



CBRN CoE NEWSLETTER



CBRN
Centres
of Excellence
An initiative of the European Union

CENTRE DE TRAITEMENT
EBOLA

The **CoE** supports the **EU**
response to the Ebola outbreak
Investing in People

VOL
10

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The worldwide response to the Ebola outbreak in Africa has demonstrated that, even during difficult political times, the international community can work together to both help alleviate the suffering of some of the most vulnerable and reduce the risk of further widespread contamination.

EU staff are working alongside the WHO to deploy mobile laboratories that allow local staff to analyse blood samples; this local analysis eliminates the risk and the time associated with shipping potentially contaminated blood samples to fixed laboratories which are often located at some distance from the outbreak. The EU's rapid response has thus reduced

diagnostic times of potential patients, which in turn has contributed to the containment of the outbreak by allowing effective treatment to commence at an earlier stage.

The supply of equipment and training of local healthcare staff demonstrates the dual aspirations of the Centres of Excellence: it is well known that investing in prevention is more cost-effective than funding response and the CoE subscribes to this belief, with many projects underway that are about investing in people. The CoE has been designed to work together with Partner Countries to build sustainable long-term capacity, enabling them to confront all types of CBRN events. And yet,

as has been demonstrated via recent CoE projects, the CoE can also provide a much needed short-term response by providing equipment that is needed immediately.

As this Ebola outbreak that has affected so many countries and touched so many people continues, the EU, partly through the work of the CoE, will continue to promote projects that will provide support and assistance to countries to strengthen their defences in preparation for the future.

Michael Thornton
JRC CBRN CoE Team Leader

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The CoE supports the EU response to the Ebola outbreak

by Cristina Longo

With more than 8900 people dead one year after the first Ebola cases started to surface in Guinea*, the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa is undoubtedly the worst in history. In addition, the indications are, unfortunately, that these shocking figures are vast underestimates. So far, the countries with widespread and intense transmission are Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Six countries (Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) have reported a case or cases imported from a country with widespread and intense transmission.

"The European Union, together with its Member States, has made available more than €1.2 billion in financial aid to help contain the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. The epidemic has taken a heavy toll of life. Despite the decline in case incidence in the region, there is no room for complacency. Continued response efforts are necessary to retain momentum and to eradicate Ebola cases. The European Commission has given €414 million to fight the disease, covering emergency measures as well as longer-term support".

Several European teams, specialists in dangerous infectious diseases, have been dispatched to the area with mobile laboratories. The task they have been assigned is to support viral haemorrhagic fever diagnostics, make rapid analyses of samples and confirm cases as quickly as possible.

The European Commission was already active in the concerned region in the fight against biological risks, under Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). The European Mobile Lab project (EMLab) started its activities in 2012, with the aim

of setting up a collaborative network of EU and African institutions able to operate in common mobile laboratory units during severe outbreaks. For this purpose three mobile units for the diagnosis of highly dangerous pathogens (level BSL 4) were acquired. At the onset of the Ebola outbreak (March 2014), the first of these mobile labs had been deployed to Guinea (Gueckedou). The unit has provided diagnoses for a large fraction of the samples collected (3000 to date), identifying more than 1000 positive cases. Up to seventy samples have been processed in a single day, with diagnoses available within four hours. The remaining two mobile labora-

tories have been deployed more recently to Liberia and Nigeria. Local laboratory staff have been trained and further training is foreseen to reinforce the EMLab teams. Learning from this deployment and in response to the growing menace posed by the Ebola outbreak, the EU, in cooperation with the EMLab network, other European Commission services and the EU Member States, has decided to engage in a new project to be called European Union West Africa Mobile Lab (EUWAM-Lab), with the aim of training more local and EU specialists and providing yet more equipment allowing an amelioration in intervention in difficult climate conditions.



Delivery of technical equipment to assist local health workers in the diagnosis of Ebola in West Africa.

* EU Response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa
- ECHO Factsheet, Feb 2015

The primary aim of the EUWAM-Lab project is to increase laboratory capacity in order that a better response to infectious disease threats of pathogens of high risk groups can be achieved. In the current and future short-term, the laboratory will be deployed in West Africa, in order that an improved response to the current emergency can be provided. In the longer term, this capacity-building initiative on the African continent in terms of preparedness to combat infectious disease, is a timely and strategic objective in the framework of co-operation between Europe and Africa.

Launched in the beginning of September, the EUWAM-Lab project is being implemented by Institut Pasteur, Fondation Merieux, and the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale with the managerial support of Expertise France. These organisations are already very active in the field of fighting against infectious diseases. They work in close cooperation with the World Health Organisation, the local Ministries of Health, and the international scientific community. To promote long-term sustainability, the project has been built on the framework of regional cooperation which has been created in the Western African countries through the implementation of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative.

The EUWAM-Lab will be used for training local staff in a new regional project for the management of pandemics which is currently being prepared. Its purpose is to build capacities for regional surveillance and outbreak response in the countries of the African Atlantic Façade. The project is also envisaged to be extended to a second CoE secretariat covering the East and Central Africa region.

Thanks to the CBRN CoE network, the EUWAM-Lab project will help these regions to build or reinforce capacity in the rapid identification of outbreaks, the biological determination of causative infectious agents and the set-up of adapted control

measures. This will be achieved by training local scientific communities to perform early warning, surveillance, and to react in the most suitable way to specific and immediate health threats.

