

CBRN CoE NEWSLETTER

VOL
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March, 2014

Needs Assessment Questionnaire

now available for download
on CBRN CoE Portal

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Smartphone users can install
an application with a QR-code
scanner to read the code



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The purpose of the CBRN CoE initiative is to work with partner countries in a voluntary manner to complement national measures by building institutional capacity and a coordinated strategy for CBRN risk mitigation.

This serves many purposes, one of which is to help countries reduce the potential regional impact of a CBRN event, as well as to meet their requirements under international commitments such as the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. To achieve this ambitious aim, we now have a network of hundreds of national experts working together in a variety of fields, with the support of representatives from EU Member States, EU Delegation staff in the regions and International Organisations that have responsibilities for CBRN matters.

In this period several partner countries have completed their Needs Assessment Questionnaire, using an in-house tool developed by the CoE team and that

is available for download, on the portal in English, French, Russian and now also in Albanian. A result of this work is the possibility, in the future, of specific, regionally tailored projects, the implementation of which is carried out by consortia of European Member State experts, together with local expertise in the countries in which the project will take place. Thus the CoE calls upon the knowledge and wealth of experience of not just the EU Member States, but also the vast resource of knowledge and experience to be found in the partner countries. By this method, the possibility of long-term sustainability within the regions can be increased.

Two new projects demonstrate the success of the "bottom-up approach", following discussions held during round table meetings, these projects were developed and are currently underway. Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and related medical emergency response under strengthened CBRN event prepared-

ness, taking place in the Middle East and the Management of hazardous chemical and biological waste in the African Atlantic Façade region and Tunisia. More details of this can be found in the newsletter.

Future funding of the CoE will come from the new Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, replacing the outgoing Instrument for Stability. Within this, CBRN Risk Mitigation is mentioned as a priority and states that the European Union shall provide technical and financial assistance in pursuit of the mitigation of and preparedness against risks, whether of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents.

This demonstrates the commitment of the EU to work together with Partner Countries within the CoE to achieve this ambitious aim.

Michael Thornton
JRC CBRN CoE Team Leader

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Implementation of new projects

By Fanny Ewann

One of the pillars of the initiative is the bottom-up approach to ensure that project proposals come from specific needs declared by partner countries. In case of regional risk (nuclear cloud, biological terrorism or pandemics), it is important that targeted countries can also benefit from the implementation of regional measures they have built together.

In this regard 2 projects (34 and 35) resulting from the CBRN CoE bottom-up approach were launched in January 2014, along with a number of projects resulting from pre-existing EU activities in the CoE regions. An additional project initiated last year joined the CBRN CoE portfolio. While these last projects have not been built on proposals submitted by partner countries, the role of the CoE NFP remains fundamental for the successful implementation and to establish a link between those projects and the CoE initiative. Indeed the objective of the European Commission concerning the implementation of the CoE initiative is to avoid duplication and fragmentation of actions. The comprehensive approach, which brings together under the same umbrella chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear issues and on which the CoE initiative is built, is the perfect basis to reach this challenging objective.

PROJECT 34



Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and related medical emergency response under strengthened CBRN event preparedness

During discussions held at the Roundtable meetings held in Amman, Jordan, on September 2012 and June 2013, participants expressed their concerns and described their immediate and mid-term

needs in the region. These needs had already been expressed to some extent in former project proposals looking at awareness, risk assessment, import/export monitoring and management of hazardous chemical agents and their precursors, strengthening capacities of EMS (ambulance) teams as first medical responders in case of eventual CBRN events, knowledge development and transfer of best practice on inter-agency CBRN response.

On this basis, Project 34 was drafted. Its objectives are the following:

1. Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on inter-agency response.
2. Awareness, risk assessment, import/export monitoring and management of dangerous chemical agents.
3. Capacity building of national HAZMAT (HAZardous MATerials) intervention teams in emergency preparedness and response to incidents.
4. Strengthening capacities of the emergency medical service in preparedness and response to incidents involving dangerous materials.
5. Enhancing on-site detection, sampling, sample handling and analysis capabilities for dangerous chemicals.

The contract was awarded to a

consortium led by the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (MIHE) in Poland.

PROJECT 35



Management of hazardous chemical and biological waste in the African Atlantic Façade region and Tunisia

Correct storage, treatment and handling of Chemical and Biological waste material is critical to the preservation of public health, the conservation of the environment and the protection of national security. It is considered de facto that the greatest threat to massive loss of civilian life and environmental catastrophe comes from a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) accident, misuse or malicious act. It is within this context that the European Commission (EC) has recognized the ever-increasing importance of hazardous material management as a key element in the overall CBRN contingency strategy.



Fourth Round Table Meeting of the Middle East Region, 26 June 2013, Amman, Jordan

COE PROJECTS

The third round-table meeting of the African Atlantic Façade, held on March 19th-20th 2013 in Rabat Morocco, was the opportunity for the already nominated national focal points and experts from Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal, along with representatives from Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia and Togo to discuss their needs together with the National Focal Point and an expert from Tunisia.

On the first day, Equatorial Guinea showed its interest in chemical waste management issues as the country is a large producer of chemical waste. This topic, together with biological waste management was also of particular interest for Togo. The needs and capabilities of each country in this area were further debated the next day between national experts.

