



CBRN COE Newsletter Volume 1 – October 2011

Welcome to the first edition of our CBRN CoE Newsletter

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative, or CBRN CoE, was launched in May 2010 to involve national, regional and international resources with the aim of developing a common and coherent Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation policy at national and regional levels.

The origin of the risk can be criminal (proliferation, theft, sabotage and illicit trafficking), accidental (industrial catastrophes, in particular chemical or nuclear, waste treatment and transport) or natural (mainly pandemics). The CBRN CoE initiative supports, at national and regional levels, the reinforcement of the institutional capacity needed to fight against this risk.

It is designed to use the European Union's networking capabilities to bring together CBRN experts with the aim of strengthening the regional culture of safety and security. The various regional projects will help to achieve this by increasing institutional capabilities, local ownership, local expertise and long-term sustainability.

This three-monthly CBRN CoE newsletter will let you know about future events, report on previous ones and encourage you to participate in this ever-growing network. In this first edition we will also try to bring you up to date on developments and major events since we began in May last year.

If you have any feedback or comments to make please do not hesitate to contact me or one of our team at: cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu

Mike Thornton, Project Coordinator, Joint Research Centre, **European Commission**

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CBRN COE AT A GLANCE

An international network for CBRN risk mitigation

The creation of the CBRN CoE aims at implementing a coordinated strategy for CBRN risk mitigation at the international, regional and national levels

Concept

Through the setting-up of a network of CBRN experts, organisations and Partner Country representatives, the CoE will attempt to address local and regional issues related to CBRN risk mitigation, in a variety of regions of the world outside of the European Union (EU).

Priority is given to CBRN expertise and capabilities already available at the regional level to develop tailored training and assistance packages meeting the specific needs identified in the regions. This expertise will be complemented where necessary by expertise from the EU Member States and international organisations.

Structure

The CBRN CoE project is an initiative of the European Union with an EU contribution of 95 million euros for the period 2009-2013.

It is implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

Overall coordination of the initiative being carried out by representatives from both the JRC and UNICRI in close cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation EuropeAid (DG DEVCO) and the recently formed European External Action Service (EEAS).

Within the CBRN CoE structure there are a series of Regional Secretariats, there to support the countries in the region by communicating with Partner Countries National Focal Points, CBRN teams and assisting in the implementation of projects in the region. By the end of 2011 five Regional Secretariats should be operational in the following regions: Middle East, North Africa, West Africa, South East Asia, South East Europe, Ukraine and the Caucasus.

Expected results

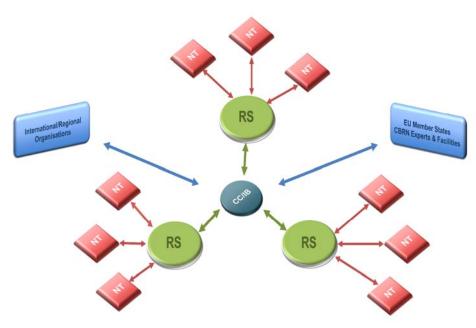
Partner Countries will benefit from the CBRN CoE initiative in a variety of ways:

1) At national level - reinforcement of national CBRN policy, improvement of institutional capacities in legal, regulatory control, scientific/technical support and law enforcement domains in order to mitigate CBRN risk. Addressing needs through specific tailored projects, and membership of an international network of CBRN experts.

2) At regional level - institutional capacity building, strengthening of existing networks and enhanced regional cooperation.

For more information on the CBRN CoE visit our website:

http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/index.html



RS – Regional Secretariat
NT – National CBRN Team
CC/IB – Coordinating Committee / Implementing Body



CBRN CoE in the News

The CBRN CoE initiative has been quoted in Press Statements and in publications on CBRN and WMD non-proliferation

20th EU-Japan Summit

Following the EU-Japan Summit held in May 2011, the leaders affirmed the intent of the EU and Japan to develop and expand their cooperative activities on nuclear safety.