European Commission gathers high level stakeholders to discuss prevention, preparedness and response to health crises

02 December 2014



The European Commission hosted a conference on December 2 on the topic of 'Health Crisis Prevention, Preparedness and Response', to explain the first results of the Union's long-term strategy in this area, including the deployment of EU Mobile Laboratories to combat the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Western Africa. This event gathered high level experts of health crisis management from EU institutions, the World Health Organization and public health institutes such as Institut Pasteur (Paris) and Istituto Superiore di Sanita (Rome), among other stakeholders. It provided an opportunity for the European Commission to present and explain its overall long-term strategy to address potential and pressing health crises.

The panel was chaired by Ms. Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament, who pointed out the necessity to learn from the Ebola outbreak and to address health crises as a priority at EU level, including in financial terms. Ms. Isabelle Nuttall, Director for Global Capacities Alert and Response at the World Health Organization (WHO) highlighted the role of facilitator that the WHO undertakes. **"We cannot work alone,"** she declared, stressing the crucial work accomplished in partnership with the European Commission.

She also insisted on the necessity of substantially investing in prevention: **"Investing is the key today; investing in capacity building is much more cost-effective than investing in responding to a crisis."** She spoke in favour of additional capacities at ports of entry, referring to an ongoing joint EU-WHO project.

Mr. Christian Bréchet, Director General of Institut Pasteur (Paris), also advocated investing in health crises prevention: **"It's about sensing the emergencies,"** he declared, in reference to the crucial role to be played by Institut Pasteur and its solid worldwide network of Health Institutes. Institut Pasteur is a long standing partner of the European Commission in the field of public health crises.

Find out more on:

- The long-term component of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP): http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/peace-and-security/funding/instrument-contributing-stability-and_en
- The EU Mobile Labs mobilised in Western Africa against the ongoing Ebola outbreak: <http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/emlabproject-ebola/>

Investing in People

by Michael Thornton

The basis of the CoE is to work together with partner countries to strengthen their long-term capabilities as well as consolidate on their short-term response capacity. To address either of these points, training is absolutely essential as there is no CBRN issue that does not involve an element of human interaction in its resolution. Training is also a large part of CBRN preparedness and is therefore a major contributor to CBRN risk mitigation. As such, a massive focus is made on education, and 35 of our 46 projects currently running have training as a pivotal component.

As the training that we provide is instilled into the 35 projects, it is, in itself, provided by the implementers of the project and is delivered to a large range of audiences: from students to government experts; from laboratory specialist to front-line officers and responders.

Some training events concern specific subjects (such as nuclear forensics), whilst others are based on wider topics (such as identification and response to threats from CBRN substances). The preparation and delivery of the courses in question is an arduous task, and indeed the preparation, especially the research into new techniques and thinking, takes a vast amount of time. The preparation in itself also considers the best mode in which that knowledge should be transferred. In many cases this involves adapting the training to local teaching systems and choosing the most appropriate training devices or methods. In order to best capitalise on our investment in this, project implementers provide the training material developed within the framework of their project, and we are currently starting development of an e-library of our project deliverables, which will at some point in the future include the training as delivered. In this way, we hope that the training can be reused in the future and



First responders in CBRN personal protective equipment practising a strip/line search of an area. Sampling of an unknown simulated "white powder" for forensic analysis. Manila - September 2014.

provide the best possible return on investment and is part of our desire for the sustainability of the initiative. Many projects also provide training of trainers in partner countries. In these cases, in addition to the technical expertise, pedagogical elements are provided.

Through the network that we have created, the CoE has access to experts from around the globe, from the partner countries themselves or the EU member states and it draws on this pool to provide the most up-to-date training available.

Work has been carried out to develop a network of universities and institutes to raise awareness of the dual-use concerns of chemical materials. As part of this long term capacity building in the Middle East, students at a number of universities in Beirut had the opportunity to hear about the potential dual-use of chemicals from Professor Alastair Hay, a world-renowned expert in his field of environmental toxicology and chemical weapons. This is part of, and indeed a good example of, our knowledge sharing and awareness raising strategy. As part of my tasks in evaluating the outcome of projects, I was, in November, present in Manila, Philippines where I witnessed first-hand a project to support and reinforce the short-term response capabilities of the Philippine first-responders.

The attendees were taught such important basic subjects as the donning and safe removal of personal protective equipment, the actions to be taken in the event that a person is encountered who is in some way contaminated, subsequent decontamination procedures and the sampling procedures for "white powder events" such as suspect letters potentially containing anthrax. Demonstrations were followed up by practical rehearsals with trainees role-playing a variety of situations designed to enable them to understand the principles. The training itself was derived from the latest thinking and methodology developed following a number of studies coming out of UK universities and currently being adopted by the emergency services in the UK. In terms of numbers, the sheer quan-

tity of people who are being trained is now starting to accelerate and in 2014, over 1500 individuals were present at training courses delivered directly as the result of one of our projects.

It is, of course, important to remember that the CoE does not solely focus on training, although this is a major part of our aspirations. We also, through some of our projects, provide and even install equipment where appropriate but the equipment is nothing without the knowledge required to operate and maintain it in a suitable fashion. To ensure that all equipment is utilised in the best and fullest possible way, training is also provided on this specialist subject when required.

Participants engaged in group exercises during a workshop on the dual use of biotechnology in Morocco in November 2014.



African Atlantic Façade

by Stefania Micucci



Senegalese experts gather to discuss country needs in CBRN. Dakar, 19 - 21 January 2015.

The countries of the African Atlantic Façade region are currently in the process of drafting their National Action Plans (NAPs). Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon have moved forward with their respective plans, following in the footsteps of Morocco, which was the first country of the region to finalise its NAP.

