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Young audience becomes aware of CBRN safety and security

By Lela Bakanidze

Uzbekistan, September 2018

More than 300 students, young specialists, schoolchildren and faculty members increased their awareness on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security through the lectures conducted by the OSA expert Dr. Lela Bakanidze. This activity has been possible thanks to the "Most Innovative Regional Proposal for the future 2018" award, that the CA Region received for the project "Popularisation and visibility of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative among the various layers of the population". The project seeks to raise the awareness of CBRN issues among children and youth through the organisation of lessons, meetings and drawing competitions around the topic "Safe world through the eyes of children."

Before a roll-out of the regional project, activities were piloted among the educational establishments of Uzbekistan – in the cities of Samarkand, Nukus and Tashkent. Interest in these training workshops was great, and all the participants mentioned that they would be eager to learn more about CBRN safety and security, admitting that the topic was new for them. ▣



Top: Lela during the lecture, and among the young students.

Bottom: Illustrations realised by two young students, during the Lela Bakanidze's lecture about CBRN threats, held in Uzbekistan.

HIGHLIGHTS from the CBRN CoE's 8 Regions



Crucial role of the
National Focal Points



EU, ISTC and Kenya co-operating
to mitigate CBRN risks and threats



GCC Region launches his
first project: P82 approved

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CBRN CoE Training Materials database is now available online

For the last 10 years, the 82 projects created for CBRN CoE have resulted in the accumulation of a large amount of training material.

This material consists of various files, presentations and videos, regarding for example, risk assessment, training for first responders, and field and Table-

Top exercises. We are proud to be able to share our database of training material with the CoE network, Regional Secretariats and other actors involved in EU CBRN CoE.

This database is available to browse and download by any authorised user who might be creating a similar training

exercise and would like to review material from past projects. The material has been uploaded onto CIRCABC – a European Commission repository, and access is given on request.

A request is made by creating a EU Login through ECAS and writing to:

EU-CBRN-COE@ec.europa.eu □

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TABLE OF COMMON ACRONYMS: AAF = African Atlantic Façade; CA = Central Asia; CBRN = Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear; CoE = Centres of Excellence; DG DEVCO = Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development; EC = European Commission; ECA = Eastern and Central Africa; EEAS = European External Action Service; EUD = European Union Delegation; GCC = Gulf Cooperation Council Countries; JRC = Joint Research Centre; MIE = Middle East; MoU = Memorandum of Understanding; NAP = National Action Plans; NAQ = Needs Assessment Questionnaire; NAS = North Africa and Sahel; NFP = National Focal Point; NT = National Team; NTE = National Team of Experts; OPCW = Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; OSA = On-site Technical Assistance; PHE = Public Health England; RAP = Regional Action Plan; RTM = Round Table Meeting; RS = Regional Secretariat; SEA = South East Asia; SEEE = South East and Eastern Europe; TOE = Team of Experts; ToR = Terms of Reference; UNICRI = United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.



Crucial role of National Focal Points in the EU CBRN CoE Initiative

By Jean-Pierre Bardoul

Since the launch of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative in 2010, it has become clear that the role of the National Focal Points (NFPs) is of great importance for the smooth and efficient implementation of the Initiative. NFPs are appointed by their respective Partner Country government. They coordinate a CBRN national team, which is composed of representatives from ministries and national agencies that have a stake in CBRN risk mitigation. The increasing awareness of Partner Countries in need of strengthening CBRN risk mitigation – in order to prevent CBRN incidents, criminal attacks and terrorism – has translated into a more visible role for NFPs in the administration of Partner Countries. In a number of Partner Countries, the role of the NFP and the national CBRN teams has been formalised and operational budgets for their functioning have been institutionalised (this is the case e.g. in Ethiopia, Kenya and Lebanon). These are positive developments which the EU would like to further encourage.

At the same time, NFPs have seen their workload increased during the past years. In this context, it is important for all stakeholders to support the NFPs in their work as much as possible. This is also an area where the EU Delegations are requested to be more active. Details of project implementation issues should, for example, be handled by project implementers and relevant members of the national teams. This will allow the NFPs to focus on their core task, which includes discussing and sharing CBRN-related information with key stakeholders in the Partner Country government. This



Jean-Pierre Bardoul.

will help ensure that government officials from the Partner Country who are participating in regional or international meetings (organised by IAEA, OPCW and others) are fully aware of the activities developed in the framework of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative and are able to

benefit fully from its potential. This is ultimately in the interest of the Partner Countries themselves, as it strengthens the in-country coordination of CBRN activities through using the NFPs as a single entry-point for all CBRN-related matters. ▣

JEAN-PIERRE'S PROFILE

Jean-Pierre joined DEVCO in 2004 and has worked in several EU Delegations. His current assignment is Regional Co-operation Officer at the EU Delegation to Kenya. He follows all activities in the Horn of Africa region funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability & Peace (IcSP) Article 5 (long-term component), including the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, as well as actions in the field of countering terrorism (CT), the fight against organised crime, maritime security and the protection of critical infrastructure. He declares: 'I am committed to helping support and facilitate DEVCO B.5's activities to strengthen CBRN resilience and promote security & stability in Kenya and the Horn of Africa. I have noticed that our Partner Countries increasingly appreciate the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. They see it as a security programme, which is useful for them in their efforts to prevent CBRN incidents, in particular any malicious threats of possible use of CBRN agents by criminal or terrorist groups.'

AFRICAN ATLANTIC FAÇADE

By Stefania Micucci

Institutionalisation of the CBRN risk assessment approach

AAF Region, September 2019

The ten AAF Regional Secretariat Partner Countries are all deeply engaged in the finalisation of their respective National CBRN Action Plans and in parallel, the establishment of a Regional CBRN Action Plan.

