



CBRN CoE Newsletter

Volume 2 — January 2012

Happy New Year 2012!

Welcome to the second edition of our CBRN CoE Newsletter

In 2012 the Centres of Excellence Initiative will enter an exciting new phase

During the past eighteen months a considerable amount of work has gone into establishing contacts in more than 40 countries, assessing country needs related to CBRN risk mitigation and setting-up Regional Secretariats to help coordinate the work of the Initiative.

In the last few months the network has benefited from innovative activities that have been organised within the framework of the Centres of Excellence. In partnership with the Dutch National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism and Security, the CHEM-SHIELD Exercise took place in November 2011 in The Hague in the Netherlands. There were more than 120 participants from all over the world and many CoE Partner Countries were able to join the exercise and share their expertise.

Another challenge met by the CoE Initiative in the last year was the develop-

ment of the CBRN governance approach. The need to improve CBRN Governance has been identified by various CoE Partner Countries. In September 2011 an innovative workshop was organised in Podgorica, Montenegro. The aim of this was to understand and test, together with National Focal Points and experts from the region, the concept of CBRN governance.

In 2012 we are entering a new phase of the CoE Initiative in which needs that were previously identified by CoE Partner Countries will be addressed through specific projects, approved and financed by the European Union. In the first trimester of 2012 the CoE Initiative is seeking agencies to carry out these projects. The project outlines and call for proposals are now published and can be found on www.cbrn-coe.eu, www.unicri.it and the CoE private portal.

Marian de Bruijn

Breaking News

G8 Global Partnership

In support of G8 Global Partnership (GP) representatives from the EU/UN and BAFA presented the activities of the CoE Initiative to the 24 countries making up the GP and to the International Organisations present at the GP meeting on 24-26 January in Washington DC.

Read more on page 9

Call for Proposals published

A Call for Proposals to implement 19 projects in the framework of the CBRN CoE has been published. The Guidelines and application documents are available at www.cbrn-coe.eu and www.unicri.it

Read more on page 2-4

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CBRN CoE met representatives from:

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

CBRN CoE PROJECTS IN THE WORLD

An update on CBRN CoE projects

19 new projects in the area of CBRN risk mitigation with an overall EU contribution of 16 million EUR have been selected for funding

The CBRN CoE addresses regional CBRN needs, in collaboration with Partner Countries through scientific and technical projects. Successful implementation of projects will contribute to an increase in the institutional capacity of Partner Countries. This is essential to fight against the risk related to the misuse of CBRN materials. The origin of the risk can be criminal, accidental or natural.

