



CBRN

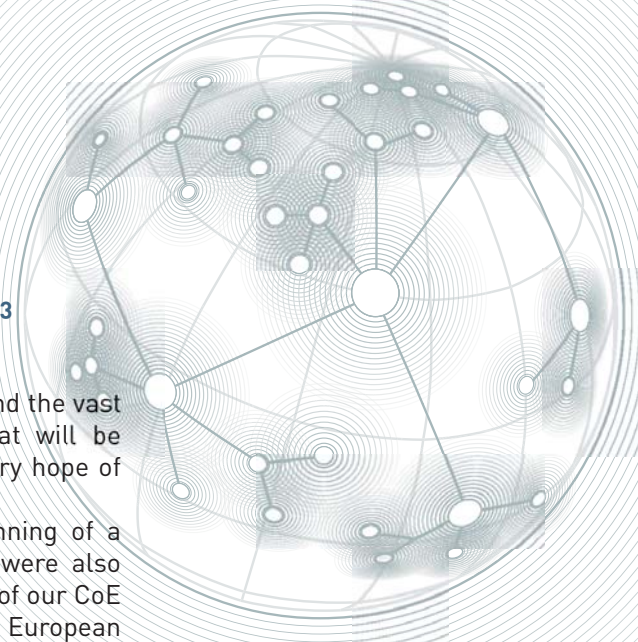
**Centres
of Excellence**

An initiative of the European Union



CBRN CoE Newsletter

Volume 5 - February 2013



Another year starts with even more success and of course more challenges. The first day of January was not just the beginning of the year, but the beginning of a whole new phase of the CoE initiative. The 1st of January was the contract start date for 24 projects that will be carried out in many of our partner countries around the world. This was the result of much hard work by the dedicated team working on this unique and often complex initiative. These projects will involve many partner countries, experts and entities from the EU member states and international organisations. The CoE regional secretariats will act as true platforms for cooperation as they are used as the focal point in the regions, bringing together the many players involved in implementation.

With great success comes great responsibility and we must ensure that the projects are carried out in a correct manner. We shall monitor them closely and will report on their progress honestly and openly. The implementing agencies have been selected with great care and have pedigree track records in their respective fields. Now we all have to rise to the challenge and address the issues that most surely will arise; with the sup-

port of all those involved and the vast experience and energy that will be brought to bear, I have every hope of success.

In parallel to the beginning of a number of projects there were also new beginnings in another of our CoE regions. January saw the European Union invite the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to actively participate in the Centres of Excellence. This invitation was reaffirmed during the successful conference "Promoting the regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative". The event was co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates and the European Commission with the active support of the EU Delegation in the region. It was held in Abu Dhabi as it has been agreed that the regional secretariat for this region will be hosted there. This conference marked the next stage of formally inviting Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to join with us, in this ever growing community and we look forward to working together with them in the near future.

Michael Thornton
JRC CBRN CoE Project Coordinator

Breaking News

CoE projects launched in January
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European Union invited the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries to join the CoE
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Smartphone users can install an application with a QR-code scanner to read the code

EU CBRN RISK MITIGATION CoE PROJECTS

CoE projects launched in January

The beginning of 2013 marked the completion of the contracting phase for the majority of projects selected for funding in 2011-2012. Below we present the list of projects and their implementers. These projects are entirely financed by the European Union

Chemical



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 (Project 1)

Countries: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia

Implementer: Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry IPO (Poland)

Network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns of chemical materials (Project 31)

Countries: All CoE Regions

Implementer: Agenzia Nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia, e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile ENEA (Italy)

Biological



Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on bio-safety, bio-security, bio-risk management (Project 3)

CoE Region: African Atlantic Façade, North Africa, South East Asia, South East Europe/Southern Caucasus/Moldova and Ukraine

Implementer: University of Insubria, Insubria Center on International Security ICIS (Italy)

Guidelines, procedures and standardisation on bio-safety, bio-security (Project 7)

Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Lao PDR, Moldova, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale FEI (France)

Sharing experience between EU and SEA countries on the re-inforcement of legislations and regulations in the field of bio-safety and bio-security, as well as relevant laboratories management systems through Regional CoE - phase 2 (Project 12)

Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Vietnam

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

Strengthening laboratory bio-safety and bio-security through development of a laboratory iso-bank system (Project 15)

Countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

International network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns in bio-technology (Project 18)

Countries: International

Implementer: Landau Network Centro Volta LNCV (Italy)

Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on bio-safety, bio-security, bio-risk management (Project 25)

CoE Region: Middle East

Implementer: Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" (Italy)

Bio-risk management (Project 27)

Countries: Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale FEI (France)

Radio and Nuclear



Supporting development of an integrated national nuclear security system (Project 16)

CoE Region: North Africa

Implementer: Studiecentrum voor Kernenergie / Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire SCK/CEN (the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre) (Belgium)

Development of a methodology for RN materials detection, management and protection of the public (Project 24)

Countries: Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale FEI (France)

Supporting development of an integrated national security system for nuclear and radioactive materials (Project 28)

CoE Region: South East Asia

Implementer: European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Regional human resource development for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards management through a university master's programme carried out in Thailand (Project 29)

CoE Region: South East Asia

Implementer: ENCO (Austria)

Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia Region (Project 30)

CoE Region: South East Asia

Implementer: European Commission - Joint Research Centre

CBRN



Building capacity to identify and respond to threats from CBRN substances (Project 2)

Countries: Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia

Implementer: The European CBRNE Centre at Umeå University UMU (Sweden)

Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on inter-agency CBRN response (Project 4)

CoE Region: South East Asia, South East Europe/Southern Caucasus/Moldova and Ukraine

Implementer: National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security NCTV (the Netherlands)

Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on CBRN import/export monitoring (Project 5)

CoE Region: African Atlantic Façade, Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa

Implementer: German Office of Economics and Export Control BAFA (Germany)

Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on chemical and biological waste management (Project 6)

CoE Region: South East Asia

Implementer: Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e Integrazione delle Tecnologie FORMIT Foundation (Italy)

Prerequisite to strengthening CBRN national legal frameworks (Project 8)

Countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines

Implementer: Verification Research, Training and Information Centre VERTIC (United Kingdom)

EU CBRN RISK MITIGATION CoE PROJECTS

CoE projects launched in January

CBRN (cont.)



National Response Plan in Lebanon for CBRN events (Project 9)
Countries: Lebanon

Implementer: Studiecentrum voor Kernenergie / Centre d'Etude de l'Energie Nucléaire SCK/CEN (the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre) (Belgium)

Development of e-learning courses for CBRN risk mitigation (Project 10)
Countries: International

Implementer: The President and Fellows of Middelbury College, the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies CNS (USA)

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

Implementer: National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security NCTV (the Netherlands)

Capacity building and raising awareness for identifying and responding to threats from CBRN materials in Sub-Saharan African countries (Project 13)
CoE Region: Eastern and Central Africa

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

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

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

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

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

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

Implementer: Application process still ongoing

Building regional border control capacity to identify and detect CRN materials (Project 21)
CoE Region: African Atlantic Façade, South East Asia

Implementer: European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Provision of specialised technical training to enhance the first responders' capabilities in case of CBRN incidents (Project 22)
CoE Region: African Atlantic Façade, South East Asia

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale FEI (France)

Building capacity to identify and respond to threats from CBRN substances (Project 23)
Countries: Albania, Cambodia, Iraq, Moldova, Senegal, Tunisia

Implementer: Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas FIIAP (Spain)

Prerequisite to strengthening CBRN national legal frameworks (Project 26)
Countries: Lebanon, Tunisia

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale FEI (France)

Project outlines are available on our website at:
www.cbrn-coe.eu

Enhancing capability in nuclear forensics

Pilot projects can be considered as demonstrations of the opportunities offered by the CoE Initiative. The newly launched CoE project on nuclear forensics “Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia Region” extends and builds upon the achievements of the completed pilot project

In December 2010, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements (JRC-ITU) based in Karlsruhe, Germany, was tasked with the execution of a pilot project. It was implemented over a period of 18 months in selected countries of the South East Asia region. The aim of the project was to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and reduce the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism by raising awareness of illicit nuclear trafficking and developing appropriate detection and response capabilities. The project was carried out in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration

(DoE/NNSA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Office of Nuclear Security, the DSO National Laboratories in Singapore, the Royal Thai Office of Atoms for Peace in Bangkok, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Three workshops were the principal activities of the project, during which participants learnt about current concepts in nuclear forensics from leading experts in the field from the JRC-ITU, the U.S. Department of State, the NNSA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the IAEA. The three workshops elaborated on different aspects of nuclear forensics: 1) awareness raising including development of a national response plan for nuclear security incidents (workshop in September 2011 hosted by DSO National Laboratories in Singapore); 2) introduction to technical forensics including a visit to a Megaport of Laem Chabang in Thailand (workshop in December 2011 in Thailand hosted by the Royal Thai Office of Atoms for Peace in Bangkok and organised under auspices of the ARF); and finally 3) hands-on training on core capabilities in nuclear forensics including management of radiological crime scenes



Examination of radioactively contaminated evidence by optical microscopy. The microscope is attached to a “glove-box” which allows the safe handling of radioactive material.