While seven out of ten Partner Countries have been or are finalising their NAPs, the remaining three, Benin, Mauritania and Sierra Leone, have made an important effort with the European experts' support group to draft their National CBRN Action Plans. These begin with the identification of national CBRN risks and needs, and progress to the consequent identification

of actions to be implemented to address them.

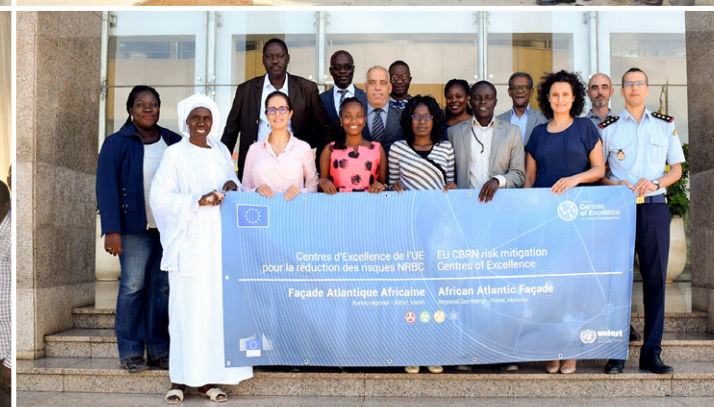
During the period February - October 2019, the National CBRN Teams of Benin and Mauritania, with the technical and financial support of the AAF Regional Secretariat, identified their respective, major risks in the CBRN fields; Sierra Leone, with the support of the Regional Secretariat and JRC experts, identified CBRN risks and their related needs and started the drafting of its National CBRN Action Plan.

In parallel, the AAF Partner Countries recognised the need to set up a Regional CBRN Action Plan. To this end, thanks to the Implementing Cooperation Agreement signed between UNICRI and the AAF CBRN Regional Secretariat,

two experts' meetings were organised in March and May 2019. The meetings saw the participation of CBRN National Focal Points together with national experts. The first meeting focused on developing a specific methodology to identify the common priority needs, the second focused on the development of the contents of capacity building programmes based on the agreed methodology. The CBRN National Focal Points and experts agreed that the Regional CBRN Action Plan could not be a mere aggregation of needs identified at national level and related corrective actions. The region opted for a more holistic approach, based on the analysis of available information on CBRN risks affecting the continent, and the study of documents developed



NAQ Meeting opening, Benin.



First row, from left: NAP update meeting Côte d'Ivoire; NAP 2 Togo; AAF NFP and Experts Meeting 8-9 March 2019; Risk Assessment Workshop, Benin.

First row, from left: NAQ meeting Sierra Leone; Mr Salami receiving the Award from Henriette Geiger, DEVCO, June 2019; AAF restricted NFP and expert meeting 20-22 May 2019; The AAF team celebrating the Award for the Most Innovative idea.

within the CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative by Partner Countries, such as National CBRN Action Plans and risk assessments. The analysis also included studies developed by other international organisations and institutions active in the CBRN field.

Three levels were identified:

- The need for a solid structural organisation
- The need for equipment acquisition
- The need for training and awareness-raising actions

Concerning the latter, different time lines have to be considered: a strategic level (governance) needing a long-term vision, a technical level (management of risks and threats) requiring a mid-term vision and finally an operational level with a more short-term vision.

The Regional CBRN Action Plan is a living document with which Partner Countries, with the coordination of the Regional

Secretariat, are still working on and will continue to work on in following years.

The Region won the Award for the Most Innovative idea: the establishment of a Master CBRN programme. This is one of the steps towards the establishment of a Regional CBRN Training Centre

On the occasion of the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points held in La Hulpe (Belgium) in June 2019, the African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat presented a proposal for the set-up of a Master programme in French, specialising in CBRNE risk mitigation. The proposal included all four selection criteria – innovation, regional scope, feasibility and related capacity building – and presented the added value of potentially benefitting the whole African continent, extending its relevance beyond the region. For this reason, Ms. Henriette Geiger, Director, People and Peace, DG

DEVCO granted the Award for the Most Innovative-Creative proposal to Mr. Mohamed Salami, Head of the African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat.

The African Master Programme for specialising in CBRNE risk mitigation, accommodating 25 executives from different administrations and of different nationalities, will be organised in Africa, in collaboration with a French university that already provides this training in Europe and is accredited by the French "Conférence des Grandes Écoles". The specialised African CBRNE Master will be the first of its type on the continent.

Candidates will be selected after an examination and study of their curricula. At the end of their training, they will have to produce a professional thesis which will allow them, in case of success, to obtain an internationally recognised diploma. The specialised African CBRNE Master will consist of 10 weeks of theoretical modules at an African

“ The specialised African CBRNE Master will consist of 10 weeks of theoretical modules at the African university and practical courses at the French university spread over one year. ”

university and practical courses at the French university spread over one year.

The willingness of the AAF CBRN Regional Secretariat to focus its efforts on establishment of a specialised African CBRNE Master appeared as part of the CoE Initiative and was articulated during the drafting of the Regional CBRN Action Plan. Indeed, the latter emphasised an important need in terms of training. This need was recognised by the Partner Countries as likely to favour the transition from a silo to a cross-cutting approach to CBRNE issues at the level of national administrations and of other key actors in the field of CBRN

risks and threats reduction.

Graduation will allow trained managers to bring a different perspective on CBRNE issues to their respective countries. In addition, the training can promote the implementation of transversal policies or actions, both national and regional. Also, in training candidates will have the opportunity to share a common knowledge base which will allow them to better understand the cultures, capacities and limits of others.

The specialised African CBRNE Master will also support the efforts of National Focal Points and National CBRN Teams

in maintaining a high level of attention to CBRN issues in different countries, and to support actions aimed at CBRN risk reduction, while promoting exchange, cooperation and strengthening of the regional dimension.