Three seminars were held in Côte d'Ivoire between July and November 2014 where the National Team and other relevant stakeholders met with experts to identify national priorities. Following these meetings, Côte d'Ivoire officially presented its NAP to the international community during the side event to the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention held in the Hague in December 2014 and entitled "The CBRN National Action Plans: an Example of Effective Inter-Agency Cooperation". In the same period, Gabon held two seminars, and plans to hold a third one in February 2015 with a view to finalising the drafting of its own

NAP. Morocco had the opportunity to discuss the main points of its National Action Plan during the side event to the Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of State Parties entitled: "National Action Plans and sharing best practice: an innovative networking approach to mitigate biological risks", held in Geneva in December 2014. The Regional Secretariat is currently working on the inclusion of new partner countries in the CBRN CoE Initiative. In recent months, meetings took place with high-level representatives of Cameroon, the Gambia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The meetings were an opportunity to provide an overview of the initiative in general and to present the potential benefits of participation in the initiative. The response of these potential partner countries has been very positive. A new project has been approved and financed by the European Commission for the African Atlantic Façade Region. The project, addressing chemical risks in high-risk facilities, was proposed by, and drafted with the involvement of, all the countries of

the region. Furthermore, the Regional Secretariat is also working on the finalisation of a new project on the issue of pandemics. From 19 to 21 January 2015, the CBRN National Team of Senegal met in Dakar in the presence of the national focal point, the regional coordinator and the representative of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace for the African Atlantic Façade, as well as experts from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. In the course of workshop, the CBRN National Team of Senegal, with the support of European Commission experts, reviewed the 300 questions of the Needs Assessment Questionnaire in order to identify the capabilities and needs of Senegal regarding CBRN risk mitigation. Lively and fruitful discussion took place during these two days. The result of this exercise has provided a comprehensive overview of the status of the country and will serve as basis to the drafting of the NAP. It will also be used for the identification of project activities to be undertaken.

Central Asia

by Fanny Fert

Second CBRN CoE National Focal Points Round Table Meeting for Central Asia

The second Round Table Meeting of National Focal Points for the Central Asia Region was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on 19 - 20 November 2014.

The Round Table Meeting brought together representatives from four Partner Countries in the Region, namely: Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with representatives and experts

from the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, the European Commission DG Joint Research Centre, and UNICRI, as well as two participants from Pakistan, including the President of the ECO Science Foundation.

The event was an opportunity for the participants to discuss regional priorities and implementation of projects, as well as the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) and the CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) – two key aspects of the initiative which serve to identify target areas for action. Furthermore, the meeting created a platform for discussion on future projects within the region and further possibilities for the CBRN risk mitigation network. In order to promote such dialogue, Representa-

tives from partner countries of the South-East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region, namely Georgia, Moldova and Serbia, were also invited to share the experience of their countries in relation to the Needs Assessment process and the creation of National Action Plans.

On the margins of the Round Table, a bilateral meeting was held between representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNICRI to finalise the legal and technical aspects for the establishment of the Regional Secretariat in Tashkent. As a result, progress was made towards the final agreement and the planned opening of the Regional Secretariat.



Central Asia Second Round Table Meeting. Turin, 19-20 November 2014.

Eastern and Central Africa

by Alma Pintol

National Action Plan workshops

Nairobi, Kenya - 29-30 September 2014

The second workshop on the Kenyan CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) was held on 29-30 September 2014 in Nairobi. The overall purpose of the National CBRN Action Plan is to articulate a national vision for CBRN risk mitigation and to identify priorities for building capacity. The main objective of the second workshop was for the National CBRN team and international experts to present and review the draft National CBRN Action Plan, resulting from a series of previ-

ous meetings, with a particular focus on identification of priorities. National agencies present at the workshop included the Government Chemist Department, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya Red Cross, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, National Biosafety Authority, National Environment Management Authority, the Radiation Protection Board, Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service, Office of the Attorney General and University of Nairobi, amongst others. Aside from UNICRI experts who were facilitating the work of the

National Team, the workshop was also attended by the representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, the European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Health Organization.

Kampala, Uganda - 2-3 October 2014

The first workshop held in Uganda for the National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks successfully concluded on 3 October. Twenty-eight officials from different ministries and international experts shared their experiences and expertise on mitigating risks related to CBRN materials and



Members of the Kenyan National Team meet with representatives of Kenya's government agencies and international experts. 29-30 September 2014.

REGIONS

agents. The action plan – to be developed over a series of workshops – will be designed to ensure that separate efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, thus strengthening national capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats. The CoE initiative also facilitates the identification and implementation of projects and ensures that capacity building is part of a coordinated and sustainable approach. Representatives of national agencies who attended the workshop included the following: National Animal Disease Diagnostic and Epidemiology Centre, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health (Uganda Virus Research Institute), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, National Environment Management Authority, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Revenue Authority, Office of the President, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory, as well as many others, and representatives of academia and private companies.

International Cooperation

Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation - 'Regional Seminar on Uranium Mining, Milling and Transport'

Brussels, 13-17 October 2014

The Eastern and Central Africa (ECA) Regional Coordinator attended a Regional Seminar on Uranium Mining, Milling and Transport organized by the European Commission (EC), the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies and the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration.

The seminar, attended by representatives of Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa, was organised as a follow-up to a previously held seminar on Strengthening Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (Pretoria, February 2014) where participants expressed the need to continue to promote high standards of nuclear safety amongst nuclear regulators in non-EU countries, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear materials.

Representatives of the African Union, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, the SADC Nuclear Regulators Network, International Atomic Energy Agency, DG JRC, the Institute of Transuranium Elements, Global Threat Reduction Initiative, Euratom Supply Agency, Brookhaven National Lab, the US, and the Danish Institute for International Studies all attended the meeting, which was held in the context of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP). Coordination of efforts undertaken under these two Instruments in both CBRN CoE partner countries and potential partner countries of the ECA Regional Secretariat's region was emphasised.