Initial areas for joint activities could include amongst others promotion of international standards, emergency preparedness/response, enhancing institutional capacity to manage CBRN risks in other countries, information exchange on the implementation of the CBRN CoE initiative and Japan's Integrated Support Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Security.

http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president/summits-with-third-countries.aspx

CBRNe World

Michael Thornton, Project Coordinator of the CBRN CoE from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, tells Gwyn Winfield about their version of a Centre of Excellence in an interview published in the CBRNe World.

http://www.cbrneworld.com/pdf/cbrne-world-spring-2011-the-network-of-excellence.pdf



EU-Japan Summit



CBRNe World Magazine - Spring 2011

Non-Proliferation Papers

'Mapping the EU's institutional actors related to WMD non-proliferation': a first issue of Non-Proliferation Papers by Lina Grip - Project Coordinator at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Research Assistant for the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium - elaborates on the key EU institutional actors and programmes involved in non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction including CBRN CoE.

The EU Non-Proliferation Consortium is the European Network of Independent Non-Proliferation Think-Tanks.

http://www.nonproliferation.eu/ documents/ nonproliferationpapers/01 grip.pdf **NETWORKING**

Meetings with Partner Countries

Collaboration is based on voluntary involvement of Partner Countries.
In 2010-2011 CBRN CoE
Team members visited 20
Partner Countries to promote and explain the CBRN CoE initiative

Bilateral meetings

In 2010 and 2011 a number of missions have been carried out to Partner Countries that expressed their interest in the CoE initiative. In total, the CBRN CoE team members visited 20 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

During the missions a series of bilateral meetings took place at the government level with the representatives of various Ministries including Interior. Foreign Affairs, Defence, Health, Science, Technology etc. and national agencies dealing with CBRN. The meetings had the aim of explaining the concept of the CBRN CoE initiative, as well as helping the Partner Countries to form their National CBRN Teams that would be key players of the initiative at the national level. They would be in charge of assessing the country's needs and promoting the coordination of CBRN policy among the relevant national institutions.

Round Table meetings of National Focal Points

Equally beneficial were Round Table meetings of National Focal Points - NFPs (in charge of National Teams).

The first Round Table meeting of the NFPs took place in the South East Asia region in Manila at the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime on 24-25 November 2010. NFPs from Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand were present. The second Round Table meeting of NFPs from South East Asia was organised in May 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand and gathered representatives from nine Partner Countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).

NFPs from South East Europe, Ukraine and the Caucasus region met on 24 March 2011 at the First Round Table in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ten Partner Countries were represented: Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine.

The latest Round Table meeting took place in Algiers, Algeria on 22-23 June 2011 with representatives of Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The discussion points at Round Table meetings included amongst others: objectives of the CBRN CoE including regional and international aspect of the cooperation, the CBRN needs assessment survey, the role of National Teams and National Focal Points, future projects and the role and location of the Regional Secretariats.



Thailand, 11 May 2011. Participants at the Second Round Table meeting of National Focal Points in South East Asia included representatives from 9 Partner Countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), EU Delegation representative, International Organisations (BWC ISU, UNODA, UNODC), CBRN experts, and CoE team members.





Bosnia and Herzegovina, 24 March 2011. Participants at the First Round Table meeting of National Focal Points in South East Europe, Ukraine and the Caucasus included representatives from 10 Partner Countries (Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine), International Organisations (OPCW, BAFA, IAEA, OSCE, SECI Center), and CoE team members.

Benefits for
Partner Countries
include: strengthening
of existing networks,
enhanced
regional cooperation
and the improvement of
national coordination in the
field of CBRN
risk mitigation

International and regional organisations working in CBRN field: the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA), Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI Center), as well as representatives of the EU Delegations, and European External Action Service (EEAS) participated in the meetings.

For more information on the CBRN CoE meetings visit our website:

http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/news_archive.html

CBRN CoE team members met with representatives of 35 Countries:

During its starting phase, the CBRN CoE initiative has benefited locally from the political support of EU Delegations. The CBRN CoE team would like to thank all the EU Delegation staff that provided outstanding support of our mission.