Several meetings and months of preparatory work have allowed the parties to reach an agreement on this training, to be situated on the African continent, adapting to local contexts while retaining the accreditation of the French "Conférence des Grandes Écoles", a pledge of recognition and professionalism.

The AAF countries were extremely satisfied with the work done by the Regional Secretariat and pleased to be able to offer a CBRNE degree programme to their fellow citizens.

Promotion of the specialised African CBRNE Master is expected to take place in 2020. ▣

CENTRAL ASIA

By Bakhtior Gulyamov, Iryna Iarema



Head of Regional Secretariat for Central Asia Mr Bakhtior Gulyamov greeting the participants of the EU CBRN CoE – BACAC Conference, 11-15 March 2019.

CBRN National Action Plans for Comprehensive Results: Uzbekistan and Afghanistan finalised National Action Plans

Uzbekistan, July 2019

After the CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) was adopted by the Government of Uzbekistan at the end of 2018, the country moved towards its full implementation in 2019. The NAP Working Group meets quarterly and monitors progress towards the implementation of the NAP goals. These goals are consistent with the obligations undertaken by Uzbekistan in the framework of relevant international treaties and agreements. Within CBRN NAP implementation, amendments to the Law on export control and a number of by-laws related to it were drafted. A draft law on accession of Uzbekistan to the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the

use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare was also prepared. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has advanced in the preparation of a CBRN NAP. The Plan has been finalised with the support of international experts and is currently being translated into one of the official languages of the country. Over the course of a year, three pre-NAQ workshops were held in other countries in the region, to ensure a reflection of countries' specific needs during their CBRN NAPs preparation.

Strengthening the national legal framework and provision of specialised training on bio-safety and bio-security in Central Asian countries

11-15 March 2019

In 2019, the implementation of Project 53 on strengthening the national

legal framework and the provision of specialised training on bio-safety and bio-security in Central Asian countries was completed. It was done in close cooperation with the EU Team of Experts (EU ToE) and the National Team of Experts (NTE) for each of the Partner Countries. Strong commitment and cooperation, demonstrated by the Partner Countries and the experts involved, contributed to a significant level of success under Project 53.

Project 53 was instrumental in upgrading legislative bases of Partner Countries so as to streamline the implementation of international obligations and align respective national regulations with the best international standards. To this end, legislative assessments of national legislation according to the International

Health Regulations (IHR), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and Codex Alimentarius for all Partner Countries in Central Asia was

Efforts undertaken in this direction helped to identify common challenges and opportunities for cooperation in the region, with regard to emergency

“A draft law was prepared in Uzbekistan on the accession of the country to the Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare was prepared.”

carried out and recommendations were formulated. Activities and outcomes were presented at multiple meetings under the auspices of the BTWC, IHR and others, including the EU CBRN CoE – BACAC Conference 11-15 March 2019. Of note, is that in the framework of the Project, Tajikistan drafted new bio-security and bio-safety legislation, which is revised by the Tajik government and parliament. Kazakhstan also drafted new legislation, which is under review by the relevant governmental departments, and Kyrgyzstan has indicated plans to do the same.

response planning in Central Asia. Findings of Project 53 have also deepened a common understanding of the best modalities for the regional strategy to strengthen legislation on bio-safety and bio-security in Central Asia.

Within the training component of the Project, training and equipment needs assessments were performed. Based on these, the Train the Trainer program was developed and implemented by EU ToE. More than 80 master trainers were trained in seven Partner Countries in Central Asia with the number of trainees

ranging between 10-14 per country. In turn, these master trainers then provided trainings within their countries, completing over 60 workshops for more than 2000 trainees. Additionally, Kazakh and Tajik trainers also provided trainings to other Partner Countries' experts, in six workshops reaching over 100 trainees. EU ToE and external experts also provided 14 training sessions for about 230 specialists.

Necessary equipment for Partner Countries has also been provided through the Project. In Uzbekistan, the process of purchasing mobile laboratory units is being finalised and will strengthen the country's capacity to react to bio-hazards.

Overall, the comprehensive support provided to Partner Countries in Central Asia not only helped to improve legislation and response measures with regard to the bio-risks, but also strengthened regional ties and opened new paths for a better sharing experience for the countries of Central Asia. □



Participants at the EU CBRN CoE – BACAC Conference, 11-15 March 2019.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

by Roberta Ballabio



A portrait of Patricia Gitari.

The new On-Site Expert for Eastern and Central Africa Nairobi, Kenya, June 2019

The ECA Regional Secretariat is happy to announce that the region has a new On-Site Assistance expert, Ms. Patricia Wanjiru Gitari. Born in Kenya in 1974, Ms. Gitari is a multi-disciplinary scientist with over 15 years' experience in the fields of chemistry, pharmacology and radiation safety, with a strong technical background as well as a solid experience in the security sector. While teaching chemistry at the University of Nairobi, she attended various training programmes at an international level. She has been involved in training, hazard assessment and emergency preparedness in conjunction with various agencies, at national and regional levels.

Furthermore, Ms. Gitari has participated in different activities linked to the CoE Initiative: she was among the Chemical Experts of the Kenya National Team to fill in the Needs Assessment Questionnaire and elaborate on the National Action Plan. She was Secretary of the sub-committee that drafted the National Response Plan for emergency preparedness and response, to react to unexpected events involving CBRN material.

Appointed for the next three years in the framework of the collaboration with ENCO (one of the ECA's training implementers), Ms. Gitari represents an important added value for the region. She will offer technical support to the Regional Secretariat and the member countries in different activities, linked to the elaboration of the NAP, the implementation of actions, risk assessments and the elaboration of new Terms of Reference for future projects. A pool of short-term experts, associated to ENCO and with complementary expertise, will also be available for the region, according to the various requirements. The Regional Secretariat welcomes Ms. Gitari and wishes her good work!