Following the discussions, several AAF partner countries communicated the will to participate in a common project. Further Feedback regarding EU experts' presentations gave the necessary material to the formulation of the proposal for project 35. This 42-month project includes a regulatory and technical inventory phase followed by a training phase in order to enhance (or initiate) best practices in hazardous chemical and biological waste management. Aspects related to sampling, detection, measurement, protection, decontamination, mitigation, transport, containment, site remediation and disposal should be tailored to each country, while keeping as much a regionally consistent approach as possible. This will include the elaboration of comprehensive standard procedures and technology solutions for Chemical and Biological. Furthermore, the NFPs who confirmed their interest were involved in the preparation of the project's terms of reference and the AAF Head of Secretariat took part in the evaluation of implementers' offers. The implementation of project 35 has been awarded to a con-

sortium led by the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIAPP), Spain.

This is the first CoE project, for which a Head of Secretariat is a member of the Project Managing board. Partner Countries will not only be involved in the decision-making process and the selection of the priorities to be pursued, but they will also instil into the project the preferences that will enable them to achieve their objectives and define, if needed, a tailored methodology. Local stakeholders will be involved in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the area, and guarantee improved communication between Consortium and Partner Countries. Their participation in the project should encompass the whole implementation process and all work packages to ensure that activities are tailored to the country's needs. These steps are essential in order to achieve sustainability of the actions pursued under this project.

Public Health impact mitigation projects

A series of public health related projects are being implemented since January 2014 in the Middle East, North Africa and South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine Regions:

PROJECT 36



Further development and consolidation of the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

This is a follow-up to a project aiming at enhancing health security in the Mediterranean region by supporting capacity building for the prevention and control of natural or man-made threats to health posed by communicable diseases through the establishment of a long-term Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). This new project will help to consolidate a competent public health workforce in field epidemiology capable of facing national and cross-border emergencies posed by communicable diseases. Its activities will be implemented over 48 months by the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIAPP), Spain, and they include the following:

1. Training of national trainers in field epidemiology and promoting the creation of a regional network of trainers;
2. Training field epidemiologists for prevention and control of communicable diseases.
3. Establishing a network of MediPIET training centres for long-term, or shorter modules, training.

PROJECT 37



MEDILABSECURE - Establishment of networks of human and animal virology laboratories and of medical entomology

This project is based on the Epi-South-Plus project which aimed at creating a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve

As part of the communication and knowledge sharing elements, the consortium has developed a website: <http://www.cbrncoe35.eu/>



COE PROJECTS

communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans. MEDILABSECURE objective is to create a framework for collaboration on reference laboratories issues to improve communicable diseases surveillance and communication and provide training for public health experts in the participating countries. Over 48 months, a consortium led by the Institut Pasteur, France, will implement the following activities:

- Developing a first cluster of laboratories for awareness, risk assessment, monitoring and control of emerging or re-emerging viruses with vector transmission.
- Launching a second cluster for awareness, monitoring and control of emerging respiratory viruses comprising several work packages for human health, animal health and public health.
- Capacity building of national laboratories in preparedness and response to emerging zoonotic (transmitted from animal to human) viruses and respiratory viruses.

PROJECT 38



Export control outreach for dual use items.

This project will target the Central Asia and Middle East regions. The German Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) is in charge of its implementation since July 2013. It aims at enhancing the effectiveness of export control systems of dual-use items in the partner countries with a specific attention to the regional dimension, with a view to contribute to the fight against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and related materials, equipment and technologies.

To achieve its goal this 24-month

project will associate information sharing on applicable areas relevant to export control, training needs assessments for participating countries, information providing to EU policy makers on export control standards in partner countries and on regional developments; combining efforts and improving synergies and resources with other technical assistance providers, recommendations and support on legislation, legal provisions for prosecution and knowledge transfer on interagency cooperation, awareness raising about the importance of export control measures with regard to export control and non-proliferation.

PROJECT 39



Strengthening health security at ports, airports and ground crossings

Today's high volume traffic at airports, ports and ground crossings - points of entry, can play an important role in the natural or intentional spread of diseases. If countries are unprepared and appropriate measures are not in place to control potential risks, the impact to public health would be adverse. This represents the basis for this 24-month project implemented by the recognised experts concerned with international public health of the WHO. Benefitting the Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa, and South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine regions, it aims to increase health security within travel and transport, in a multi-sectorial approach, in order to minimize risks in association with natural or deliberate released hazards.

This goal will be achieved mainly through activities such as fostering collaboration, information and knowledge

sharing, developing technical guidance for points of entry activities, managing public health and public health emergency preparedness and response at points of entry.

PROJECT 40



Strengthening health laboratories to minimize potential biological risks

Under International Health Regulations (IHR) 2012, countries are required to develop and maintain the capacity to detect, investigate and report to the international community through WHO, public health events of potential international concern. In this context project 34's overall objective is to minimize potential biological risks through the enhancement of laboratory biosafety, biosecurity, quality management and diagnostic capacity. This project implemented by WHO will benefit the Central Asia, Middle East, South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine regions. Over a 36-month period the project will support the development of nationally-owned laboratory policies, strategies norms and regulations; engage institutional and individual capacity building efforts through the implementation of appropriate tools, methodologies and training activities. It will also enhance the ability of Partner countries to safely and rapidly detect and respond to natural or deliberate events of national and international concern according to the IHR through support to laboratory networks, and support national, regional and global laboratory networks aiming at detecting potential biological or other threats, such as emerging and dangerous pathogens.