(in April 2012 hosted by the JRC-ITU in Karlsruhe, Germany). Combining the needs for evidence collection, examination, and radiation protection was a major learning objective of this training. During the workshops participants recognised the value of having an effective capability in carrying out nuclear forensic investigations for countering illicit nuclear trafficking and for combating nuclear terrorism.

This pilot project served as a basis for shaping future cooperation in the region in areas concerning nuclear forensics.

Nuclear forensics deals with nuclear material intercepted from illicit trafficking; the characterisation of such material may provide investigative leads relevant for prosecution.

Core capabilities in nuclear forensics are those that provide information on nuclear material of immediate relevance, including the main characteristics of the material, the amount and the radiological hazard. Core capabilities require appropriate infrastructure and equipment: administrative (national response plan and national forensics library) and technical (incident site management, forensics evidence management and a trained staff).

Advanced capabilities in nuclear forensics are those required for comprehensive investigation and may include a full analysis of characteristic parameters, comparison information and other means of providing interpretation and attribution of analytical results. This thorough analysis and sophisticated data interpretation is currently only available in a few laboratories in the world.



Exercises during the hands-on training on core capabilities in nuclear forensics. (Left) Prior to removing the evidence from the car, the dose rate of the object is determined enabling an initial assessment of the radiological safety. A first measurement is performed for the categorisation of the suspect material i.e. determining whether the material is a medical or industrial radioactive source, a naturally occurring radioactive material or a nuclear material. (Right) The team of specialists perform a “search and localise” exercise in order to verify the alleged illicit transport of radioactive material in a suspected vehicle.

COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

Partnership and cooperation

At the end of last year, during round table and bilateral meetings, Partner Countries that have already joined the CoE Initiative moved forward with discussions on future cooperation in the regions. Additionally, a number of new Partner Countries were introduced to the CoE Initiative



Participants at the Round Table Meeting for the African Atlantic Façade region in Rabat, 31 October 2012

Round Table Meetings

During the last three months of 2012, three round table meetings were organised: in Croatia, for the South East Europe/Southern Caucasus/Moldova and Ukraine (SEC) region on 4 October 2012; in Morocco, for the African Atlantic Façade (AAF) region on 31 October 2012 and in Kenya, for the Eastern and Central Africa (CEA) region on 13 November 2012.

On 1 October 2012 in Zagreb, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia hosted the fourth round table meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) in the SEC region.

Representatives from ten countries: **Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine** were present.

Following the opening and welcome speeches by the representatives of the host country and the UN/EU delegation, working sessions began with presentations on recent activities and the current developments of the CoE Initiative. During the meeting each Partner Country had the opportunity to present their CBRN risk mitigation activities, and progress

achieved in enhancing interagency coordination and building National CBRN Teams.

The round table included a presentation of the methodology for CBRN needs assessment; that was complemented with a group exercise, during which the national representatives had to put the methodology into practice, on the basis of different scenarios.

Additional presentations were given by guest speakers who demonstrated relevant (non-CoE) programmes in the region: in bio-safety by the Central Public Health Reference Laboratory in Tbilisi, and in export control by the Cooperation Programme on Dual-Use Export Control (BAFA). The consortium, composed of ENCO, ESSEC-IRENE and ADI, entrusted by the European Commission to work on aspects of governance with Partner Countries in the region, provided an outline of future activities.

The second round table meeting in Rabat, was organised in cooperation with the Moroccan Government; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior. It brought together the NFPs from Partner Countries grouped in the AAF region: **Gabon,**



Group exercise on needs assessment during the Round Table Meeting for the South East Europe/Southern Caucasus/Moldova and Ukraine region in Zagreb, 4 October 2012

Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal, and representatives from other countries from the region: **Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia** who participated as observers. The interest of these new countries was welcomed by the current members of the AAF region who also re-expressed their commitment to the CoE Initiative.