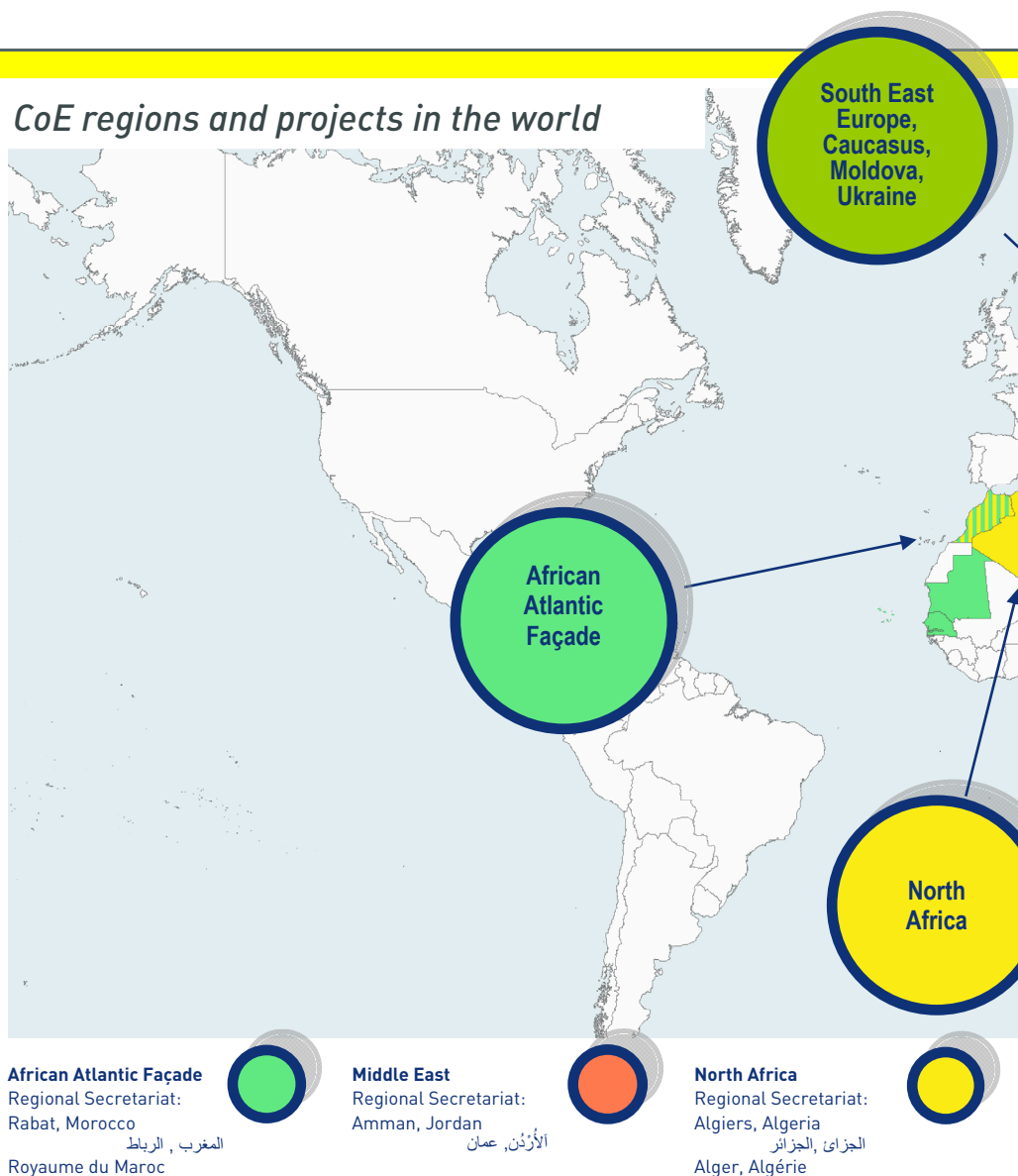
Current projects

The 19 projects listed on page 4 will be funded entirely from the European Union budget. The implementation phase will begin in the second half of 2012, following the completion of the selection and contractual procedures. These will be carried out in close cooperation with CBRN CoE National Focal Points, National Teams, National CBRN experts, and CoE Regional Secretariats.

The selected projects will be implemented in the following regions: African Atlantic Façade, Middle East, North Africa, South East Asia, and South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine.

Additionally, pilot actions will be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia. Three projects (10, 18, and 19) are international in scope.

CoE regions and projects in the world



Technical areas of upcoming projects:

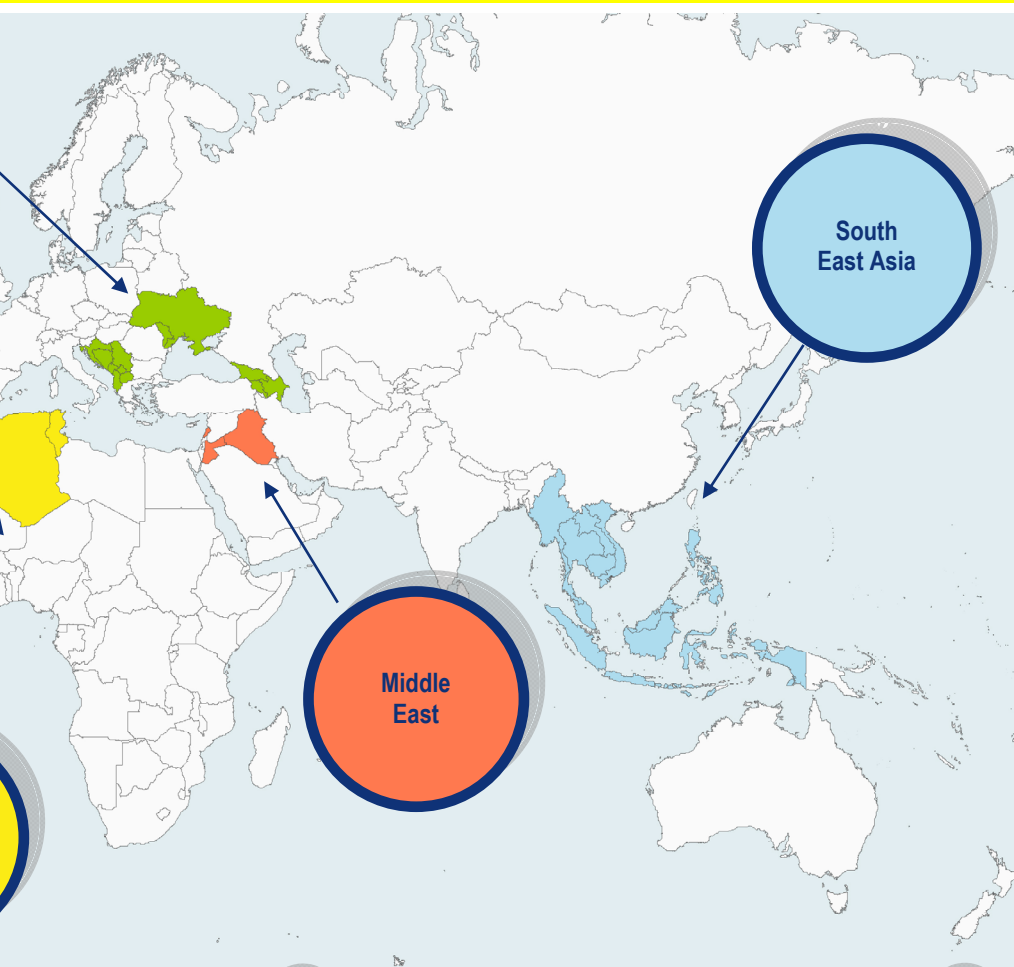
- Bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management;
- CBRN import/export monitoring;
- Assessing risks of CBRN misuse.

Technical areas of upcoming projects:

- CBRN import/export monitoring;
- National Response Plan for CBRN events in Lebanon;
- Assessing risks of CBRN misuse.

Technical areas of upcoming projects:

- Bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management;
- CBRN import/export monitoring;
- Assessing risks of CBRN misuse;
- Integrated national nuclear security system.



South East Asia
Regional Secretariat:
Manila, Philippines
Maynila, Pilipinas

Technical areas of upcoming projects:

- Bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management;
- Inter-agency CBRN response;
- CB waste management;
- CBRN national legal frameworks;
- Assessing risks of CBRN misuse.

Two pilot projects on-going:

- Illicit nuclear trafficking;
- Legislations and regulations in the field of bio-safety, bio-security and laboratory management systems.

South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine
Regional Secretariat:
Tbilisi, Georgia
თბილისი, საქართველო

Technical areas of upcoming projects:

- Forensic capacities;
- Illicit trafficking of chemical agents;
- Identification and response to threats from CBRN substances;
- Bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management;
- Inter-agency CBRN response;
- CBRN import/export monitoring;
- Assessing risks of CBRN misuse;
- First response capabilities.

On-going pilot projects

The implementation of the first two pilot projects in the framework of the CoE began in 2011, in the South East Asia region. The first pilot project tackled illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. It aims to build capacity in nuclear security, with particular emphasis on nuclear forensics. It is being carried out by the JRC's Institute for Transuranium Elements in Karlsruhe, Germany, under the guidance of Klaus Meyer. This has included two workshops on nuclear forensics awareness and technical nuclear forensics. A third workshop, dedicated to training in basic nuclear forensics, is scheduled to take place in 2012. The second pilot project, carried out in the area of bio-security and bio-safety, is being carried out by 'L. Sacco' University Hospital, Milan, Italy. The objective of this project is to share knowledge between the EU and countries in South East Asia, to gain a common understanding of the main bio-security and bio-safety concepts. The aim is to build capacity by developing a mutual and reasoned understanding of bio-safety and bio-security and promoting recommendations adapted to the specific needs of the Partner Countries.