Needs Assessment Questionnaire

By George Vardoulakis

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Legislation and regulation for CBRN material, facilities	CBRN managing authorities	Risk mitigating strategy	CBRN prevention measures	Detection of CBRN material	Preparedness for potential CBRN incidents and response	CBRN recovery measures	Sustainability

Needs Assessment is a process designed to systematically identify, analyse and prioritise needs, or "gaps", between current and desired future conditions.

The CBRN CoE Needs Assessment process allows partner countries to accomplish this across eight key areas of CBRN infrastructure and risk mitigation capability. It sets, as a common benchmark, CBRN risk mitigation measures and desired target conditions, ranging from internationally recognised standards and best practices, to legally binding agreements and treaties. It is a voluntary, self-assessment exercise in which any CBRN CoE partner country can participate.

Smart

Following the identification of needs, SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) objectives

can be described into a detailed national CBRN risk mitigation plan of action. As such, to function effectively, the Needs Assessment process requires political commitment of a partner country, coupled with the technical backing of experts representing the key institutions concerning CBRN materials and risks. To be operational and fit-for-purpose, the needs assessment process must be **simple, concise, comprehensive and flexible**.

Simple

The Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) has been created to allow partner countries, acting independently or with support from the European Commission, to implement and monitor an on-going CBRN needs assessment as their situation evolves. For transparency and ease of use, a Needs Assessment Questionnaire Software Tool (NAQ-ST) has been developed

by the European Commission and shared with all stakeholders via the CBRN CoE Private Portal.

Concise

The NAQ-ST consists of around 300 closed-form questions arranged into eight sections according to international best practices. The structure is designed to lead the National Team through the main elements of CBRN related infrastructure and risk mitigation measures. Answers are provided in yes-no form with supporting text entries to collect comments/evidence.

Comprehensive

The questionnaire is available as eight, concise interactive pdf questionnaires. Each questionnaire is only a few pages in length and allows users to fill in as many questions and supply as much

It comprises eight sections across:

- 1 Legislation and regulation for CBRN material, facilities and activities
- 2 CBRN managing authorities
- 3 Risk mitigating strategy
- 4 CBRN prevention measures
- 5 Detection of CBRN material
- 6 Preparedness for potential CBRN incidents and response
- 7 CBRN recovery measures
- 8 Sustainability

supportive information as they wish.

The NAQ-ST is the cornerstone tool of the EU CBRN CoE initiative as it helps to identify CBRN gaps as well as areas where countries have the potential to offer assistance and share practices/methods with others in the region. Within the initiative's cycle of activities, it also serves as a starting point for formulating CoE project proposals.

The main aim of the NAQ-ST is to help National Teams from across different government departments to identify and discuss areas within the country where:

- significant expertise and capacity exist
- further development and capacity building are required
- opportunities for partnership and cooperation exist

Under the CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative, the responsibility to identify priorities in CBRN risk mitigation lies with the Partner Countries. The potential impact from all man-made and natural sources risk should be identified and con-

sidered by the National Team and could include risks from sources such as mining and processing of uranium ore or outbreak of disease. Priorities should be clearly identified and, if possible, ranked.

Flexible

The National Focal Point is free to decide upon the method invoked to conduct the needs assessment process. The NAQ-ST can be distributed to different government departments or institutions by section or in parallel. This allows the NFP and his/her team to develop a comprehensive view from different perspectives and priorities. It allows the NFP to bring these communities together to discuss question interpretation and the answers provided in the NAQ-ST.

The NFP is free to decide at what level he/she shares important findings with others in the region and with the Eu-



European Commission. Based upon this collaborative needs assessment process, the NFP is able to subsequently develop a priority list of needs and gaps.

It is the prerogative of the Partner Country to share and discuss these priorities with others in the region and with the EU. The European Commission have offered support to Partner Countries in exercising the Needs Assessment process and in identifying priorities and answers.

Download NAQ

The tool is now available for download from the portal:

English:

<https://cbrn-coe.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home/naq>

French:

<https://cbrn-coe.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Docs.aspx?EntryId=2225>

Russian:

<https://cbrn-coe.jrc.ec.europa.eu/Docs.aspx?EntryId=2252>



Latest developments

THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS IS NOW UNDERWAY

The Needs Assessment Questionnaire - Software Tool was tested by three Partner Countries in 2013: Armenia, Moldova, and Lebanon. The first 'live' NAQ exercises took place in Myanmar and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the course of February 2014.

Useful feedback on the process of conducting the needs assessment was



Needs Assessment Questionnaire meeting in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 6-7 Feb 2014

received as well as on the questions themselves. Crucially, the National Focal Points and the National Teams found the questionnaire simple to use and easy to understand.

The exercises were an opportunity to request and provide additional clarification and explanation where needed. The National Teams were encouraged to point out any issues they encountered, while filling in the questionnaire, and to suggest improvements.

Overall, the National Teams found the questionnaire easy to use but highlighted how different responses to certain questions could be given by different state institutions. It is therefore essential that experts from all relevant state institutions are involved in the completion of the NAQ, under the direction of the National Focal Point.

The meetings allowed for further improvement of the questionnaire as well as the needs assessment process itself. This feedback later led to the development

of Guidelines to accompany the NAQ-ST.