The round table meeting in Nairobi hosted by the Kenyan Medical Research Institute brought together for the first time NFPs from the countries grouped in the ECA region: **Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Uganda**. They were joined by the representatives from other countries in the region who participated in this meeting as observers prior to the official membership in the CoE: **Burundi, Ethiopia, Seychelles, South Sudan and Tanzania**.

Taking into account the presence of new countries, the meetings included comprehensive introductory presentations about the CoE Initiative including an overview of the objectives, structure and the methodologi-



Participants at the Round Table Meeting for the Eastern and Central Africa region in Nairobi, 13 November 2012

cal approach. This included the CBRN needs assessment and national action plan, building a National CBRN Team, the role of the CoE Regional Secretariats, the governance aspects, and the project proposal process.

At the round table meeting in Morocco, the participants took part in a scenario based risk assessment exercise which resulted in a discussion on regional gaps, needs and possible collaboration amongst different agencies from different countries.

In general, the round table meetings facilitated the exchange of CBRN

related information between different stakeholders and allowed for a discussion on future regional cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation.

Part of the programme of the round table meetings was reserved for bilateral meetings with participating Partner Countries discussing bilateral issues. Officials from the EU Delegations and the UN were also present at the round table meetings.

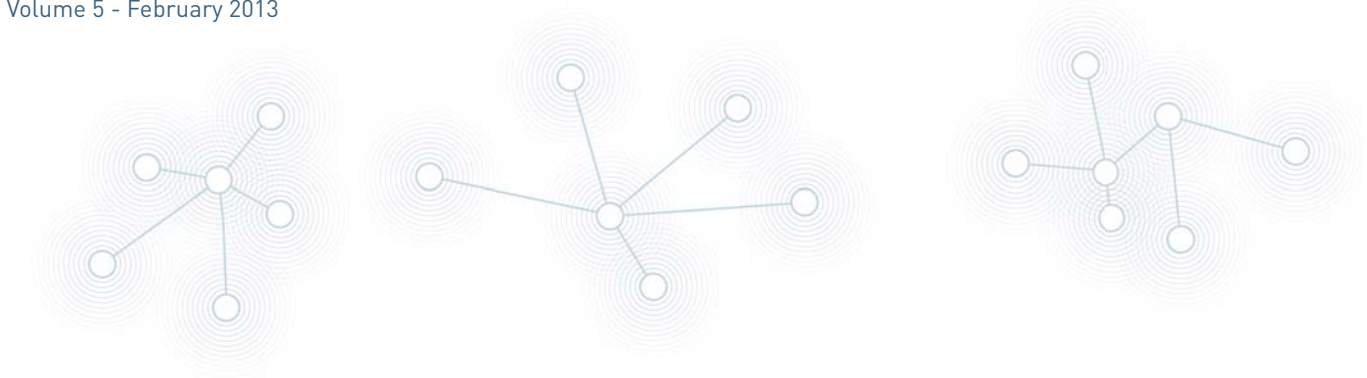
Bilateral Meetings

On the occasion of the first round table meeting for the ECA region in Nairobi, the CoE team held bilateral meetings on 12 November 2012 with representatives from the **Kenyan** Medical Research Institute that hosted the round table, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya and with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation of Kenya.

Bilateral meetings with representatives from the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Tajikistan** were held on 20-21 November 2012. This visit was the first meeting with the representatives from Tajikistan with the objective to introduce the CoE Initiative to the country. The concept of the CoE was welcomed



Group exercise on risk assessment during the Round Table Meeting for the African Atlantic Façade region in Rabat, 31 October 2012



The first CBRN CoE Bilateral Meeting in Tajikistan, 20-21 November 2012

and Tajikistan will formally apply for membership of the CoE. On the second day, a meeting with officials from the Delegation of the EU to Tajikistan was organised to brief them about the current and future developments of the CoE.

On 19-20 November 2012, a mission to **the Democratic Republic of Congo** was organised to meet with the Minister of Higher Education, University and Scientific Research, and with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophony to discuss the current state of affairs in the country and its involvement in the CoE Initiative. This was followed by a half day meeting with over thirty representatives from the national agencies working in CBRN related fields to present in more detail the structure of the CoE and the role of the National CBRN Team. The CoE team also met with representatives from the EU Delegation to the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO).

Several bilateral meetings in South East Asia to discuss the upcoming activities of the CoE Initiative were held with government authorities and representatives from CBRN institutions and national agencies in **Vietnam** (20 November 2012 in Hanoi), **Malaysia** (21 November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur) and **Singapore** (27 November 2012).