How to submit project proposals?

Partner Countries are encouraged to submit project proposals at any time. A dedicated Project Proposal Form, available for download from the CoE portal should be used. Once completed, it should be submitted by the CoE National Focal Point, representing a Partner Country to the Regional Secretariat and to the CBRN CoE at: cbn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu. All proposals will be subject to a review and approval process.

CBRN CoE PROJECTS IN THE WORLD

List of 19 CoE projects selected for funding

19 projects have been approved for funding, following two rounds of project selection and prioritisation.

The projects will be entirely financed from the EU budget, in total the EU contribution of the selected projects amounts to 16 million EUR

Project 1: Identification and strengthening of forensic capacities in the area of prevention of organised crime and illicit trafficking of chemical agents, including training and equipment for front line customs officers (geographical scope: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia)

Project 2: Building capacity to identify and respond to threats from CBRN substances (geographical scope: Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Project 3: Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management (geographical scope: African Atlantic Façade, North Africa, South East Asia, South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine)

Project 4: Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on inter-agency CBRN response (geographical scope: South East Asia, South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/ Ukraine)

Project 5: Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on CBRN import/export monitoring (geographical scope: African Atlantic Façade, Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa)

Project 6: Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on chemical and biological waste management (geographical scope: South East Asia)

Project 7: Guidelines, procedures and standardisation on bio-safety/bio-security (geographical scope: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Moldova, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Philippines, Vietnam)

Project 8: Prerequisite to strengthening CBRN national legal frameworks (geographical scope: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines)

Project 9: National Response Plan in Lebanon for CBRN Events (geographical scope: Lebanon)

Project 10: Development of e-learning courses for CBRN risk mitigation (geographical scope: international)

Project 11: Promoting good practice and inter-agency procedures for assessing the risks of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear misuse (geographical scope: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Vietnam)

Project 12: Sharing experience between EU and South East Asian countries on the reinforcement of legislations and regulations in the field of bio-safety and bio-security, as well as relevant laboratories management systems through Regional Centre of Excellence - phase 2 (geographical scope: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Vietnam)

Project 13: Pilot: Capacity building and raising awareness for identifying and responding to threats from CBRN materials in Sub-Saharan African countries (geographical scope: Sub-Saharan Africa)

Project 14: Provision of specialised and technical training to enhance the first response capabilities (geographical scope: South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine)

Project 15: Strengthening laboratory bio-safety and bio-security through development of a laboratory iso-bank system (geographical scope: Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines)

Project 16: Supporting development of an integrated national nuclear security system (geographical scope: North Africa)

Project 17: Pilot: Establishing a National Response Plan in Ghana and Kenya for responding to unauthorised events involving CBRN materials (geographical scope: Ghana, Kenya)

Project 18: International Network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns in bio-technology (geographical scope: international)

Project 19: Development of procedures and guidelines to create and improve secure information management systems and data exchange mechanisms for CBRN materials under regulatory control (geographical scope: international)

CBRN CoE NETWORK

Opening of the CoE Regional Secretariats

Within the CBRN CoE structure there are a series of Regional Secretariats

Role of a Regional Secretariat

The Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative endeavours to address local and regional issues related to CBRN risk mitigation, through the setting-up of a network of CBRN experts, organisations and Partner Country representatives in various regions worldwide and the implementation of projects. In order to facilitate these activities, regional secretariats are being set-up in the different regions where the CoE is active.

Six secretariats will be set-up in early 2012, covering the regions of South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine; South East Asia; African Atlantic Façade; the Middle East; North Africa; and shortly, Central Asia. The opening of secretariats in Sub-Saharan Africa and Gulf Cooperation Countries will follow later this year.