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Cambodia, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen **NETWORKING**

Coordination with International Organisations

Activities implemented by the CBRN CoE are being coordinated with international and regional organisations to ensure synergy and reduce duplication

Our partners

Since the launch of the CBRN CoE in 2010, many international and regional organisations working in CBRN risk mitigation have joined the initiative including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Health Organization (WHO), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC ISU), EUROPOL, INTERPOL, and the European Biosafety Association to name but a few.

Joint meetings

Meetings with different regional and international organisations were organised in 2010 in order to present the CBRN CoE initiative and discuss the opportunities for collaboration. Representatives of international and regional organisations participated in bilateral and round table meetings with Partner Countries.

Conferences and workshops

CoE team members were invited to various conferences and meetings organised by

international and regional organisations which was an excellent opportunity for networking and promoting the CBRN CoE initiative:

20 June 2011. NNSA-IWG Workshop and Round Table on Science Collaboration and Security: a new global outreach to key actors, Como, Italy. Workshop, organised by the Landau Network Centro Volta with the support of the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), was attended by participants from Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Irag, Italy, Jordan, Pakistan, Russia, the UK, and the USA. It underlined the international dimension of CBRN risk mitigation, and highlighted that three main events taking place in 2011-2012 will address CBRN risk mitigation: the next BWC (Biological Weapons Convention) Review Conference, the G8 under the US Presidency, and the Nuclear Security Summit in South Korea.

13-14 June 2011. Workshop on Promoting Nuclear Safety Culture in the Arab Countries, Beirut, Lebanon. The participants of the Workshop agreed on the necessity to include all the concerned parties in each country in any development of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence. The national network success depends on the success of the international networks in the different countries.

24-25 May 2011. 11th Border Working Monitoring Group (BWMG), Ispra, Italy. BWMG was created under the auspice of the IAEA to share information in border monitoring activities and coordinate border security efforts. This small informal group seeks to maximise resources, avoid duplicate installation and training activities, and promote long-term, sustained enhancement in border security.

17-20 May 2011. INTERPOL Global Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Pre-



CBRN Governance Workshop. Turin, 18 April 2011



vention Conference, Lyon, France. The conference marked the public launch of INTERPOL's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit. It provided an opportunity to learn more about existing national/international initiatives in the field of radiological and nuclear trafficking and to coordinate CBRN risk mitigation activities with countries and organisations, such as the USA, Canada, EU Member States, INTERPOL, the IAEA and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

18-19 April 2011. CBRN Governance Workshop, Turin, Italy. The aim of the workshop organised by UNICRI with JRC was to define the main concepts of CBRN Governance, and strategy to promote CBRN policy integration through inter-agency communication and coordination and standardisation of existing procedures within the Partner Countries involved in the CoE initiative. With regard to combating the risks of CBRN misuse, national CBRN governance helps unify a country's CBRN policy and facilitates the integration of national CBRN activities among all relevant agencies and stakeholders.

15-17 November 2010. Australia Group (AG) Intersessional Implementation Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland. AG is an informal forum (40 countries and the European Commission) which seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons. The meeting was organised in order to discuss the update of the AG Common Control Lists (biological, chemical, of dual-use chemical manufacturing facilities, equipment and related technology, of dual-use biological equipment and related technology).

13-15 October 2010. Annual International Symposium on Bio-security and Bio-safety: future trends and solutions, Milan, Italy. The aim of this symposium was to allow officials, policy analysts, scientists, health leaders, congressional staff members, and members of the media to share information, to implement ethics education, training programmes, to improve strategy



for countering biological weapons threats and infectious diseases outbreaks.

22-24 August 2010. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts, Geneva, Switzerland. Meeting organised in preparation of the forthcoming Seventh BWC Review Conference scheduled for December 2011, focused on the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant

organisations upon request by any State Party in the case of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems. This international meeting offered the opportunity to identify and make contact with experts and organisations involved in bio-safety and bio-security.