The final steps for the set-up of the South East Asia CoE Regional Sec-

retariat in Manila and the following course of action for the implementation of the CoE Initiative in the region were discussed with the Government of **the Philippines** in January 2013.

In December 2012, and January 2013 bilateral meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **the United Arab Emirates** and national stakeholders were held to coordinate the launch of the CBRN Centre of Excellence Initiative in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The proposal by the European Union for a joint organisation of a conference in Abu Dhabi entitled "Promoting Regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative" was welcomed by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The GCC countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia were invited to participate in this event scheduled for 22 January 2013.

Workshops

Workshops on building National CBRN Team brought together national agencies and institutions working



Participants at the CBRN CoE workshop in Singapore, 27 November 2012

in CBRN related fields from **Vietnam** (19 November 2012), **Malaysia** (21 November 2012), **Singapore** (27 November 2012) and **Brunei Darussalam** (16 January 2013).

Workshops on CBRN needs assessment methodology were organised for National CBRN Teams from **Morocco** (1 November 2012) and **Jordan** (21 November 2012).

Conference in Abu Dhabi

The European Union (EU) invited the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to participate in the CoE network to prepare for and counter risks resulting from CBRN materials. This invitation was reaffirmed during the conference "Promoting Regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative" held in Abu Dhabi on 22 January 2013. The event co-hosted by **the United Arab Emirates** and the European Commission, brought together representatives from **Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia**.

The event was opened by His Excellency Ambassador Adam Ku-

lach, the Head of the Delegation of the EU to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. During the opening statement, the Ambassador stressed "the need for high level cooperation to reinforce efforts to respond to risks from chemical and other materials. Such cooperation is important for the Gulf Region, for example to protect industrial installations."

The Ambassador invited the GCC countries to participate in the CoE network to exchange experience and best practices among experts.

During this event, the EU officially launched the CoE Initiative in the region. The United Arab Emirates confirmed their readiness to host the CoE Regional Secretariat in Abu Dhabi to facilitate work in this area, allowing experts to discuss issues related to

preparedness and response in the field of CBRN risk mitigation in the region. Participating countries were invited to nominate a National Focal Point and to set up a National CBRN Team in order to allow them to participate effectively in the CoE network. As a next step bilateral meetings on the CoE Initiative will be held.



The EEAS delegation headed by Her Excellency Ambassador Joanna Wronecka (bottom centre) visited the CoE Regional Secretariat in Amman on 1 November 2012

News from Middle East Regional Secretariat

On 2 November 2012, the delegation from the European External Action Service (EEAS) led by Her Excellency Ambassador Joanna Wronecka, the Head of the EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Jordan, and Dr Agostino Miozzo, the Managing Director of the Crisis Response Department in the EEAS, paid a visit to Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, the Head of the CoE Regional Secretariat in Middle East. The office of the Regional Secretariat is hosted by the Kingdom of Jordan within the MESIS Institute in Amman.

The meeting focused on the recent launch of the Secretariat and its important role in building a sustainable regional capacity in CBRN preparedness and response. The CoE Initiative has been well received in the region, with Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser describing it as "for the region and by the region".

On 21 November 2012 the Regional Secretariat opened its facilities to host a workshop on CBRN needs assessment methodology for the CBRN national stakeholders in Jordan.



Participants from the GCC countries at the Conference on Promoting Regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, Abu Dhabi, 22 January 2013

COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

Multilateral meetings

The CBRN CoE continues to co-operate and actively engage in coordinating activities with other international and regional initiatives where relevant to CBRN risk mitigation. This helps to promote the CoE Initiative and ensures effective cooperation and coordination in global efforts to establish a culture of safety and security

OPCW

Approximately 250 representatives from over 50 countries and international organisations took part in the International Meeting on Chemical Safety and Security in Tarnów, Poland on 8-9 November 2012. Tarnów was selected as this is the location of the newly established International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security. The meeting was organised by the Government of Poland and the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons** (OPCW) with financial contributions from the European Union, the U.S. and Poland.

The CoE Initiative was presented within the first working session following the plenary session, which focused on how an effective international co-operation can contribute to the establishment of a global chemical safety and security culture. The participants discussed the role that the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence, and other national or international organisations, could play in the development of a sustainable culture of chemical safety, security and risk mitigation.