The updated Needs Assessment Questionnaire - Software Tool has now been made available to the CBRN CoE network via the private portal. The NAQ - ST is currently available in English, French and Russian and will also follow in the Arabic language.

The next 'live' Needs Assessment Questionnaire exercises are scheduled in March and April 2014 for Iraq, Kenya, Uganda and Gabon.

The NAQ team wishes to thank all those who took part in the pilot missions and for helping to shape and implement the CBRN CoE Needs Assessment process. We also wish to thank the National Focal Point of Albania, Ms Migena Kuburja, for providing translation of the questions into the Albanian language.

Middle East

By Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser

The Regional Secretariat based in Amman has been a major catalyst for regional cooperation in addressing CBRN threats. Among the eight Regional Secretariats established worldwide, the one established in Amman is the only one that stands out as a non-governmental organization, hosted by the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS).

This has been one reason why the Secretariat is successful in creating a neutral space where regional experts can come together to discuss such issues in a technical and apolitical perspective and in the spirit of a knowledge-based partnership.

Meeting of NFPs

The Head of the Regional Secretariat and the National Focal Points (NFPs) participated in the first meeting of the NFPs in Brussels October 28-30, 2013. Over 120 delegates participated in the meeting which brought together NFPs from 45 partner countries with their corresponding Heads of Secretariats (HoS). Regional participants were pleased to meet and interact with counterparts from other regions and countries, thereby laying the groundwork for further expansion of the CoE network beyond its sub-regional scope. As the initiative continues to succeed, this sort of networking amongst HoS and NFPs from a number of different regions will become increasingly important for the purposes of information sharing and cooperation.

This sort of cooperation was already evident during the NFPs meeting in Brussels when representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Regional Secretariat based in Abu Dhabi attended the Round Table Meeting of the Middle East Secretariat.



Fourth Round Table Meeting of the Middle East Region, 25-26 February 2014, Amman

During this meeting, representatives of the Middle East Secretariat were able to share their impressions about the initiative as well as their experiences and lessons learned with the hope that this would be of benefit to their counterparts in the GCC.

Launch of new projects and Fourth Round Table Meeting

In the period February 25-26, the Regional Secretariat hosted a large event open to the media to launch Project 34, titled "Strengthening Capacities in CBRN Event Response and Related Medical Emergency Response under Strengthened CBRN Event Preparedness" and valued at €3.9m, followed by the fourth Round Table Meeting of the Middle East National Focal Points. The launch event brought together officials from Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and the European Commission along with representatives of the United Nations and

EU Member States based in Amman and local stakeholders from Jordan's scientific community to listen to presentations about the project and its expected impact in the region.

The afternoon session offered implementing agencies the opportunity to meet regional stakeholders and hold bilateral meetings. The Round Table Meeting held the following day offered an opportunity for NFPs to discuss with European experts the drafting of new project proposals.

Project implementation

REGIONAL PRELIMINARY MEETING FOR PROJECT 31

In October 2013, the Regional Secretariat hosted a Regional Preliminary Meeting for Project 31, titled "Network of Universities and Institutes for Raising Awareness on Dual-Use Concerns of Chemical Materials" which brought together experts from Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq together with consortium members of

REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

the project. The main goal of the meeting was to further consolidate the project's regional network, outline and discuss its objectives and present for discussion a draft of the training material that had been developed since the kick-off meeting.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR PROJECT 5

Over a two-day period in December, the Regional Secretariat hosted the regional workshop for Project 5, titled "Knowledge Development and Transfer of Best Practices on CBRN Import/Export Monitoring" which brought together experts from Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon with consortium members of the projects and other experts. The purpose of the workshop was to identify common areas of interest in relation to import/export moni-

toring of CBRN materials, interagency cooperation and best practices.

The workshop sought to consider means to improve communication between partner countries and identify appropriate EU technical support.

Other events COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ORGANISATION

In December 2013 the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, was hosted at the Regional Secretariat and MESIS for a roundtable discussion with representatives of Jordan's scientific community.

The meeting focused on the status of the Treaty as well Jordan's role

as host country of the Integrated Field Exercise (IFE14) which will be held towards the end of 2014. Zerbo also sought to discuss the role of Jordan's scientific community in IFE14 and in international disarmament efforts in general.

Over the past year, the Regional Secretariat, in partnership with MESIS hosted a number of training activities with Interpol that sought to leverage the CoE network with that developed through Interpol's CBRNE program.

Related links

Official press release

<http://www.cbrn-coe.eu>

MESIS Institute

<http://www.mesis.jo>

Remarks of the UN Resident



Participants at the Media Event for the official launch of Project 34, 25 Feb 2014, Amman, Jordan

South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine

By Givi Amiranashvili



First workshop with the National CBRN Team of Serbia on National CBRN Action Plan, 6 Nov 2013, Belgrade, Serbia

Last December, the head of the regional secretariat met with Mr Levan Izoria, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, who reiterated his full support towards the CoE initiative and the Georgian government's availability to cooperate with the other countries in the region, to mitigate risks posed by CBRN materials.

One of the major benefits of having a stable presence in the region is a more direct communication with stakeholders in the field: in the last months the Regional Secretariat's staff has conducted numerous bilateral meetings with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders in order to coordinate and exchange information on activities carried out in the CBRN risk mitigation area, as well as to explore possible cooperation.