The secretariat plays a major role in ensuring there is a good level of cooperation and coordination with Partner Countries through their National Focal Points and facilitates the implementation of projects in the region. In particular, the secretariats are responsible for supporting countries in the identification of needs, formulation of project proposals of a regional concern, development and improvement of national action plans and execution of the approved projects. Every six months the regional secretariats will organise a round-table meeting for all National Focal Points in the region to coordinate activities, exchange views and opinions and to ensure that the CoE network is sustained.

Latest updates on the Regional Secretariats

South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine

The CoE Initiative was officially launched in the region in February 2011 and it was agreed that the regional secretariat will be hosted in Tbilisi, Georgia. The region consists of 11 countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. All countries in the region have nominated National Focal Points and many are now in the phase of setting up National CBRN Teams, composed of national experts from various bodies and ministries operating in the field of CBRN Risk Mitigation. The National CBRN Teams are responsible for coordinating efforts at a national level.



South East Asia

The regional secretariat in South East Asia is the outcome of intense collaborative efforts between the EU, UNICRI and the 10 participating countries of the region; namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

In early October 2011 the regional secretariat for South East Asia temporarily com-

menced operations in the UN building in Bangkok, Thailand. During the CBRN CoE third National Focal Points round-table meeting held in Cambodia in October 2011, the Philippines expressed its interest to host the regional secretariat on a rotational basis. This was officially confirmed last December.

North Africa

The Knowledge Management System on the CBRN trafficking in North Africa, which was launched in March 2009, provided the basis for the establishment of the CBRN CoE regional secretariat for the region, which will be hosted in Algiers, Algeria.

All countries have nominated National Focal Points and made important steps towards the establishment of national CBRN Teams. During the last round-table meeting of the National Focal Points held in Algeria in June 2011, Partner Countries expressed their needs and proposals in the CBRN fields, creating a cooperative platform in the field of security/safety in the region.

Middle East

Since May 2010, the countries in this region have demonstrated their interest and support for the Initiative. In December 2010 representatives of the countries assembled in Brussels, where it was agreed that the secretariat would be hosted in Amman in the Kingdom of Jordan. The countries have made important steps towards sharing their needs and capabilities in the field of CBRN and submitting project proposals to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities in strategic areas related to CBRN.

African Atlantic Façade

The first round table meeting was held in

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

CBRN CoE in the News

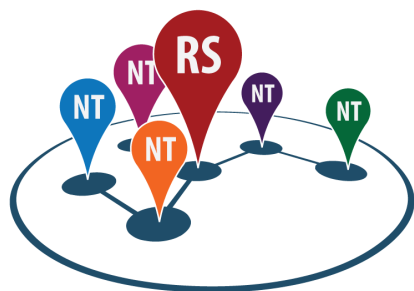
Rabat, Morocco in December 2011. This officially launched the CoE Initiative in the region. National Focal Points and experts from Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal attended this meeting, expressing full support for the Initiative and welcoming the opening of the regional secretariat in Rabat. During the meeting the upcoming projects for the region were presented and the countries expressed great enthusiasm for realisation of these. The beginning of 2012 will be marked by a series of in-country workshops in order to further brief national CBRN stakeholders on the CoE and guarantee the success of the Initiative in this region.

Central Asia

In March 2011, the CoE Initiative was launched in Central Asia during an EU Workshop in Astana, Kazakhstan. Following this, UNICRI/EU missions will be organised to the various capitals to brief national experts about the Initiative.

Next Steps

In the coming weeks and months we will see the launch of the CoE in Sub-Saharan Africa (initial meeting on 19-20 January 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya) and missions and discussions with the Gulf Cooperation Countries.



 13 December 2011

Joint Press Statement: the 7th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) between the Philippines and the European Union, Manila

Source: Official Gazette of the Office of the President of the Philippines

'The Philippines and the EU affirmed their mutual interest in a peaceful and stable Asia-Pacific region and in this regard the EU welcomed the Philippines' interest to host the Southeast Asia Permanent Secretariat of the CBRN CoE. Both sides agreed to continue consultations on this matter.'