<http://www.opcw.org/imcss/>
<http://www.iccss.com.pl/en/>

WCO

On 14-16 November 2012 the **World Customs Organization** (WCO) organised a conference entitled "Conference on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement" in Brussels with objectives to raise awareness on strategic trade controls and on risks posed by CBRN and dual-use goods if diverted to unauthorised use in international supply chains. The conference explored the different components of an effective strategic trade control systems. The CoE Initiative was presented during the session dedicated to technical assistance and capacity building programmes to support customs in strategic trade control enforcement.

<http://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/STC2012>

CWC Article X

During the XXVII Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the **Chemical Weapons Convention** (CWC) in the Hague on 26-30 November 2012, a side meeting was organised to discuss the activities carried out under the Article X (Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons) of the Convention. The meeting highlighted benefits from the active engagement of the OPCW Member States, the importance of the contributions of donors as well as the co-operation between donors, recipients and the OPCW Technical Secretariat. The CoE Initiative was presented to inform the Member States about the CoE projects, in chemical field in particular, and to explore possible ways of cooperation.

<http://www.opcw.org/csp17/>

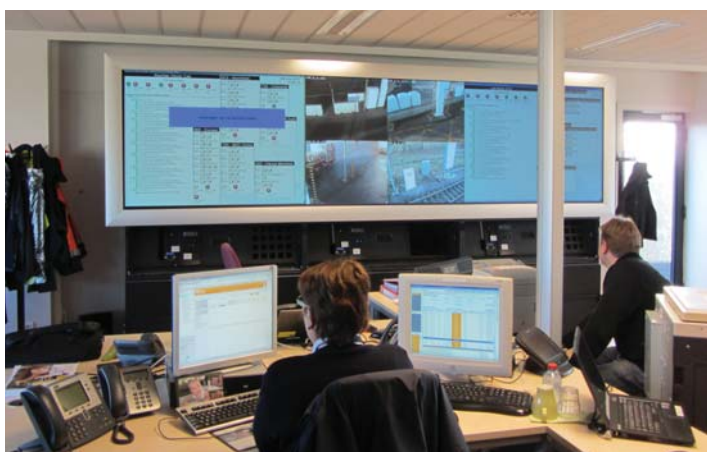


Vehicle radiation portal monitor at the Megaport of Antwerp visited during the BMWG meeting

BMWG

The 14th **Border Monitoring Working Group** (BMWG) meeting was held in Brussels on 27-29 November 2012. The BMWG is convened between three principle stakeholders involved in the border monitoring of radioactive and nuclear material. These are the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.S. represented by both the Department of Energy (DoE) and the DoE Second Line of Defense (SLD) program, and the European Union (EU).

The meeting covered policy aspects with individual programme updates provided by the IAEA, the DoE SLD the EU, and also on implementation and other technical activities. The EU provided information on the activities that are being implemented in the framework of the CBRN CoE Initiative (outside the EU), and the CBRN Action Plan (within the EU) including research and development



Detection facilities at the Megaport of Antwerp visited during the BMWG meeting: command and central alarm station (left), mobile RN detection vehicle (right)

projects on CBRN funded through the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The European External Action Service (EEAS) presented the impetus behind the Council Decisions pertaining to CBRN and WMD risk mitigation, specifically the EU contributions made directly to international organisations including the IAEA.

The final day consisted of a visit to the port of Antwerp (Megaport), organised by SLD and the Belgium customs authority. A tour was organised to see at first hand the port detection facilities and the central command station.

In the afternoon, the BMWG visited the European Commission's Joint Research Centre Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM) in Geel, Belgium to learn how new facilities there have been constructed to assist in technical aspects of nuclear safeguards, security and explosives detection.

G8 GP

The Senior level meeting of the **G8 Global Partnership (GP) Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction** on 17 December