In particular, bilateral meetings were held with representatives of several Georgian ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Ministry of Education and Science,

Ministry of Internal Affairs etc.) and non-governmental organizations in order to brief them about the opportunities stemming from the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence and to discuss potential sensitive areas to focus on in the future.

In addition to this, meetings were held with several international organizations and diplomatic missions operating in Georgia in order to ensure that the work being carried out by the various international actors is complementary and not overlapping.

National CBRN Action Plans

The development of National CBRN Action Plan is a crucial element for a country to establish a comprehensive strategy to mitigate CBRN risks, and to clearly allocate responsibilities within the various national institutions dealing with CBRN.

In November last year, the first

workshop on National CBRN Action Plan in the SEC region was held in Belgrade, Serbia. The workshop was aimed at discussing with the Serbian National CBRN Team the major CBRN risks and priorities for the Republic of Serbia, as well as potential actions to overcome the gaps and needs identified.

Georgia adopts the National CBRN Threat Reduction Strategy

The government of Georgia recently adopted the National CBRN Threat Reduction Strategy (on 21 February 2014), to which the CoE initiative contributed by providing comments and inputs to the draft document during the various stages of its development. The adoption of such a document represents a significant step forward for CBRN risk mitigation not only for Georgia, but for the region as a whole.

New regional projects

Two new projects on CBRN have been launched within the framework of the Instrument for Stability in January 2014. Project 36 deals with further development and consolidation of the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training and Project 37 envisages the establishment of networks of human and animal virology laboratories and of medical entomology.

Related links

<https://cbrn-coe.jrc.ec.europa.eu/RegionalSecretariats/Tbilisi/Home.aspx>



African Atlantic Façade

By Stefania Micucci



Participants at the Workshop with national CBRN team of Gabon
11 Feb 2014

In November 2013 the Moroccan National Team held a meeting on the National CBRN Action Plan. The CoE National Focal Point, Mr Mohamed Salami, and the National CBRN Team with the support of the Regional Coordinator, Ms Stefania Micucci and of international experts, was able to identify the main CBRN risks of their Country. This constituted the basis for drafting of a first proposal of their National Action Plan. On 24 and 25 January 2014 a follow-up meeting took place in Rabat to finalize discussions on risks, capabilities and proposed capacity building actions for the country. The National CBRN Action Plan aims to ensure that separate efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, strengthening national CBRN capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats in order to bridge the existing gaps and establish a comprehensive CBRN policy.

Meeting with the CBRN National Team of Côte d'Ivoire

On February 6th 2014, the first meeting of the newly created CBRN National Team of Côte d'Ivoire was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and held in presence of the African Atlantique Façade and North Africa's UNICRI regional coordi-

nators, Ms Stefania Micucci and Mr Harro Wittermans. The meeting aimed at setting the basis for the activities to be developed by the CBRN National Team within the framework of the initiative, by reinforcing local actors' competency regarding policy implementation in the CBRN risk mitigation field. In the course of an interview given to the "Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne", following the workshop, the NFP - Dr Kadder Touré - announced that 108 reforms have been taken by the country. One of them recommends the government to foster inter-agency partnership in order to reinforce the capacities of the structures in charge of Côte d'Ivoire's safety. The meeting was also an occasion to present the methodology for elaborating a CBRN National Action Plan.

Bilateral meetings

BENIN

A meeting between Mr Eusèbe Angbanga, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Benin and Ms Stefania Micucci took place on December 6th in Cotonou, Benin, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It aimed at verifying the interest of the Republic of Benin in becoming partner country of the Regional Secretariat. The Acting Permanent Secretary showed great interest for the Initiative and confirmed the willingness of the country to become partner country.

The visit to Benin was

Related Link

Interview with Ms Micucci and the NFP Kadder Touré on "Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne"

<http://news.abidjan.net/v/14558.html>
(20'-22')



also the opportunity to attend the national workshop for the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in the framework of the EU support program to the implementation of the convention.

Synergies and cooperation were found between the representatives of different ministries of Benin, UNODA and the EU CBRN CoE Initiative for the elaboration of the national action plan for the implementation of the BWC.

GABON

On 11 February the Regional Coordinators for African Atlantic Façade and North Africa met with the National CBRN Team of Gabon. The meeting aimed at reinforcing team's capabilities and enhance coordination to allow a smoother implementation of activities.



Participants at the Workshop with national CBRN team of Côte d'Ivoire, 6 Feb 2014

South East Asia

By Maria Eugenia De Los Angeles Rettori



Workshop with the National Team, 13-15/02/14, Brunei Darussalam

The sixth round-table meeting of the National Focal Points for South East Asia took place in Brussels, on 29 October 2013. The National Focal Points and representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam gathered with the Head of the Regional Secretariat and representatives of the European Commission and UNICRI in order to take stock of the initiative in the region. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation of projects and the methodology for conducting needs assessment. Bilateral meetings were held between the partner countries, the European Commission and the Regional Secretariat, represented by the Head and the Regional Coordinator.

