. Security personnel are stationed at key points, monitoring entrances and crowd activity. The law enforcement presence is lower than the afternoon event, but coordinated teams are in place.

2. Phase 2 (22:30-22:35) – Attacker identified

A suspect armed with a knife is spotted at the Slovenian railway station, moving toward the concert area. The Slovenian police alert Italian forces, initiating a cross-border security response. The attacker begins randomly stabbing people, killing some and injuring others. Public panic ensues, with attendees rushing away from the scene.

3. Phase 3 (22:35-22:40) – Pursuit and neutralisation

The attacker flees across the square toward the Italian side, attempting to evade capture. Slovenian police pursue the suspect on foot, crossing into Italy under bilateral security agreements. Some bystanders attempt to intervene and stop the attacker, increasing personal risk. Italian and Slovenian police forces coordinate efforts, surrounding and neutralizing the attacker on the Italian side. The crowd continues to disperse in panic, with some individuals attempting to assist victims.

4. Phase 4 (22:40-23:00) – Emergency response & evacuation

Medical teams from both Italy and Slovenia mobilise, treating the wounded. Emergency vehicles remain restricted to their respective sides, but paramedics are allowed to cross on foot. Italian emergency response is coordinated by the regional centre, while Slovenian emergency teams operate under local authorities. Law enforcement officers secure the area, guiding attendees to pre-designated

emergency exits to prevent further injuries. By 23:00, the area is largely cleared, with ongoing investigations into the attacker's background and motivations.

Other: Any other relevant information (e.g. constraints)

A **2D map of the environment, with the location of elements** (e.g. stages, fences, scanners, patrolling areas, entry points, exits, etc.) and people (e.g. general public, security staff, etc.) is attached.