UNODA BWC workshop

Kampala, 10 November 2014

The ECA Regional Coordinator attended a Workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention, organized by the UN Office for Disarmament, in collaboration with the EC and the Republic of Uganda. The workshop, organized under an assistance programme funded by the EU, took place in Kampala, Uganda on 10 November. The event was attended by various Ugandan institutions, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, Uganda People's

Defence Forces CBRN regiment, Ugandan National Council for Science and Technology and the Uganda Police Force amongst others, as well as Portuguese, Kenyan and UNSCR 1540 experts. The workshop was divided into three sessions dedicated respectively to:

- The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and national implementation
- BWC national implementation experiences
- Regional initiatives supporting BWC implementation

The Regional Coordinator delivered a presentation under session III on the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence and the regional activities.

Official Nomination of Mr. Joel Kamande as Head of the Regional Secretariat in Nairobi

Nairobi, July 2014. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Kenya has appointed Mr. Joel Kamande, Secretary of the Radiation Protection Board, to the position of head of the EU CBRN Centre of Excellence Regional Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

The nomination of the Head of the Eastern and Central Africa Regional Secretariat represents an important step forward in the implementation of the EU CBRN CoE initiative in the region and will be followed by the official inauguration of the Regional Secretariat.

North Africa

by Harro Wittermans

First workshop held with CBRN stakeholders of Niger

Niamey, Niger - 08 October 2014

CBRN stakeholders of Niger, under the direction of National Focal Point (NFP) Mr. Ayoub Amadou, came together on 8 October 2014, on the occasion of the Regional Coordinator's visit (Mr. Harro Wittermans). The meeting, opened by Mr. Ibrahim Yacouba, Deputy Director of Cabinet to the Presidency of the Republic in the presence of the local press, constituted an opportunity to present the aims of the initiative and, in particular, the role of the National Team. The participation of Mr. Marko Milivojevic, NFP for Ser-



Niger's National Team meeting in Niamey, Niger.

bia and Deputy Director of the Centre of Excellence for South East Europe, South-eastern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine, was greatly appreciated by the future members

of the Niger National Team, who were able to benefit from the expertise brought by a long-standing member of the Centres of Excellence.

South East Asia

by Maria Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori



Second NAP Workshop in Myanmar. 16-17 October 2014.

National Action Plan workshops

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar - 16-17 October 2014

During the second workshop on the National CBRN Action Plan of Myanmar CoE experts facilitated discussion with the National CBRN Team of Myanmar with a view to identifying pertinent information for inclusion in the draft National Action Plan. In particular, a scenario-based methodology was applied to encourage the workshop participants to reflect on national CBRN capabilities, any capacity gaps and the capacity-building objectives of greatest importance to the country.

REGIONS

Brunei Darussalam - 20-21 October 2014

The Experts Visit on the National CBRN Action Plan of Brunei Darussalam was held at the Civil Service Institute in Bandar Seri Begawan. Building on the findings of the first and second workshops (February 2014 and May 2014, respectively) and in line with UNICRI's scenario-based methodology which situates CBRN capacity-building activities within the country's existing CBRN context, the UNICRI experts facilitated parallel working group sessions dedicated to reviewing the C, B, R and N parts, respectively, of Brunei Darussalam's draft National Action Plan.

Bilateral meetings

On 2 October 2014, Ms. Maria Rettori (Regional Coordinator for SEA), Mr. Robert Frank (Regional Cooperation Officer for South-East Asia) and Mr. Julio Arias (Delegation of the European Union to Indonesia) met with Mr. Masagus Salman (Officer, Directorate of International Security and Disarmament, Directorate General of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Mr. Salman was briefed about the current status of the initiative (the network, projects and methodology) and was invited to revise and distribute the draft terms of reference for the upcoming CBRN CoE project for South East Asia among the relevant ministries/agencies dealing with CBRN. The Head of the Regional Secretariat of the EU CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative for South-East Asia, Oscar Valenzuela, met with the President of the University of the Philippines, Alfredo Pascual, on October 9, 2014 to present the initiative and to discuss possible future cooperation. He was accompanied by the National Focal Point of the initiative for the Philippines, Jose S. Embang, and by Dr. Irma R. Makalinao, Professor of the University of the Philippines Manila (and member of the National CBRN Team). Mr. Robert Frank also joined the meeting.



Experts meet to finalise National Action Plan in Brunei Darussalam. 20-21 October 2014.

Needs Assessment Questionnaire

On 3-4 November 2014, a Needs Assessment Questionnaire meeting was held in Manila, Philippines. Four experts from the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission guided participants through the 300 closed-form questions of the NAQ that address eight key areas of CBRN infrastructure and risk mitigation capability. The NAQ sets a common benchmark for CBRN risk mitigation measures and desired target conditions, ranging from internationally recognised standards and best practices to legally binding agreements and treaties.

International Cooperation

The ASEAN Regional Forum Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response Workshop was held from August 26 to 28 in Manila. The Philippines supported both greater cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and a whole-of-society approach at the national level in addressing biological threats. The conference "Promoting Security Culture in

South East Asia" conducted by Indonesia's National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN) in partnership with UN Office for Disarmament Affairs "UNODA", Partnership for Nuclear Security, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Center for International Trade and Security of University of Georgia was held in Serpong, Indonesia from 29 September to 01 October 2014. The first CBRN National Action Plan of Cambodia was presented in a side-event that took place in the framework of the Workshop on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), organised by Cambodia and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on 15 October 2014. The side-event was arranged by the government of Cambodia with the support of the European Union and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The development of the CBRN National Action Plan has been supported by the CBRN CoE initiative. Mr. Thomas Wiersing has taken up the post of the Policy Officer for the Philippines and the ASEAN Regional Forum in the European External Action Service recently and visited the Regional Secretariat of the EU CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative for South-East Asia on November 4, 2014.