United Arab Emirates visit the Regional Secretariat

A UAE delegation visited the CoE Regional Secretariat in Manila. The meeting was organised to demonstrate and share with the authorities of the United

Arab Emirates the role and activities performed by the Regional Secretariat in the implementation of the CoE Initiative in the region. After a session of dedicated presentations, participants discussed the important role of the National Focal Points and National CBRN Teams and experience of the Philippines in enhancing regional consensus and the role of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). In the

afternoon, the Delegation from the United Arab Emirates met with Mr Lubomir Fretbort, Head of the Political, Press and Information Section within the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines.

National Action Plan Workshops

CAMBODIA

As a follow-up to the workshop held on Sep. 30th- Oct. 1st, 2013, a 2nd workshop on the National Action Plan took place in Phnom-Penh on 10-11 February 2014. The National CBRN Team and stakeholders of the Cambodia had the opportunity to review the draft, discuss any relevant additional information that could be included into the draft National Action Plan, prioritize and provide more detail on proposed capacity-building actions.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

The National CBRN Team and stakeholders of Brunei Darussalam met in Bandar

Seri Begawan on 13 and 15 of February 2014 for an in-country workshop. This event was an opportunity for the National Team to learn more about their role in CBRN CoE activities and to be introduced to the methodology of the National Action Plan. The priorities of Brunei Darussalam on the CBRN areas were also briefly discussed.

PHILIPPINES

The National CBRN Team and stakeholders of the Philippines met in Manila on 6-7 February 2014 for a workshop on the National Action Plan, as a follow-up to the 1st meeting held in October 2013. It allowed the National team to review the drafted National Action Plan, discuss relevant additional information for their potential inclusion into the drafted NAP and prioritize proposed capacity-building actions.

Bilateral Meetings

Several meetings were held in South East Asia with government authorities and representatives of the institutions and national agencies from Singapore, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam in order to discuss the next steps of the Initiative.



Sixth Round Table Meeting of the South Asia Region' NPS, 29 Oct 2013, Brussels

Central Asia

By Fanny Fert



Regional workshop for Project 5, 3 Feb 2014, Eschborn, Germany

On 10-11 October 2013 in Tashkent a bilateral meeting was held with the high level Uzbek officials from the State Inspection «Sanoatgeokon-tehnazorat» mandated by the Cabinet of Ministers to be the host institution of the Regional Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, and the National Coordinating Unit of the European Union's Technical Assistance Programme under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Ambassador Yuri Sterk, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ms Fanny Fert, the CoE Regional Coordinator for Central Asia. The meeting was organized to discuss provisions of the text of the Memorandum of Understanding framing the set-up of the Regional Secretariat in Tashkent.

Regional Workshop for Project 5

On 03 and 04 February 2014, a regional workshop for partner countries

from Central Asia took place at the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) in Eschborn, Germany.

Representatives from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the event and presented their national CBRN import/export monitoring systems. The event mainly focused on import and export controls of chemical and biological items, their classification as well as related risk assessment procedures, both from a licensing and customs perspective. The participants showed a high interest in the topic and fruitful discussions took place.

International events

COMBATING ILLITIC TRAFFICKING

In October 15-16, 2013, in Kiev, Ukraine. JRC organized an international Workshop of the TACIS Multi-country project, the CoE Regional Coordinator for Central Asia was invited to describe the opportunities for working under the CoE in the area of Combating illicit trafficking and re-iterated on the mechanism for develop-

ing and injecting project proposals.

The objective of the meeting was to review the achievements and the challenges faced during the implementation of the multi-country project on combating illicit trafficking, funded through the TACIS and the Instrument for Stability program. Representatives of Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine participated in the meeting.

BUILDING SECURITY CULTURE

STCU and UNODA jointly organized the "GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) Roundtable on Building Security Culture" that took place in Baku, Azerbaijan on 26-27 November, 2013.

This event in Baku was a follow-up activity to the Roundtable on WMD and Dual-use Expertise/Knowledge Redirection and Prevention held in Kiev in April 2013. The main purpose was to facilitate exchange of experiences, examine current CBRN security risks and challenges in particular within the GUAM Region, as well as enhance CBRN security culture development within the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

The Regional coordinator for Southern Europe, South Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova and the Regional Coordinator for Central Asia were invited to attend this event and present the EU CBRN CoE Initiative and its contribution to building a culture of security.

Additional information:

TACIS: Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States

UNODA: UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

STCU: Science & Technology Center In Ukraine

Eastern and Central Africa

By Alma Pintol



African Union workshop on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, 10-11 Dec 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

With the aim to strengthen regional and international cooperation to fight against CBRN risks, bilateral meetings with potential partner countries as well international events have been organised in the Eastern and Central Africa region.

Bilateral meetings with partner countries

SEYCHELLES

Ambassador Maurice J.L. Loustau-Lalanne, the Principal Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles, in his letter addressed to Mr Maciej Popowski, the Deputy Secretary General for the European External Action Service, expressed the willingness of the Government of Seychelles to participate in the Centres of Excellence Initiative.

The Ambassador Loustau-Lalanne proposed that Seychelles forms part of the Eastern and Central Africa Regional Secretariat.

He also informed that the National Focal Point would be nominated imminently and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to be used as the Focal Point for communication purposes until the nomination was completed.

On 16th December 2013 Seychelles joined the Eastern and Central Africa Centre of Excellence in October 2013 and officially nominated its National Focal Point. Following upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICRI organized an introductory workshop for the CBRN stakeholders, thus laying the foundations for the creation of the National CBRN Team.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs reiterated the commitment of Seychelles to the goals of the initiative and its interest in having a prominent role in the region in CBRN matters.