<http://www.gov.ph/2011/12/13/joint-press-statement-on-the-7th-ph-eu-senior-officials-meeting-december-13-2011/>

 13 December 2011

'The European Union offers the Philippines the right to host the Permanent Secretariat of the Southeast Asian CBRN CoE and risk mitigation'

Source: Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

'In a move that would give practical meaning to EU co-operation with the Philippines on regional security issues, the EU and the Philippines discussed the possible establishment of the CBRN Permanent Secretariat for South East Asia in Manila.'

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines/documents/press_corner/20111213_01_en.pdf

 16 December 2011

'EU chooses RP as center for anti-nuke disaster'

Source: The Daily Tribune

'The establishment of the center in Manila,

the EU said, gives "practical meaning" to its cooperation with the Philippines on regional security issues, such as prevention of nuclear risks and disasters.'

<http://www.tribuneonline.org/nation/20111216nat1.html>

 13 December 2011

'Manila offered to host SEA Secretariat of EU Center for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear mitigation'

Source: U.S. News Los Angeles

'The EU has offered the Philippine government the possibility of Manila hosting its Permanent Secretariat for Southeast Asia of the CBRN CoE and Risk Mitigation.'

<http://usnews.lasvegas.asia/ph/manila-offered-to-host-sea-secretariat-of-eu-center-for-chemical-biological-radiological-and-nuclear-mitigation/>

 December 2011

'Assessing selected European Union external assistance and cooperation projects on WMD non-proliferation'

Source: EU Non-Proliferation Consortium

In this 6th 'Non-Proliferation Paper' Lina Grip (Project Coordinator at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - SIPRI, and Research Assistant for the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium) focuses on established EU cooperation with non-EU countries, including external CBRN cooperation programmes.

The EU Non-Proliferation Consortium is the European network of independent non-proliferation think tanks.

<http://www.nonproliferation.eu/documents/nonproliferationpapers/linagrip4ef076968446a.pdf>

NETWORKING

Recent meetings, conferences

CoE team members met with representatives of Partner Countries and participated in international conferences and workshops in order to promote the CBRN CoE Initiative, and ensure coordination with other international activities

Bilateral meetings

In the second half of 2011, the CBRN CoE team members met with government authorities and representatives of the institutions and national agencies dealing with CBRN from Cambodia, Jordan, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Malaysia, Montenegro, Morocco, Moldova, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates. The aim of these meetings was to present the overview of the Initiative, with the structure and the role of different entities of the Initiative that will operate at the regional and national level (Regional Secretariats, National Focal Points and National Teams). Additionally, meetings took place in preparation of the opening of Regional Secretariats with the host Partner Countries in Jordan, Morocco, the Philippines and Thailand.

Round Table meetings

Round Table meetings brought together National Focal Points from three regions: South East Asia (3rd Round Table took place on 26 October 2011), South East Europe/



Cambodia, 26 October 2011. Participants of the Third Round Table meeting of National Focal Points in South East Asia hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Cambodia included representatives of Partner Countries from the region (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), EU Delegation to Cambodia, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, World Customs Organisation, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, JRC, UNICRI

Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine (2nd Round Table on 10 November 2011) and African Atlantic Façade (1st Round Table on 13 December 2011). Discussions were oriented towards the preparations for opening of the CoE Regional Secretariats in the regions, updates on the status of CBRN National Teams and National Focal Points, upcoming projects approved for funding by the Coordinating Committee, new project proposals that could be developed in the regions and the next steps to be undertaken in the implementation of the CoE Initiative.

CBRN Governance

A mentoring Service on CBRN governance took place on 13-14 September 2011 in Podgorica, Montenegro, and was hosted by the Ministry of Interior and Public Administra-

tion of Montenegro. It brought together National Focal Points and experts from South East Europe/Caucasus/Moldova/Ukraine region, as well as representatives from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the concept of the CBRN Governance and to provide advice and guidelines on how to set up a CBRN National Team.