South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine

by Francesco Miorin

National CBRN Action Plans

On 11 and 12 September 2014, the final workshop on Georgia National CBRN Action Plan (NAP) was held in Tbilisi within the premises of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. The workshop brought together members of Georgia's Inter-agency CBRN Council, UNICRI experts and representatives from the US embassy, and was aimed at reviewing the advanced NAP drafts and at providing further comments and inputs on the documents. The third workshop on the NAP of the Republic of Serbia was held in Belgrade on 16 and 17 September 2014. During the workshop, members of the

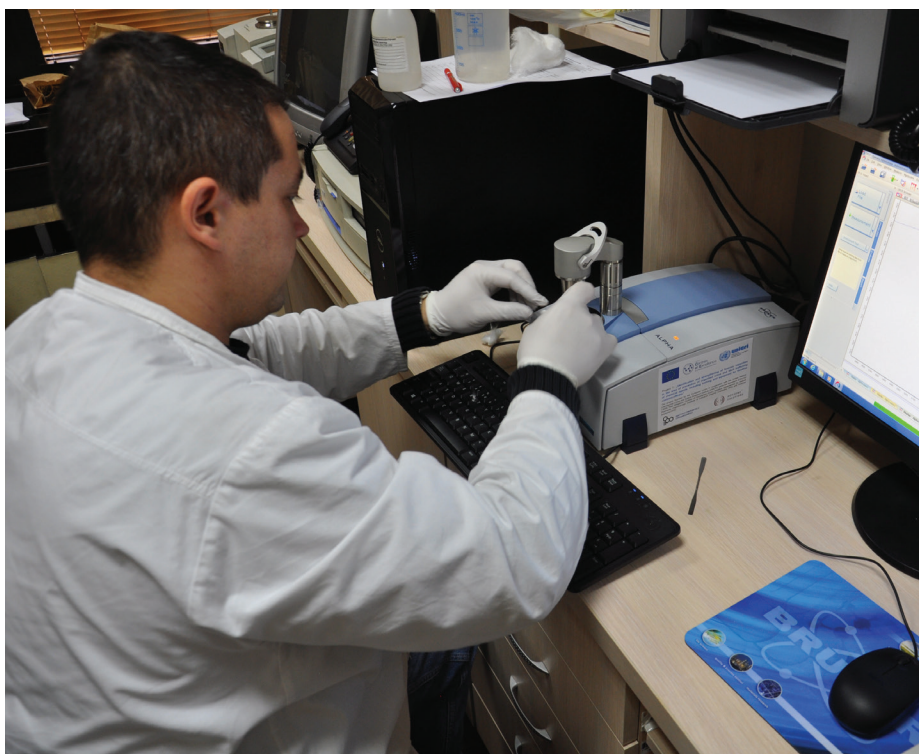
Serbian National CBRN Team, additional Serbian stakeholders and experts further discussed specific elements of the draft NAP and worked on the advanced draft of the document. On 29 October 2014 a high-level side event was organised by the Government of Georgia in occasion of the Sixty-ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event, titled "The CBRN National Action Plans: meeting the challenges of international security", was aimed at promoting the completed CBRN National Action Plans of Georgia, Serbia, Philippines, Cambodia and Morocco. The event was opened by Mr. Kakha Imnadze, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations; H.E. Levan Izoria, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Chairman of the National CBRN Council;

Ms. Clara Ganslandt, Head of Division, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Security Policy and Conflict Prevention Directorate of the European External Action Service and Mr. Jonathan Lucas, Director of UNICRI. Among the keynote speakers at the event were Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General and Mr. Oh Joon, Chair, UNSC Resolution 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN.

Regional Secretariat meetings

Between August and November 2014, the following meetings were attended by the Regional Secretariat staff:

- Meeting with UNDP Georgia to discuss UNDP activities in the area of disaster risk reduction;
- Meeting with US Defense Threat Reduction Office (Country Office in Georgia) to update each other on relevant activities in the field of biosafety and biosecurity;
- Participation in the Nuclear Security Donors Conference in Tbilisi, organised by the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Georgia;
- Meeting with representatives of the US Export Control and Related Border Security Program in Georgia to discuss US activities in the field of border control and countering illicit trafficking of CBRN materials;
- Round Table Discussion on "Non-proliferation regime and new security challenges", organised in Tbilisi by the Civil Council on Defense and Security.