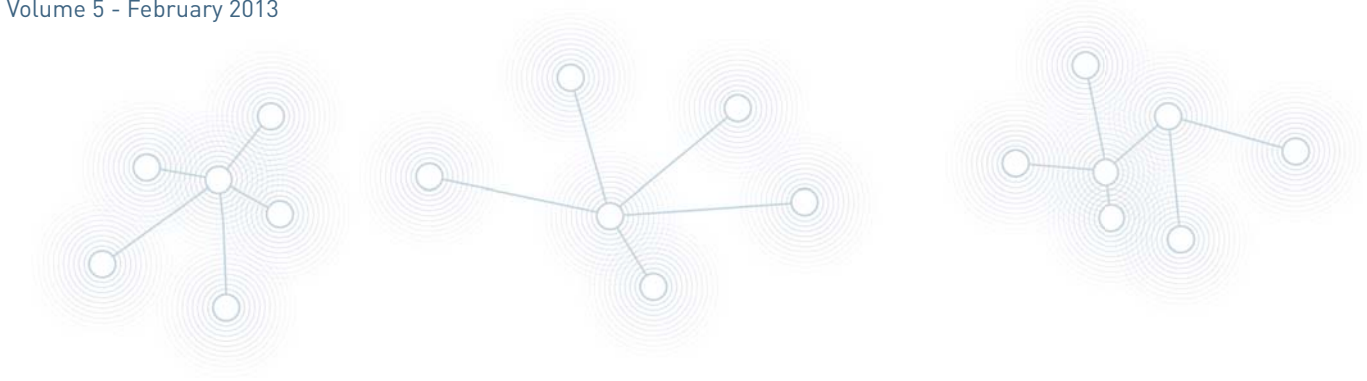
2012 in Geneva served as the final GP event under the U.S. Presidency. Its purpose was to highlight the achievements of the Global Partnership Biological Security Sub-Working Group (BSWG) and, the critical roles that the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) play in reducing biological threats. The GP unveiled two newly endorsed GP biosecurity flagship initiatives, the first one in collaboration with WHO to strengthen the ability of nations to implement the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 core capacities, and the second one to assist OIE and FAO with implementation of rinderpest post-eradication measures. Indeed, there is now an urgent need to address and implement the IHR capacities as more than 80% of nations have not yet met the requirements to adequately combat future pandemics.

Looking back, the U.S. focused its activities in 2012 in three main areas: Biosecurity, Membership Expansion, and Centres of Excellence and sub-working groups have been initiated for each area establishing a forward looking strategy. Other areas of focus

during the U.S. Presidency, were in the fields of nuclear and radiological security, chemical security and scientist engagement programmes. By coordinating efforts in these three main and two subsidiary areas, International Organisations, member countries and initiatives such as the CBRN CoE now have a common platform through which they can facilitate direct engagement with each other and exchange information about on-going and potential GP projects.

A significant achievement in 2012 in support of information exchange, is the Global Partnership Working Group - GPWG Annual Consolidated Report Data Annex. This lists relevant activities and projects of GP members, including funding information, international organisation partners, a description and the geographical location of projects. To keep this tool up-to-date GP members are encouraged to provide as much information as possible on their projects.

Another achievement in 2012 was the expansion of the GP to extended membership to 25 countries and the EU, with Mexico being the latest country to join. However, the GP still seeks more members and representation



from South America, Africa, the Middle East, and from countries in Asia.

In 2013, the United Kingdom will assume the presidency of the GP. Going forward, the UK will continue to focus on efforts to maintain information sharing between International Organisations and member countries, and to facilitate collaboration and coordination. Three meetings are currently planned during the UK presidency in 2013. The first, confirmed to be held in February in the UK, will involve the Biosecurity, Chemical, Membership Expansion, Centres of Excellence and Nuclear and Radiological Sub-Working Groups as well as the G8 Non-Proliferation Directors Group. A second meeting is planned for June while the final meeting will be in late 2013, to consolidate progress before the Russian presidency in 2014.

<http://www.state.gov/t/isn/gp2012/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/>

Interpol

The CBRN CoE Initiative shows many links with the **INTERPOL Capac-**



JRC-IRMM Large Sized Dried spikes are applied to measure the uranium and plutonium content of dissolved fuel solutions using isotope dilution mass-spectrometry. They are a fundamental part of the fissile material control of irradiated nuclear fuel. JRC-IRMM was visited by BMWG in November 2012

ity Building Programme on Counter-Terrorism, both in content and in the choice of regions. While the CoE does not exclusively address criminal use of CBRN materials and equally INTERPOL does not only address CBRN-related crime, there is a clear connection between the two programmes.

To strengthen the impact of both programmes and to enhance mutual coordination, the CoE Regional Coordinator for the North Africa region cooperated with INTERPOL

officers from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria and Tunisia.

To further lay the foundation for the cooperation between the CBRN CoE and INTERPOL, the CoE National Focal Point for Burkina Faso, Mr Missa Millogo, was invited to present the expertise of the Technical and Scientific Police of Burkina Faso, with regard to CBRNe incidents. Discussions amongst the participants ensued during this day, including suggestions for new projects that could be implemented within the CoE framework.