EU, ISTC and Kenya co-operating to mitigate CBRN risks and threats

EEAS Delegation Nairobi, Kenya

On 24-25 June 2019, a joint delegation of the European Commission (EC) and the International Science & Technology Centre (ISTC) visited Nairobi, in order to discuss the growing threats presented by high-risk chemical, biological, radiological & nuclear (CBRN) materials. The delegation also discussed the possibility of ISTC membership for Kenya.

The ISTC is an intergovernmental organisation, based in Kazakhstan, created after the end of the Cold War in order to engage with nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union. Recently, the organisation received a new mandate to work with countries worldwide on a range of security-related topics. The ISTC is looking at broadening its membership in Africa and is inviting both Kenya and South Africa to join its ranks as full members.

The EC-ISTC delegation was received by the Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Health. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss security and nuclear safety issues, in the context of Kenya's plans to embark upon nuclear energy development, as part of its future energy mix.

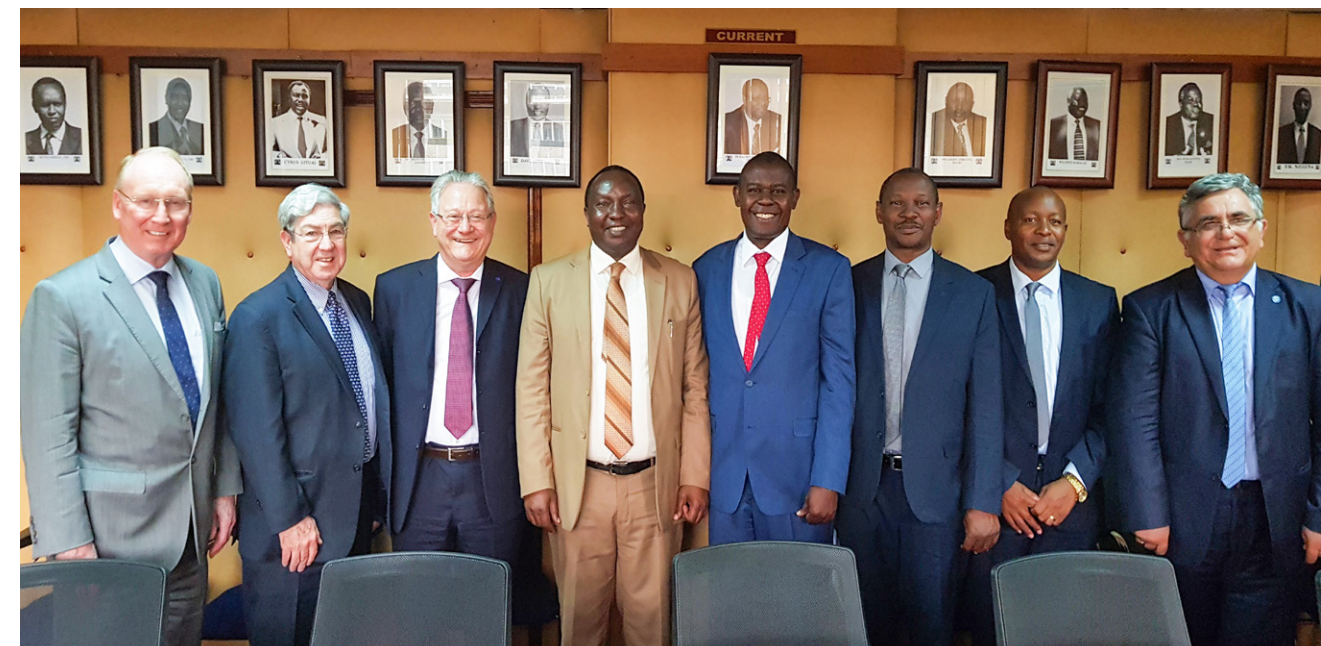
In the past decade, the world has witnessed increased destabilisation, involving, inter alia, the offensive use of CBRN materials (e.g. the chemical attacks in Syria) and there are increasing fears that dangerous radiological & nuclear (RN) materials could fall into the hands of non-state actors. The latter (including terrorist groups) may use CBRN materials to carry out terrorist

attacks. The EC-ISTC mission pointed out that Kenya already plays a key role in the ECA region, because the CBRN Regional Secretariat for the region is located in Nairobi, hosted by the Radiation Protection Board (RPB). The CBRN Regional Secretariat in Nairobi

brings together and coordinates the implementation of activities for 11 CBRN Partner Countries in the ECA region.

The EC-ISTC mission expressed the hope that Kenya would continue to play a leading role in the region through joining

the ISTC and working with neighbouring countries on strengthening security. It is only through regional and international co-operation that security risks and threats, including CBRN, can be reduced and managed.



Meeting at Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, with Kangth'ethe Thuku, Principal Administrative Secretary; Ali Gakweli, CBRN National Focal Point; and Joseph Maina, Head of the CBRN Regional Secretariat for Eastern & Central Africa.



From the left: Jean-Pierre Bardoul, EEAS; Walter Tretton, EU Delegation Chargé d'Affaires a.i.; Eddie Maier, DEVCO; Vincent de Boer, Head of Section for Macro-Economics & Governance.

Field exercises in ECA Region, under Project 60 activities

May-June 2019

In recent years, a lot has changed in terms of training methodology. The goal to make capacity building more effective and sustainable, has lead to a change in the instruments used previously: moving from theoretical lessons and presentations to scenario elaborations, practical exercises and simulations. This has also been adopted in the projects funded through the framework of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative, where the number of Table-Top and Field Exercises has increased, becoming a leitmotiv.

They create realistic situations where CBRN experts are "immersed" and where their knowledge is challenged. One clear example is represented by Project 60, implemented in the ECA region by a consortium composed of ENCO, SCK-CEN and STUK and supervised by the ISTC, the International Science and Technology Centre. The project supports the Eastern and Central Africa Region in Nuclear Security: areas where countries face radiological and nuclear risks arising from uranium mining, milling, processing and transportation, as well as the management of radioactive sources.