7-8 July 2010. Seminar on the CBRN CoE in South East Asia, Jakarta, Indonesia. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the functions, tasks, structure, operation of the CoE, as well as possible locations. The seminar was an occasion for the European Union to invite countries of the South East Asia region to participate in the CoE project and to make a formal expression of interest, and to nominate their National Focal Points. Fields of interest of different countries, and preliminary activities were studied.

26-27 May 2010. Conference: Promoting Regional CBRN Centres of Excellence through the development of a culture of safety and security, Amman, Jordan. The conference organised in four working group sessions (on export control, nuclear illicit trafficking, scientific engagement, biological and chemical materials) was the occasion to present EU policy and instruments concerning CBRN risk mitigation to the League of Arab States and participating countries, and to exchange approaches and experiences gained in the different fields. The conference ended with a projection of the next steps to be undertaken for the implementation of the CoE initiative.

For more information on the CBRN CoE meetings visit our website: http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/news archive.html

COE PROJECTS

Addressing regional CBRN risk mitigation needs

The CBRN CoE addresses regional CBRN needs in collaboration with the Partner Countries through specific tailored scientific and technical projects



Mobile Molecular Laboratory (Bio-safety Level - 2/3) in Thailand

Matching Needs with Capabilities

Projects within the CBRN CoE are developed on the basis of the assessment of the needs of Partner Countries in the area of the CBRN risk mitigation. These needs are identified through the CBRN Need Assessment Tool (NAT) - a questionnaire that helps the countries to perform a "self assessment" of their current status, identifying gaps and possible areas for cooperation. At the same time as the NAT, a "CBRN capability map" of CBRN experts, facilities, technology and equipment is being compiled. It attempts to identify expertise, facilities and training schools that could be utilised as part of projects implemented at

regional level. It will target experts and institutions within the EU Member States, Partner Countries, International and Regional Organisations. The identified capabilities will be mobilised to address the required needs during project implementation. Priority will be given to existing capabilities at the regional level. Where necessary these resources will be complemented by those from the EU Member States, international organisations and other countries as necessary.

Partner Countries are encouraged to submit project proposals using a dedicated Project Proposal Form that has been developed. Once project proposals have been formulated and submitted by the National Focal Point representing a Partner Country through the Regional Secretariat, they will be subject to a review and approval process by the Coordinating Committee.

Pilot Projects

So far, two pilot projects in the area of capacity building in countering illicit traffick-

ing and the reinforcement of legislation and regulations in bio-safety, bio-security and laboratory management systems have been carried out in the region of the South East Asia.

Upcoming Projects

23 projects were selected for funding by the Coordinating Committee following two meetings on the 8 July and 9 September 2011 in Brussels. The projects will be implemented in the Middle East, South East Asia, South East Europe, Ukraine and the Caucasus, North and West Africa, Central Asia, and Sub Saharan Africa and will begin in 2012.

The selected projects are in the area of illicit trafficking, bio-safety/bio-security, first response, the misuse of biotechnology, CBRN national legal framework, e-learning on CBRN risk mitigation, public and infrastructure protection, awareness rising on CBRN threats, CB waste management, border control and CBRN import/export.



Bio-safety, bio-security and laboratory management systems are examples of the CBRN CoE fields of concern

A LOOK AT THE PORTAL

CBRN CoE web portal: an on-line tool for cooperation

Two independent IT platforms - a public website and a private portal have been developed and implemented

The public website, available at http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/, serves to inform the public about the CoE and includes general information concerning the initiative, the technical areas in which we work and who is involved.