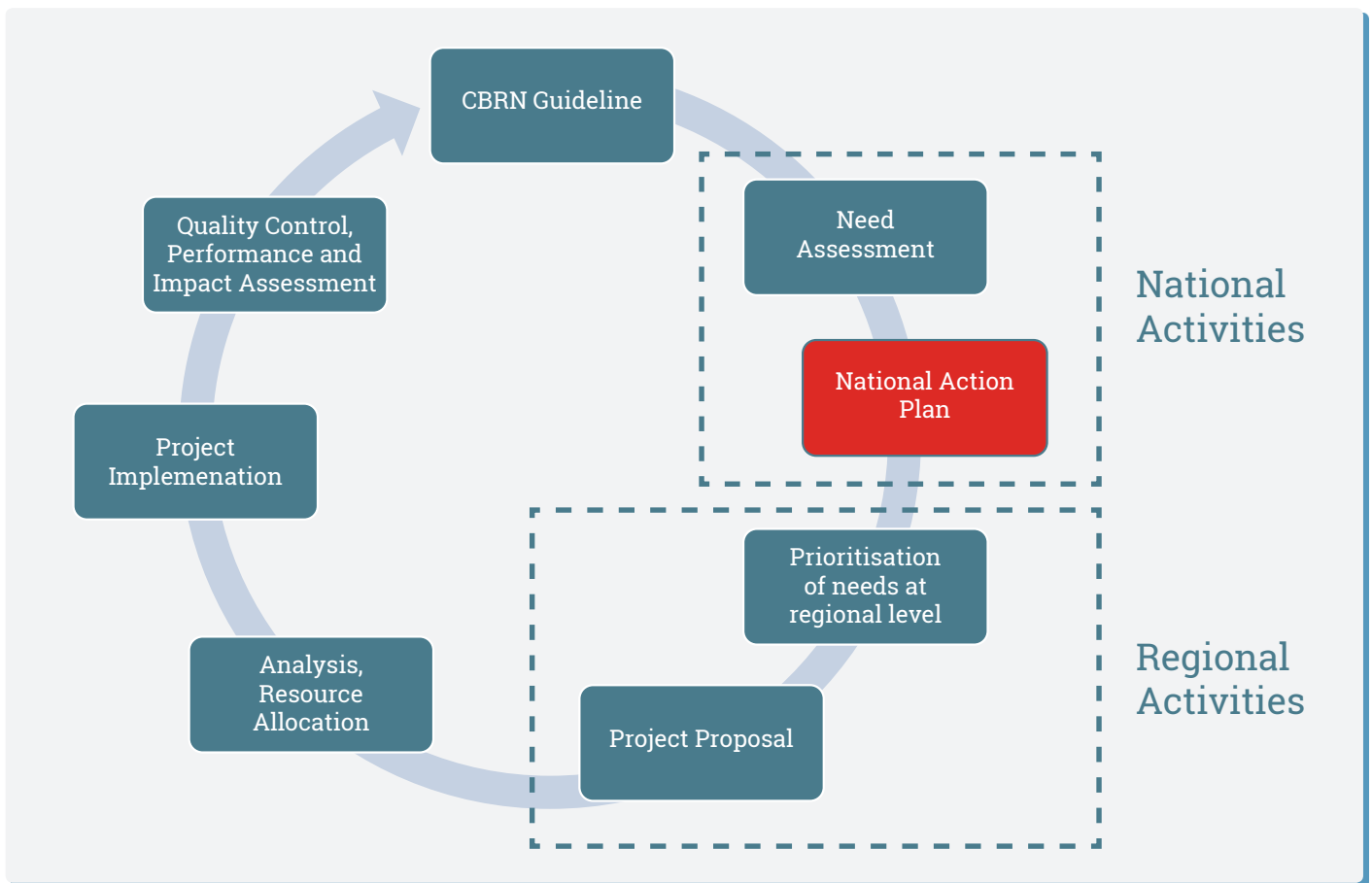


Chemical analysis using equipment provided as part of a CoE project.

Formulation of a National Action Plan

by George Vardoulakis

The EU CBRN CoE Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) and the National Action Plan (NAP) form part of the EU CBRN CoE methodology and cycle of activities:



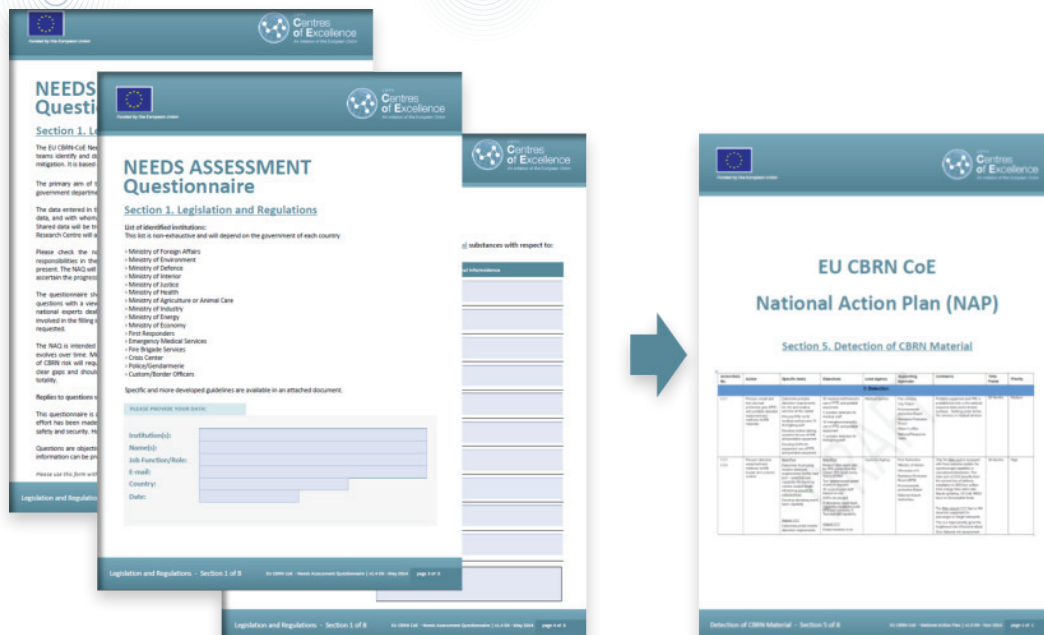
The EU CBRN CoE National Action Plan builds directly on the findings of the Needs Assessment Questionnaire exercise, and as such, the NAQ should be seen not only as the cornerstone of the initiative, but as the backbone of the NAP itself. In fact, on completion of the NAQ, a draft NAP can be produced automatically, highlighting actions in a one-to-one correspondence to the identified needs. In order to complete this draft table of actions, the partner country can again seek the assistance of the European Commission and UNICRI in fleshing out the details of a particular action.