The mission also served as an occasion to meet with the British High Commission, the Embassy of France to Victoria, the Indian Ocean Commission and the EUCAP Nestor. EUCAP Nestor is a strengthening mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) working to enhance the maritime capacities of five countries in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Seychelles and Tanzania.

GHANA

In his letter addressed to Mr Maciej Popowski, Mr Leslie K. Christian, Chief Director within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of

Ghana on behalf of the Minister, conveyed the decision of the Government of Ghana to formally seek membership in the CoE Initiative.

Mr Christian underlined that Ghana as a state party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on Prevention of Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological weapons and their means of Delivery, recognizes the need to mitigate CBRN material risks and is willing to work with international organisations, the European Union among others.

The main aim is to realize principles such as networking, regional partnership, coordination and optimization of existing capabilities in terms of expertise, training, technical assistance or equipment.

Addressing regional CBRN needs through specific tailored projects and strengthening a regional culture of safety and security are also amongst the main objectives.

Mr Simon Foe Mensah-Akollor of the National Security Council Secretariat had been nominated as the National Focal Point of Ghana.



REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

RWANDA

On the 23th of January, a joint EU-UNICRI delegation, composed of the Head of Political Section of the EU Delegation to Rwanda and the Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Central Africa, met with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Kigali. The purpose of the meeting was to reinvigorate Rwanda's more active involvement with the initiative. The previous involvement of Rwanda with the Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Central Africa was discussed. The Ministry was briefed on the activities implemented in the region, in particular Projects 13 and 33, which are planning regional events and visits in near future.

Ministry representatives responded positively to the Initiative and nominated an interim point of contact. Interest to participate in several regional events was expressed.

The mission also provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and coordination with the EU Delegation and the local UN agencies.

International events

AFRICAN UNION WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN 1540

Three UNICRI Regional Coordinators (African Atlantic Facade, Eastern and Central Africa, North Africa) participated in a workshop organized by the African Union on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10-11 December 2013.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss priorities, challenges, share experiences and identify opportunities to address practical issues relating to the implementation of, and reporting on, Resolution 1540 with the aim of equipping Member

States with practical knowledge and tools to enable them achieve concrete progress in meeting their obligations.

STRENGTHENING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY: AN EU REGIONAL SEMINAR

On February 5th-7th, the EU and ISS (Institute for Security Studies) jointly organised in Pretoria, South Africa, an event titled Strengthening Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: an EU Regional Seminar.

Among the 72 participants were Mr Happy S.M. Mutanga, the Zambian National Focal Point, a member of the Seychelles CBRN National Team, a member of the DRC National Team, representatives of Tanzania and Alma Pintol, Regional Coordinator for the ECA region.

The objective of the organisers was to engage the concerned regulatory authorities, possibly on a regional basis, to provide support and promote adoption of the best international practices.

As such, the seminar offered an opportunity for southern African states to present their national situation and share their experiences with international organisations that are active in the field.

Bilateral meetings with potential partner countries

The Regional Coordinator was invited by the Director General of Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) to present the CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative to TAEC staff on February 17th 2014.

TAEC is a regulatory body established in Arusha under the Tanzania Atomic Energy Act No7 of 2003. It was mandated to regulate research and supervise the use of atomic energy and nuclear technology,

to protect workers, the public and the environment from harmful effects of radiation. TAEC also has the mandate to promote nuclear technology and safe and peaceful utilization of atomic energy. The presentation of the CBRN CoE was followed by a lively discussion with the meeting participants on the benefits of the Initiative and the process of officially joining.

After a tour of the facilities and laboratories, the Regional Coordinator met with the Director General who committed to transmitting the message to the relevant colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the importance of officially joining the Initiative. The Director General also agreed to nominate a representative of TAEC to attend the regional seminar organized within the implementation of Project 13.

ETHIOPIA

On the 12th December 2013, Regional Coordinators, accompanied by a representative of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss Ethiopia's considerations on joining the CBRN Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence, the benefits, the obligations, the role of the National Focal Point and of the National Team and the steps ahead. Regional Coordinators apprised the Ministry of the projects currently implemented in the region that Ethiopia could benefit from.

The Coordinators also met with the Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia and a representative of the EU Delegation to African Union. These meetings addressed activities implemented under the CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence and the engagement of partner countries in Africa.

COE TOOLS UPDATES

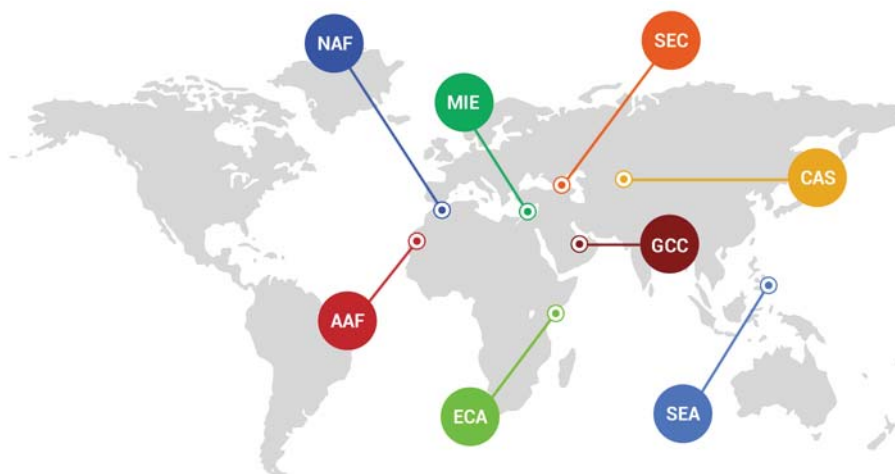
CBRN CoE Private Portal:
New regional pages