The overall long-term objective of the project is therefore to strengthen and harmonise the nuclear regulatory frameworks in the participating countries, to enhance their nuclear safety and security and to support their efforts to fulfil the international obligations they have undertaken under international treaties and conventions. In this framework, during the last months, a considerable number of Table-Top (TTX) and Field Exercises (FX) have been carried out in some of the countries of the region, involving experts from different nationalities in order to foster exchanges and regional collaboration, taking into consideration linguistic needs.

TTX and FX on cross border investigations and illicit trafficking of RN material were held in Tanzania (4-8 March 2019) and Kenya (13-17 May 2019 and 26-30 August 2019). In Zambia, Ethiopia and Tanzania, other exercises were carried out to

strengthen capabilities on nuclear forensics investigations of RN material, radiological crime scene management and uranium transport on 15-19 April 2019, 18-20 June 2019 and 22-24 July 2019, respectively.



Exercise during the training event in Kenya, May 2019.

How are TTX and FX conducted?

Generally, an information note (containing the exercise objectives, a short description of the scenario and the required infrastructure and equipment) is prepared and distributed to participants. In particular for the TTXs, a "Guide for players" containing the exercise objectives and the scenario (including the tools) is set up and, before the exercise, a briefing is given by the instructors, discussing the objectives, the details of the scenario and the practical agreements. Scenario typologies change from an incident involving nuclear material in an airport, to the interception of a transit of stolen RN material at the border, or the analysis of a crime scene with several items, including radioactive powder and hidden radioactive samples. Attention was also focused on how to address the coordination of all involved and how-to communicate with the media.

As for the FX, after a briefing by the Consortium experts, participants, split in groups, are asked to perform specific tasks in the context of a predefined scenario. Group and plenary discussions on prevention and response, exchange on best practices regarding Standard Operating Procedures as well as practical sessions on managing of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) are carried out.

Once the activity is concluded, the instructors hold a debriefing with the participants, to provide comments and recommendations for improvement. Overall there was a good level of cooperation between participants, leading to constructive discussions and informative exchange.

A total of 80 experts coming from 11 ECA countries have been trained and most were very positive about the exercises, resulting in good feedback and recommendations. They could practice the theory and felt empowered with more instruments to manage risks and emergency situations. ▣



Expert group of the training event in Zambia, April 2019.



Training event in Zambia, April 2019.



Discussion during the Field Exercise, Tanzania, July 2019.

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COUNTRIES

by Tristan Simonart

GCC launches its first project: P82 has been approved Brussels, Belgium

GCC Partner Countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the Kingdom of Bahrain, formally agreed on launching the first GCC project on Emergency Medical Response (EMR- P82) under the umbrella of the Centres of Excellence.

The first phase will consist of an assessment of the national capacities of the GCC countries and a first round of Train the Trainers. This work will be conducted under the guidance of the Regional Secretariat and by the Abu Dhabi On-Site Technical Assistance expert that will make use of the support of other OSA experts (from the Middle East and from the South East Europe

regions for example), the JRC and the Regional Secretariat.

Additionally, the implementation of the first phase will engage experts from the Middle East region who were previously trained through Project 54. This will maximise the use of capacities built through the CoE initiative, reinforcing interregional cooperation at the same time. The National Focal Point of the Middle East agreed to identify one expert per country to support this effort. Partner Countries were informed that the GCC Regional Secretariat will request all the National Focal Points to provide important information that will allow the implementation to be launched.

The OSA Expert and the Regional Coordinator for the GCC region, together with the JRC, will coordinate

the preparation of an action plan with a proposed allocation of responsibilities and resources.

The GCC RTM also welcomed the participation and the active involvement of the GCC Emergency Management Centre, which lays the ground for continued cooperation in the field of CBRN risk mitigation, including the use of its premises in Kuwait to organise CoE meetings.

Regional Meetings:

Several meetings organised by the GCC Regional Secretariat took place:

- Visit of an EU (DEVCO) Delegation in October 2018 in Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. The delegation visited the GCC Emergency Centre (EMC) in Abu Dhabi and NATO ICI in Kuwait;
- Two Round-Table Meetings took place in Kuwait, October 2018, and in Abu Dhabi, in April 2019 in addition to a technical meeting to prepare the ground for the new CoE project.

International meetings:

The 6th Crisis & Management Conference (CEMC) was organised on 11-12 March in Abu Dhabi by the Abu Dhabi National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA) on the theme of "Future Foresight of Emergencies and Crisis – Capabilities and Challenges".

Representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Joint Research Centre (JRC) and UNICRI contributed with speeches on CoEs, on EU CBRN policies and on technical aspects. ▣



Brigadier General Engineer Hussein Alharthei, Head of the GCC Regional Secretariat.

MIDDLE EAST

By HE Al Sharif Nasser bin Nasser

Training and Metrics La Hulpe, Belgium

The Head of the Middle East CoE Regional Secretariat and Director of the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS), Mr Nasser Bin Nasser, presented the usefulness of Metrics to assess trainings. Effective Metrics are the means by which we can assess the impact of a training and are able to drive performance improvements, enable informed resource allocations and improve the communication on accomplishments.

Concerning the principles, dilemmas and limitations in measurements, Mr Nasser described them with a few key sentences including: "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it; and not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted, counts."

He concluded that, especially in international cooperation, there is a need to develop culturally relevant approaches to measurements, which counterbalances the quest for international standards and uniformity.

Kirkpatrick Model

This Metrics model works on different levels, including a reaction-learning phase focusing on how participants respond to a learning experience, and a result-behaviour level looking at retained results and measuring how participants apply what they have learned in their everyday work.