Conferences

27-30 September 2011. Conference 'Bio-safety and Bio-security in the region: what works and what doesn't.', Tbilisi, Georgia. The Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus organised a conference to promote bio-security and bio-

s and workshops

safety in the region and to provide a forum for sharing best practices. Topics of the conference included risk assessment, legal and regulatory issues, sustainability and training and education with regard to bio-safety and bio-security fields.

12-14 October 2011. Third Annual International Symposium on Bio-security and Bio-safety: future trends and solutions, Milan, Italy. The Symposium was organised by Clinical Microbiology Unit of 'L.Sacco' University Hospital, Milan, Italy. The scientific themes were discussed: 1) Sharing a Common Understanding in Bio-safety and Bio-security. 2) Legislations, Regulations, Local Practices - the Dream of Standardisation. 3) Biological Threats and the International Security. 4) Future Trends in Synthetic Biology - and Effective Responses to the Security Risks. 5) Building Global Capacity in Combating Infectious Disease. 6) Redefining Laboratories Practice: what To Do and what I Can Do.

18-19 November 2011. IWG-LNCV Biosecurity Workshop and Round Table: Bio-security, Bio-safety, Human Capital and the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Como, Italy. Workshop, organised by the Landau Network Centro Volta was attended by experts from Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Sweden, the UK, the USA, the Netherlands, international organisations such as World Health Organisation and International Committee of the Red Cross. One of the sessions was dedicated to 'Global Cooperation in Science and Security', it focused on cooperation between scientists and other stakeholders around the globe, and included discussion on global bio-security and the provision of assistance.



Italy, Milan, 12-14 October 2011. Third Annual International Symposium on Bio-security and Bio-safety: future trends and solutions

24-26 January 2012. G8 Global Partnership meeting, Washington DC, the USA.

The United States is currently the Chair of the Global Partnership (GP) Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, the State Department Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, serves as the U.S. representative to the GP and will chair the Global Partnership throughout 2012. Representatives of more than 20 members of the GP and, for the first time, ten international organisations participated in the first meeting of the GP for 2012 under U.S. leadership. The group reflected on areas of future collaborative efforts: nuclear and radiological security; biosecurity; scientist engagement; and facilitating the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. The group also discussed ways in which the GP can become a more effective coordinating mechanism for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threat reduction activities among its members and

relevant international organisations. In support of this and to inform the GP of the EU CBRN CoE, a comprehensive team, made up of personnel from the EU, UN and the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA), made a series of presentations and also answered questions concerning the CoE Initiative. The meeting reflected on a new direction of the GP with the aim to become more global in scope and responsive to new security challenges. This wider scope also means that there may be a trend to go from larger projects to smaller ones that could be potentially more sustainable. The GP meeting was preceded by the International Working Group (IWG) discussion 'Global Partnership-2012 and beyond' focusing on IWG priorities for 2012, global scientist engagement, new security challenges and whole-of-government approach to threat reduction amongst others. On 26 January, Panel Discussions about the role of the GP took place at the George Washington University.

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Upcoming events

16 Feb 2012. In-country workshop on CBRN Governance in the Philippines

20 Feb 2012. CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting with Cambodia

23-24 Feb 2012. CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting with Malaysia

28 Feb 2012. Workshop on awareness raising and drafting of new project proposals in Lao PDR

1 March 2012. Workshop on awareness raising and drafting of new project proposals in Thailand

2 Mar 2012. CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting with Gabon

8 Mar 2012. CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting with Morocco

13 Mar 2012. First CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting with Senegal

12-16 Mar 2012. CBRN CoE Meetings with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

28 Mar 2012. CBRN CoE presented to the United Nations, New York

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About CBRN CoE

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project, launched in 2010, is an Initiative of the European Union (EU) with an EU contribution of 95 million euros. It is implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

This new initiative will address the mitigation of and preparedness against risks, either of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials or agents.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at: www.cbrn-coe.eu or send us an e-mail at: cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu

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Via the EU Bookshop
<http://bookshop.europa.eu>
 Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2012
 CBRN Centres of Excellence Newsletter
 ISSN 1977-2742 (online)

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