In completing the NAP the following steps are envisaged:

1. Review previously identified needs
2. Introduce alternatively sourced actions or existing action plans
3. Identify and discuss new areas requiring action
4. List and sort actions into a table
5. Elucidate action details
6. Identify action lead(s)
7. Prioritise actions

Overview of NAP steps

1. Existing gaps and capacities as identified in the NAQ should be briefly reviewed, reconfirming that it represents an accurate state of play.
2. Actions arising from other sources, such as the UNSCR 1540 Action Plan or the International Atomic Energy Agency Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, should be included in this comprehensive NAP. Also useful to include are details of relevant projects underway and those in the pipeline.



3. Working groups and workshops should bring together the national team and other key experts from government departments, agencies and other stakeholders, to discuss and elucidate action details. National and regional case-studies, scenarios and other examples can be used to facilitate this process.
4. Action statements should be listed into a draft table according to NAQ Section and domain (C, B, R, N). Actions can be combined and sorted as required. (e.g. prevention, detection, preparedness and response, recovery).
5. For each action the specific tasks, objectives, language usage and time-frame should be elaborated.
6. Each action should be led by a national governmental department, agency or key stakeholder. Supporting agencies and stakeholders should also be identified.
7. A priority (national perspective) should be set for each action. These can then be discussed with other countries in the region to pool resources, share best

practices and lessons learnt, and potentially formulate project proposals.

Regional Cooperation

Although the NAQ and NAP are nationally-led activities, the measures designed to address identified needs can be implemented on a regional basis as this often provides for a more comprehensive, resilient and sustainable approach. As such, one of the requirements for proposed projects is that they are regional in nature. Wherever a partner country's priorities may lie (e.g. cross-border security or public health and disease control), a cooperative and coordinated regional solution is likely to be the most effective. In some cases a regional approach is even a necessary pre-requisite; for instance in tackling the spread of Ebola in Western Africa (see article on p.4 about CoE Project 45 - Establishment of a Mobile Laboratory for in situ interventions on VHF outbreak sites in combination with CBRN Capacity Building in Western Africa (EUWAM-Lab)).

CoE projects and other capacity building measures should also come as a result of a regional discussion and analysis. Part-

ner countries are encouraged to share and discuss all or even just parts of their NAP with other countries in their region, in order to communicate and understand different priorities and perspectives. By conducting the NAQ and developing a NAP, a partner country can clearly articulate, amongst other actions, its implementation priorities to the EU and other potential donors. However, participation in the NAQ/NAP exercises is voluntary and therefore not a necessary pre-requisite for the funding of projects by the EU.

In summary, the completed NAP should form a simple view of what the national CBRN risk mitigation priorities are and what measures are required to address them. It clearly communicates and shapes national and regional policy and details CBRN risk mitigation aspirations over the next period of implementation.

Sources:

- 2009 EU CBRN Action Plan
- 1540 Committee Reports
- International Atomic Energy Agency Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan

Project news

by Fanny Ewann

While some projects are coming to an end, seven new projects have been approved for funding by the European Commission. With many projects from the first batch of funding entering their final implementation stage, several events, including training activities, have been organised in various CBRN CoE regions, as well as in Europe. Partner countries' commitment to the initiative is reflected by the numerous events local experts have been attending with their government's support and a high level of involvement of the National Focal Points (NFPs). Some of these activities are highlighted below. For a full description of what is happening with the projects, visit our website at www.cbrn-coe.eu



Alastair Hay training academics from Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon as part of Project 31.

Following the delivery of detection equipment for chemical materials to three partner countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) a two-week training session was organised by the Instytut Przemysłu Organicznego in Warsaw, Poland in September 2014 as part of the CoE Project 1: "Identification and Strengthening Forensic Capacities in the area of Prevention of Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking of Chemical Agents, including Training and Equipment for the line officers".

Representatives from the customs, border guard and police officers from each partner country attended the training that focused on detecting and analysing chemical weapon agents during border controls and the use of specific equipment provided

in the framework of the project. All participants passed the practical test, which consisted of the analysis of unknown chemical substances and these trained leaders will in turn become trainers of line officers in their own countries.

The European CBRNE Center at Umeå University, Sweden, conducted a first regional training course for border staff and customs in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina in October 2014, in the context of "Building Capacity to Identify and Respond to Threats from Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Substances" (CoE Project 2). This course, on how to respond quickly to a possible incident involving dangerous substances, involved participants from Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In a later training

phase which was held in Zagreb, Croatia in December, participants worked on emergency plans and road maps related to CBRN incidents. These plans will eventually be incorporated in the participating countries' border and customs practices.

Over the past 3 months, the Insubria Center on International Security and their consortium partners organised a series of training workshops in Italy and in two partner countries. The "Knowledge Development and Transfer of Best Practice on Bio-safety/Bio-security/Bio-risk Management" project aims at establishing a sustainable training programme through which scientists, hospital technicians, research institute staff and industrial facility workers - once trained - can in turn, train others in their respective countries. Three

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training sessions took place at the world-renowned “Luigi Sacco” University Hospital in Milan, Italy. They involved experts from South East Asia, South East Europe and North Africa.