The Kirkpatrick model was applied in a recent pilot project for the evaluation of the impact of a national

“If you can't measure it, you can't manage it and not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted, counts.”

training on making use of qualitative and quantitative methods in informal and formal assessments. The model allowed organisers to address some of the common problems in implementation of trainings, namely by assessing the suitability of participants for a training, enhancing the retention of knowledge or reducing the effect of previous assumptions made by instructors.

The Kirkpatrick Model includes assessment in all phases of training:

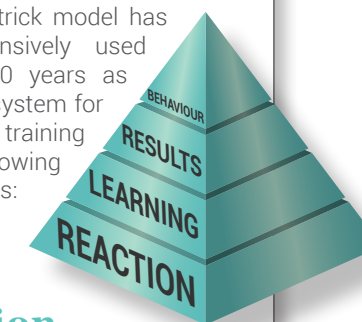
- in a pre-training with a checklist to determine trainee suitability, determine baseline knowledge and give guidance to the instructors to tailor material to the audience;
- during training delivery with formal evaluation survey and qualitative exit interviews with participants, and
- in a post-training with formal assessments 2-3 months later.

Lessons learned for the CoE trainings:

- a training evaluation requires investment and patience to attain increased credibility;
- there should be a focus on developing strong partnerships, along with a working environment that accepts criticism and unmet targets;
- the evaluation approach should be tailored to the type of training in question, and
- some measurement is better than none. ▣

HOW THE KIRKPATRICK MODEL WORKS

The Kirkpatrick model has been extensively used for over 30 years as the major system for evaluating training in the following components:



Reaction

How individuals react to the training activity.

Learning

Making use of informal or formal tests, self-assessment and team assessment to ascertain the level of acquired new skills / knowledge / attitudes.

Results

How much knowledge was retained? How much knowledge was transferred to the institution of the trainee?

Behaviour

Evaluate if the acquired knowledge, attitude, or skills are being used in the workplace.



NORTH AFRICA AND SAHEL

By Günter Povoden



Group picture of the Mali workshop participants.

Final workshops for the development of National CBRN Action Plans for Burkina Faso and Mali

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 18-20 June 2019

Burkina Faso and Mali took a big step forward in developing their National Action Plans for CBRN risk mitigation, completing the list of Sahel countries in the North Africa and Sahel region, with a National Action Plan finalised, as Niger has already succeeded in this exercise this year. Progress like this, after just a few years, is only possible with very active National Team and National Focal Points.

The final workshop for the elaboration of Burkina Faso's National Action Plan (NAP) for CBRN risk mitigation was held

from June 18 to 20, 2019 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The workshop was opened by Colonel Saïdou Ouédraogo, National Focal Point of Burkina Faso. The European Delegation was represented by Laurent Louze. Both workshops were supported by the JRC of the European Commission as well as the key expert for the region. The finalisation of the National Action Plan text is on-going with close co-operation between the designated experts of the National Teams, the experts from the JRC and the OSA expert, in order to develop a consolidated document which will then be submitted for Government approval. With this, the CBRN National Action Plan may become an element of a coherent national strategy enabling countries to support the efforts already under way regarding CBRN risk mitigation.

2nd NAP Workshop for Mali

Algiers, Algeria, 21-24 July 2019

A second workshop for drafting the Malian CBRN National Action Plan was held from 21 to 24 July 2019. The meeting took place in Algiers due to current security concerns in Mali. In the actual tense context, the security of CBRN material is an important mission of the Malian government.

The workshop was opened by the National Focal Point of Mali, Colonel Doumbia, by the representative of the Embassy of Mali in Algiers, Mr Boubacar Buro Diallo, and by Anne-Sophie Lequarré, JRC expert, as the voice of the European Union. The meeting brought together 16 participants from different ministries, all of whom could play a role in the prevention, detection or response

to a CBRN event with a large group from the civil protection.

The goal was to finalise the table of actions developed during the first workshop in Brussels last March. The discussions focussed on sensibilisation, and the training and equipment of various civil protection teams, with the development of one CBRN specialised team by region. The aim was also to strengthen CBRN capacities of the scientific police, customs, and the army. Civil protection in Mali is organised in the same way as in Algeria with no military component, unlike the French model, with a military wing, implemented in Niger, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Coordination with the army is therefore important and it would be necessary to build CBRN capacities of the army independently. The discussions were very fruitful and the final table of actions was completed at the end of the workshop with a prioritisation of the activities, time-frame and responsibilities.

SecTrans-NAS (P72) arrives in Burkina Faso. First mission for a project with expert delegation

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, July 2019

On 9 and 10 July 2019, Sectrans-NAS undertook its first mission to "the land of honest men". The visit was part of the first field assessment missions set up by the project team along the same lines as those of other countries. Similarly,

the purpose was to make Sectrans-NAS known to representatives of organisations and institutions specialising in the transportation of hazardous materials; to identify interlocutors with a view to establishing direct lines of communication between partner experts; to collect the opinions of specialists in the country, and ultimately to tailor the project according to the specific needs of Burkina Faso.

The thematic meetings – one on legislative aspects concerning the transport of dangerous goods and the other on the current traffic management of this type of material – also gave rise to a precise diagnosis of the country's reality. At a regulatory level, existing texts have already begun to move into line with international requirements, even though a lot of work is still to be done to respond to all aspects of the project's challenges.

In terms of traffic management: analyses carried out during the meeting point out the capital Ouagadougou as being the ideal city to implement the pilot traffic plan, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, however an alternative venue offering other advantages, such as the ease of execution, is being considered.

After Ouaga, the next stop for the Sectrans-NAS caravan will be Mali. □



Sectrans meeting in Burkina Faso.

PROJECTS IN THE NAS REGION

2019 has been a very busy year for the NAS region, as a variety of projects have been launched, reflecting the intensive activities of the Regional Secretariat and the National Teams in the region:

P55: Strengthening cross-border capacity for control and detection of CBRN substances (North Africa and Sahel), project re-launched after necessary amendments.