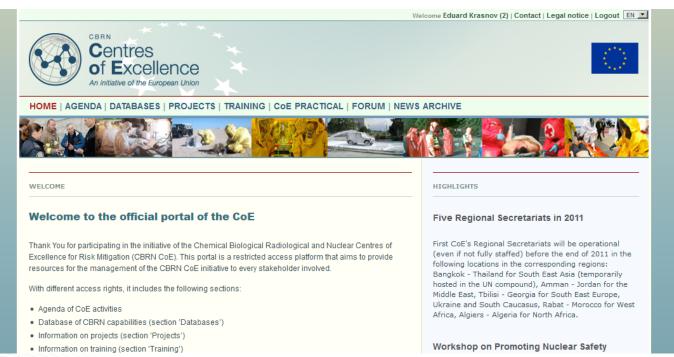
A second independent restricted access IT platform or portal has been developed to facilitate cooperation and resource sharing amongst the project partners and stake-

holders. With different privileges, access to this portal is granted to the project's Coordinating Committee, members of the CBRN National Teams and National Focal Points of the Partner Countries, staff of the Regional Secretariats, EU staff, and CBRN experts and representatives of organisations working in the CBRN field. Since the launch of the initiative 400 members have registered and have access to the portal.

An important area within the Portal is dedicated to supporting Partner Countries in analysing their needs and capabilities in terms of the CBRN risk mitigation, and submitting project proposals. Additionally, the Portal includes an agenda of the CoE activities with downloadable documents, a section concerning on-going projects, and up-

coming and completed training courses. Once the Regional Secretariats are operational later this year, each of them will have its own dedicated area to include information specific to the activities and projects in their region.

CBRN experts and organisations wishing to contribute to the initiative may apply to be part of the growing network. Registration is simple and a registration form complete with the explanation on possible modes of cooperation is available on the CoE public website at http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/join_coe.html. Following validation of the registration request and upon the issue of a unique personal identification login and password, members will have access to the portal (with different privileges depending on the role assigned to them).



Screenshot of the home page of the private CBRN CoE Portal

CBRN CoE Coordinating Committee

is in charge of the overall supervision of the CBRN CoE initiative. This will include strategic decisions related to selection of priority actions and projects and the related legal and financial commitments. The Committee's goals are: project approval procedure, awarding rules and principles definition, correct allocation of funds, quality control and evaluation.



EUROPE AID
DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION OFFICE

European Commission - Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DEVCO)

Development and Cooperation- EuropeAid is a Directorate General of the European Commission. It reinforces the ability of the EU to design state-of-the-art development policy for all developing countries and enhance policy coherence for development while further improving implementation and delivery mechanisms. The overall aim of the office is to ensure efficiency in delivery of aid as well as qualitative and coherent development by bringing together policy development and policy implementation.

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/



European External Action Service (EEAS)

The European External Action Service (EEAS) assists the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and endeavours to make the diplomatic presence of the European Union on the globe more coherent and effective with the objective of enhancing both regional and international prosperity, security and stability. It aims at strengthening the European Union on the global stage, give it more profile, and enable it to project its interests and values more efficiently.

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/



European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

As a Directorate General of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is independent from national interests. The JRC was originally established under the Euratom treaty promoting nuclear safety and security in Europe and has been contributing to this aim with its research activities ever since. Today the JRC is deeply embedded in the European Research Area and the EU legislative process. The JRC has also a long standing expertise and experience in training in support to EURATOM and IAEA as well as in managing networks of experts.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/

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The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

As an independent UN Agency, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has a substantial experience in the security governance area and established, in 2008, the Security Governance/Counter-Terrorism Laboratory. In the same year, in cooperation with the European Union and with the technical support of the IAEA, the OPCW, BWC ISU, WCO, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and the SECI Center, UNICRI started the Knowledge Management System (KMS) project with the scope of preventing CBRN illicit trafficking.

http://www.unicri.it/

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Upcoming CBRN CoE Events

12-14 October. 3rd Annual International Symposium on Bio-security and Biosafety: Future Trends and Solutions. Milan, Italy

21 October 2011. Meeting with the EU Member States to inform them of the current status of the CBRN CoE initiative. Brussels, Belgium

26 October 2011. Third Round Table meeting of National Focal Points in South East Asia. Phnom Penh, Cambodia

8-10 November 2011. Chemshield exercise. the Hague, the Netherlands

23-24 November 2011. Regional workshop on illicit trafficking. The first day will focus on illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials. The second day will be dedicated to the introduction of the CBRN CoE initiative in the region. Nairobi, Kenya

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