In order for CBRN CoE partners countries of the same region to easily share information and have an improved overview of the activities and events taking place in the region, 8 distinct regional sections have been developed within the CBRN CoE main portal and launched in the course of February 2014. Each of them is linked to the main portal. Each CBRN CoE region has now its own tailored regional section on the private EU CBRN CoE portal where all information relative to the CBRN CoE Initiative in that region can be found: Regional Secretariat information, Agenda, Events, Contacts, Documents to be uploaded and downloaded. This should improve the communication and activities visibility within each region and contribute to the strengthening of the role of the Regional Secretariats. In the coming years these pages will be transformed into regional portals that will be migrated and eventually hosted within the Regional Secretariats.

POLICY UPDATES

EU WMD Strategy

EU will support the destruction of Syrian chemical stockpiles. On February 17th 2014 the European Union announced the providing of a €12 million financial support to help destroy Syrian chemical stockpiles. The funds have been provided by the Instrument for Stability (IfS) and will serve as a contribution to a Trust Fund established by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). This funding comes in addition to other EU contribution, including CBRN CoE activities in the Middle East region.

New EU Framework
Welcome to IcSP!

Last December, the European parliament approved the Multiannual Financial Framework, which is the External Action Financing Instruments. It translates the EU's political priorities for seven years into financial terms. The 2014-2020 EU framework, see some changes in the adopted instruments in order to pursue cooperation with the EU's external partners on four policy priorities: enlargement, neighbourhood, cooperation with strategic partners and development cooperation. This four policies priorities translate into four instruments, including the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

which replaces the former IfS (Instrument for Stability).

The IcSP is a key instrument of the EU to help prevent and respond to crises and create a safe and stable environment. It has been streamlined to better contribute to a comprehensive EU approach to conflict prevention and peace-building, crisis response and security threats. Its specific objectives are to provide a swift crisis-response in case of political conflicts or natural disasters, enhance the EU capacity for crisis preparedness, conflict prevention and peace building, build capacity to address global and trans-regional security threats.

It is through this new instrument that EU CBRN CoE projects will be funded.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION The @tomic exercise

The international tabletop exercise @tomic 2014 took place in Maastricht from 18 to 20 February 2014. The exercise focused on enhancing radiological and nuclear security and on preventing radiological and nuclear terrorism. @tomic 2014 sought to promote cooperation between countries and expert communities against this international threat. This goal was achieved through the use of innovative digital and multimedia techniques and a scenario-based structure.

@tomic 2014 is one of the three official side events to the Nuclear Security

Summit 2014 in The Hague. It was organized by the Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV), together with the International Atomic Energy Agency, INTERPOL, the European Commission, UNICRI, Europol, the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Netherlands Forensic Institute.

@tomic 2014 was attended by over 250 governmental experts from 50 countries with backgrounds in radiological/nuclear security, law enforcement and intelligence, cyber security, (nuclear) forensics, emergency management and public communication. This makes @tomic 2014 one of the largest tabletop exercises ever held

in this field. The lessons learned during this exercise will be shared with the participants of the exercise and during the NSS 2014. In this way the exercise will contribute to a safer and more secure world.

Related links

NCTV Final Press Statement @tomic 2014

<http://english.nctv.nl/currenttopics/news/2014/20140220-nss-side-event-atomic-2014-successfully-concluded.aspx?cp=92&cs=385>

Upcoming events

1-3 April 2014

6th Round Table Meeting of the South East Asia Region - Bandar, Brunei Darussalam

4 April 2014

Launching the EU CBRN CoE project n.34 - Beirut, Lebanon

7-8 April 2014

Round Table Meeting of the South Est Europe, South Caucasus Moldova and Ukraine Region - Belgrade, Serbia

14-16 April 2014

5th Round Table Meeting of the African Atlantic Facade Region - Rabat, Morocco

15 April 2014

Celebration of the 1st year of the AAF Regional Secretariat - Rabat, Morocco

11-13 June 2014

CBRN CoE National Focal Points meeting - Ispra, Italy

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p.2 Mikael Micucci (Ms Stefania Micucci's photo); 4-5 A.Proudlove; p.7 S.Micucci; p.8-9 M.Thornton; p.10-11 Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia; p.12 O. F. Valenzuela (Meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines); p.12 Myanmar Ministry of Science and Technology (First meeting of the National CBRN Team of Myanmar); p.13 M.Rettori; p.14 Office of Atoms for Peace, Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand; p.15 H.Wittermans; p.16 M.Thornton

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 national, regional and international levels, and to develop a common and coherent CBRN risk mitigation policy at national and regional level. Risk mitigation comprises prevention, preparedness and post-crisis management.

The initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The European External Action Service (EEAS) is also deeply involved in the follow up of the initiative. The Initiative is developed with the technical support of relevant International/Regional Organisations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at national, regional and international level.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at:
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