P63: Provision of specialised CBRN equipment for the training of personnel in charge of border control in North Africa and Sahel (project linked to P55).

P70: Provision of specialised equipment to manage transport accidents with dangerous goods aimed at first responders in the AAF and NAS region (AAF - African Atlantic Façade: Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo; NAS - North Africa and Sahel: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Tunisia).

P72: Developing and strengthening the capacities for the management of risks associated with the land transport of CBRN material in the North African and Sahel Region.



P83: Provision of specialised CBRN equipment for the training of personnel in charge of border control in Algeria.

SOUTH EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE

by Professor Maurizio Martellini



Prof. Maurizio Martellini intervening at the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points in La Hulpe, Belgium.

The CBRN CoE Pilot Competition for the SEEE region

The competition was organised as part of the EU CoE Initiative. Its aim is to strengthen the innovation potential and CBRN Risks Mitigation capacity in the SEEE Partner Countries. During the competition, start-ups were invited to

submit a project with market potential that will enhance capacity to respond to CBRN risks – in a win-win CBRN security partnership in the SEEE region countries.

The CBRN security paradigm is a “niche” area of international security, but it is also a domain to apply innovative technology-focused solutions, aimed at reducing the risks of natural, accidental, or deliberate incidents involving CBRN materials and related processes, technologies and facilities.

Through tailored preparation, Boot Camp training, and tutorial follow-up, the participants were offered the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in pitch-making and attracting sponsors, thanks to the coaching they received from renowned experts in

the Fondazione A. Volta network. Our experts helped and taught competition participants, even those not among the competition winners, on how to pitch their outstanding projects to attract funding from international sponsors and investors, or in future editions of the EU CBRN CoE Competition.

THE OVERALL COMPETITION PROCESS

STAGE 1

Call for Projects

This stage included both organisational steps (promotion of the pilot competition, information dissemination, work with partner organisations in SEEE countries, and the development of pilot competition documents including a web portal and a dedicated Facebook page), and the screening of potential proposals. This screening involved participants getting familiar with the elevator pitch and the



From the left: Philippe Geffroy (Competition's representative), Henriette Geiger (DG DEVCO), Ralf Trapp (Competition's representative), Maurizio Martellini (Competition's representative), Tristan Simonart and Eddie Maier (DG DEVCO), Ksenia Belkina and Roman Belkin (Cardiomo), Ekaterine Jaiani (Phagoclean), Lado Tsbakhashvili and Vamekh Kherkheulidze (Elven Technologies), Mzia Kutateladze (Phagoclean).

process of completing the application form, the opening of the call for projects as entries for the pilot competition, and a peer review of applications received. In this peer review, the finalists of the pilot competition were selected and entered into the second stage.

STAGE 2

Acceleration and Competition

This began with the preparation of the finalists in an acceleration programme (stage 2A).

This included collective as well as one-on-one coaching sessions, resulting in the preparation of a pitch deck by each of the finalists. This was immediately followed by the pilot competition (stage

2B). The acceleration programme was conducted in the form of a boot camp at TechPark in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 15 to 20 April 2019. The competition itself – a pitch to a Selection Committee – took place on 22 April 2019, also at TechPark in Tbilisi. The Selection Committee selected three winners.

STAGE 3

Roadmap Preparation and Award

The selected winners received expert coaching to help them develop a roadmap for taking their project further to market. An official awards ceremony was organised in conjunction with the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points in La Hulpe, Belgium. The

winners were announced and had the opportunity to address the CoE conference to present their experiences and lessons-learned.

STAGE 4

Implementation of the Roadmap and Disbursement of Funds

Implementation began in July 2019 and will end in December 2020. During this period, the winners of the pilot competition are expected to put their roadmaps into place, supported by experienced business coaches who will monitor their progress, help them adjust the roadmaps where necessary, and authorise the disbursement of funds as key milestones are reached. □

LIONSHIELD 2:

The Regional Nuclear Detection Exercise LIONSHIELD was successfully executed in June 2018.

Since this milestone, SEEE participant countries' official representatives (NFPs) expressed their interest to continue the exercise series but within another CBRN field.

During the Round-Table Meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro (October 2018), it was agreed that the next regional exercise to be organised would be related to joint responses to chemical criminal activity. The

NFP of Serbia expressed his interest and willingness to host the next exercise, LIONSHIELD 2. It was decided that the exercise would be a combined type, i.e. field and Table-Top. Countries will again participate in joint teams, as was the case during the first LIONSHIELD. The tentative date for implementation has been identified as fall 2020.

As a development after Podgorica RTM, the first preparatory meeting of the regional chemical exercise LIONSHIELD 2 took place in Belgrade, Serbia on September 10-11, 2019.



Preparatory meeting at the Vinča Institute in Belgrade, Serbia

FIRST MEETING

Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia (exercise host), STCU (exercise implementer) and the On-site Technical Assistance for the SEEE region decided to:

1. Summarise responsibilities and forthcoming activities.
2. Visit the Vinča Institute as one of the possible field exercise sites.
3. Agree that OSA will elaborate possible exercise scenarios.
4. Identify facilities and equipment needs.
5. Agree to organise a next preparatory meeting in Serbia before the end of 2019, to visit other available sites for field exercises.
6. Finalise issues related to format, equipment needs and exercise field/Table-Top components and distribution.



SOUTH EAST ASIA

By Sabai Phyu

Project 62 - South East Asia Regional Biosecurity Risk Assessment Workshop

Cebu, Republic of the Philippines, 22-24 May 2019

A Regional Biosecurity Risk Assessment Workshop for South East Asia (SEA) took place in Cebu, Philippines from 22 to 24 May 2019. The goal of the workshop was to establish a picture of the main common biosecurity risks perceived by the region. The event was organised by the former On-Site technical Assistance expert (OSA) for SEA, Dr. Emily Castricones, under Project 62 planned activities.