Training sessions were given on biosafety practices, equipment and facility building, and more specifically, the requirements and differences of biosafety level 2, 3 and 4 facilities. The visits represented an opportunity for experts to become acquainted with high containment laboratory activities which are used to analyse bio hazardous materials such as Ebola and Anthrax. Other activities were also carried out in partner countries: the first one was a two-week comprehensive regional training on bio-risk management held in Tbilisi, Georgia, within the premises of the Lugar Center for Public Health Research. It involved laboratory staff and scientists from Georgia, Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Launched in January 2013, the International Network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns in bio-technology (Project 18) is primarily aimed at raising awareness on dual-use concerns in biotechnology and at fostering the exchange of information and experiences among academics, scientists, researchers, technicians and students. It has paved the way for the development of a network of universities and research institutes at the national and regional level in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Students and young scientists in particular, being the next generation of scientists, were the main target of the project activities. The Workshop “Dilemma of Dual-Use in Life Sciences – Ways to Overcome” was organised by the Agrarian University of Georgia (AUG) in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and was held at the NCDC premises in Tbilisi. Attended by



Students in Cambodian chemical laboratory during Project 31 training.

participants from various Georgian universities and institutions and involving two experts Professor Lela Bakanidze, Vice-President of the Georgian Biosafety Association (GeBSA), and Ms. Francesca Cerutti, Luigi Sacco Hospital, University of Milan. The sister project, raising awareness on dual-use concerns of chemical materials (CoE Project 31) also brought together students, lecturers and world experts. Many of these students heard from world class speakers the potential ease by which useful chemicals considered to be harmless could be misused to manufacture illegal drugs or for the development of chemical weapons.

Continuing the theme of networks, a regional experts meeting on nuclear forensics took place in November as part of CoE Project 30, “Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia Region”. The workshop in Singapore was the fifth event related to nuclear security/nuclear

forensics held with ASEAN states between 2011 and 2014. The technical focus of the meeting was on national nuclear forensics libraries and participants from 7 ASEAN countries were present in partnership with the US National Nuclear Security Administration with the involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation). Experts from the International Technical Working Group (ITWG) and from the GICNT (Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism) also contributed to the agenda.

During the opening session of the workshop, Mr. Bernhard Faustenhammer (EU Delegation to Singapore) stressed the continued readiness and commitment of the EU to support ASEAN states in their effort to combat CBRN threats. The US underlined the excellent cooperation with the EU in carrying out nuclear forensics related activities in this region over the past five



Project 35 Toxicology laboratory visit in Senegal.

years. The agenda included presentations on radiological crime scene management (ITWG), core capabilities in nuclear forensics, IAEA activities and a self-assessment tool (ANSTO). An important part of the agenda was dedicated to a table-top exercise in which participants were required to manage a hypothetical nuclear security incident (in a fictitious country). This served to highlight the benefits of having a national nuclear forensic library (a compilation of relevant information – in form of a database – on nuclear and other radioactive materials which supports nuclear forensic interpretation). At this point, none of the ASEAN countries have such a national nuclear forensic library.

A first responder is a member of a national emergency service who is likely to be among the first people to arrive at and assist at the scene of an emergency, such as an accident, natural disaster, or terrorist attack. In the case of a CBRN event their

role is more crucial than normal as there is the added risk of further contamination of the responder or of the public. A number of projects exist in the CoE that deal with this subject but Project 22 "Provision of Specialised Technical Training to Enhance the First Responders' Capabilities in case of CBRN Incidents" is a fine example. Following on from On-Scene Command Training last summer the project continued with CBRN First Responder Training. Over the course of the project's implementation, over 150 first responders were trained from Africa and South East Asia.

As part of the CoE's *raison d'être* to help strengthen capacity in partner countries, Project 23 implementers have been working with governmental officials from a variety of ministries and departments, who all play a role in CBRN incidents from Albania, Cambodia, Iraq, Moldova, Senegal and Tunisia providing them with training and practical exercises. With the help of the

Moldovan National Focal Point Mr. Victor Pereteatcu and Lt. Col. Alexandru Gotean-schii training took place in August at the National Training College of the Moldovan Border Police. Following from basic principles of CBRN threat response the students went on to examine case studies and then a series of CBRN table-top exercises that focused on the release of agents in areas of mass population and critical national infrastructure. A similar training took place in Tunisia in November.

Project 33 implementers organised workshops in Nairobi, Kenya and Libreville, Gabon in September in order to discuss possible ways of strengthening the capacities of the countries in mitigating risks associated with CBRN material.

During the first part of the workshop, experts were invited to collaboratively reflect, by means of a table-top exercise, on the national response capabilities to different incident scenarios built on experiences and challenges reported by national experts. The second part was dedicated to two thematic workshops with a view to debating the existing legal and administrative frameworks, as well as CBRN command and response training, equipment and structures currently available to responders at the national level.

Subsequent group dialogue and exchanges of National and European experiences and expertise highlighted priorities for both regional and country-specific actions in the framework of the project. The interaction between the experts demonstrated the willingness of all to work together on strengthening the capabilities at regional and national levels. This demonstrated their commitment to address the challenges of CBRN issues in the Eastern and Central African and African Atlantic Façade regions.

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About CoE

The EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN CoE Initiative), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU).

The initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to CBRN material and agents. The origin of these risks can be criminal, accidental or natural. The Initiative seeks to boost cooperation at regional and international levels, and to develop a common and coherent CBRN risk mitigation policy at the regional level. Risk mitigation comprises prevention, preparedness and post-crisis management.

The initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission (DG DEVCO) in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre (EC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and a governance team. The European External Action Service (EEAS) is providing a strategic overview. The Initiative is implemented with the technical support of relevant experts from EU Member States, International Organisations and other experts.

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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