UNSCR 1540

In January 2013, the CoE was invited to present the initiative at a regional workshop on "The Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540" held in Minsk, Belarus. Organised in cooperation between the **Government of Belarus**, the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Secretariat**, and with support from the **Conflict prevention Centre of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** and the **United Nations Office for Disarma-**



CoE Initiative and the CBRN risk mitigation was addressed during the INTERPOL two-week training course on counter-terrorism in Sahel held in Burkina Faso in January 2013

ment Affairs (UNODA), this high level and important meeting focused on practical implementation measures and experiences from a number of CIS countries. The workshop focused on four main themes: i) export control; ii) border control; iii) mechanisms for physical protection and control WMD related materials; iv) capacity building and cooperation in the framework of UNSCR 1540.

The workshop was attended by representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Other participants included representatives from Lithuania, Poland, EU, UN and OSCE.

Under UNSCR 1540, all member states of the UN are required to submit reports on the status of measures to combat CBRN WMD and their means of delivery. This includes enforcing effective measures in prevention, detection, preparedness and response to incidents involving CBRN weapons, their pre-cursors and means of delivery. Mr Petr Litavrin from the 1540 Group of Experts emphasised that these reports or matrices are “not a means of assessment but a tool for cooperation”. Indeed, there is no immediate way of assessing the level of compliance with the 382 points detailed in the country matrices (available publicly on the internet).

Countries such as Belarus presented not only their approach in completing the 1540 matrices, but also discussed ways of sharing their National Plan with their CIS partners. Belarus identified 4 key areas in their approach; analysis and review of existing measures, updating of relative legislation, improving education and training and improving the efficacy of their border and export controls.

The Russian Federal Customs Service presented their approach to export control and the issuance of licenses covering five specialist areas concerning UNSCR 1540 implementation. These areas concern i) missile technology; ii) chemicals; iii) biological material; iv) radiological and nuclear material and; v) dual-use technologies. As in-country requests for export licenses, from the private and public sector is so vast, the Federal Service also oversee the operation of independent centres for license issue, based upon their expertise.

Presentations focused on methods and technologies for RN border and export control with it becoming evident that there is significantly less capability for detecting chemical or biological agents at borders. This is certainly an area to focus on in future as well as sustaining and improving capability in RN detection.

Mr Vadim Grudovik, Chief of the Analysis and Assessment Section of the State Border Guard Committee of the Republic of Belarus demonstrated their Mobile Quick Response Labo-

ratory. This comprises a vehicle fully equipped with modern RN detection and localisation technology. Its main purpose is to combat illicit trans-boundary trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials. It is supported by the geo-information radiation protection system NPNET (software developed by Polimaster).

The CoE also met with Mr Rodolphe Richard, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the EU, Head of the Political, Press and Information Section, at the Delegation HQs in Minsk to present the CBRN CoE Initiative. It was discussed how one of the objectives of the CoE, to improve scientific and technical cooperation with countries outside the EU, can be mediated through meetings such as this workshop. Indeed, it has served to strengthen ties between the EU and countries of the CIS.

The CoE team wishes to extend their gratitude to the organisers and hosts for the invitation to this event and the warm welcome received during their visit.



The engineer from the State Border Guard Committee (right) demonstrated the Mobile Quick Response Laboratory vehicle to George Vardoulakis (left) from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre at the workshop on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 held in Belarus in January 2013

Upcoming events

4-5 February 2013. Bilateral Meeting with National CBRN Team of Uganda, Kampala

6-8 February 2013. Global Partnership Meeting, United Kingdom

7-8 February 2013. Bilateral Meetings with National CBRN Team of Kenya and with the Government of Kenya, Nairobi

16-17 February 2013. UNCCT International Conference to Promote Counter-Terrorism Collaboration between National, Regional and International Centres and Initiatives in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh

18 February 2013. Bilateral Meeting with National CBRN Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

6 March 2013. Opening of the South East Asia CoE Regional Secretariat in Manila, Office of the President of the Philippines

7 March 2013. 5th Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in the South East Asia region, Manila, the Philippines

March 2013. Opening of the African Atlantic Façade CoE Regional Secretariat in Rabat, Morocco

March 2013. 3rd Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in the African Atlantic Façade region, Rabat, Morocco

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Pictures on p. 10-11 Courtesy of the Megaport Antwerp.
Picture on p. 12 [dried spikes at the JRC-IRMM] Courtesy of the JRC-IRMM.



About CBRN CoE

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project (CBRN CoE), 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 addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials or agents, either of an intentional, accidental or natural origin.

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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