Bio-experts from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam participated in the discussions, which were supported by three regional experts: Dr. Irma Makalinao (Philippines), Dr. Viji

Vijayan (Singapore) and Dr. Sabai Phyu (Singapore). To strengthen regional and international coordination, the workshop was also attended by Attorney Florentino Manalastas, Jr. (Head of Secretariat for SEA), Dr. Robert Frank (Regional Cooperation Officer for South-East Asia for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (DG DEVCO) and Dr. Alexander Hamilton (Senior Fellow of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, UNICRI).

The objectives of the two-day workshop were to enable bio-experts from SEA countries to present their biosecurity risk maps; provide an avenue for bio-experts to exchange biosecurity risk information with other actors and stakeholders in the region; to carry out a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of capabilities and capacities in dealing with biosecurity

risks at country level and regional level; and to recommend priority activities/ actions to address identified biosecurity capability and capacity gaps.

During the workshop, the OSA and bio-experts presented the methodologies applied to these activities and discussed the findings of the WHO's Joint External Evaluation of International Health Regulations core capacities of SEA countries, in relation to their own national assessments.

The three main regional biosecurity risks that were highlighted during the workshop were:

1. Infectious disease outbreaks (with or without preceding natural disaster)
2. Food/water contamination with biological agents/toxins (with or without preceding natural disaster)
3. Cross-border biosecurity threats



Participants with Attorney Florentino Manalastas, Jr. (Head of the SEA RS) at the centre, and Dr. Robert Frank (EU Regional Cooperation officer for SEA) at the right.

In addition to generating an overall biosecurity risk map for the SEA region, the information gathered from these two days also fed into the development of Terms of Reference for a new regional project focused on biosecurity, to be funded by the European Union and expected to be launched at the end of the year.

P61 Regional EU Training Courses on the Sound Management of Chemicals and their Associated Wastes

Vientiane, Lao PDR - July 2019

Eighty delegates from 9 South East Asian countries were trained in the sound management of chemicals and their associated wastes from July 2 to 10, 2019 in Vientiane, in four regional workshops under Project 61 of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. They were welcomed by Mr. Chittaphong Ackhavong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Mr. Robert Frank, Regional Cooperation Officer for South East Asia for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace of the European Union.

Three delegates from each of the 9 countries attended each workshop, covering the following topics: International Legal Frameworks for Chemicals, Cross Border Chemical Incident Management, Developing National Chemical Risk Assessments, and National Recovery and Remediation for Chemical Incidents.

CBRN CoE Project 61 "SEACHEM – Sound Management of Chemicals and their Associated Wastes in Southeast Asia" mobilises experts from Public Health England (PHE), the International Security and Emergency Management Institute in Slovakia (ISEMI), and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) for the training series. Covering 10 countries in South East Asia, the purpose of CBRN



DR Robert Frank speaking during the training event.

CoE Project 61 is to address outstanding chemical safety and security issues in areas of legislation/regulation, prevention, detection, preparedness and response. The project aims at enhancing the sound management of chemicals and their wastes, taking emerging chemical issues into account.

The EU CBRN CoE Initiative provides a platform where the National CBRN Focal Points of Lao PDR, Mr. Phouthanouthong Xaysombath, Deputy Director General, and Ms. Viengsavanh Bouttanavong, Director of International Organisations, both from the Department of Planning and Cooperation at the Ministry of Science and Technology, and their

counterparts from 60 other countries, can articulate the respective needs of their countries that allows them to be addressed with the support of 8 Regional Secretariats (the one for South East Asia being hosted by the government of the Philippines). This is how CBRN CoE Project 61, which is already the 24th CBRN CoE Project implemented in South East Asia since 2010, originated.

The CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence is an initiative of the European Union (EU), funded and implemented by the European Commission through its international cooperation Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), in close coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS). The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and other relevant International/Regional Organisations and regional experts provide their capabilities to ensure coherent and effective national, regional and international cooperation.

For more information:

- EU CBRN CoE Project 61 website: www.cbrn-project61.com
- European Commission, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace website. (see section about "Stable Situations")

ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/7350



The participants of the training held for Sound Management of Chemicals and their Associated Wastes.

CBRN NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

The African Atlantic Façade: a region always on the move

During the period February – October 2019, African Atlantic Façade Partner Countries have been involved and engaged in several activities to foster CBRN cooperation and collaboration, with the aim of enhancing CBRN capacities and capabilities.

Projects

Two new projects were launched in 2019, involving all ten Partner Countries. The continuation of P41, named INSTASUR - P69, focusing on deepening the efforts to reduce risks in chemical plants, and project SECTRANS - P71 aimed at securing the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail.

The projects were officially launched in March 2019 at the Moroccan

Civil Protection Directorate General premises in Rabat, with the presence of all National CBRN Focal Points and experts, as well as Ambassadors assigned to Morocco. Both projects started their activities by organising national workshops focusing on the analysis of existing legislation in the subject matters. Meetings in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Togo already took place.

Regional Round-Table Meetings

In June 2019, on the occasion of the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points, held in La Hulpe (Belgium), the AAF Regional Secretariat organised its 15th Regional Round-Table Meeting where CBRN National Focal Points had the opportunity to discuss the current issues and the future opportunities.



A group shot of the participants to the 15th AAF Round-Table Meeting held in La Hulpe, Belgium, in June 2019.

Regional training

After the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points, a regional CBRN training was organised in Cameroon. The training, facilitated by the experts of the International CBRNE Institute (ICI), was designed for diplomats and high-level representatives of AAF Partner Countries, and aimed at enhancing their knowledge on CBRN international legal instruments. Representatives from Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Togo took part in the 3-day training.

Coordination and cooperation with other donors: consolidation of the partnership between the AAF Regional Secretariat and the United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency (US DTRA)

Following last year's successful regional training co-organised by the AAF Regional Secretariat and the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (US DTRA) on medical responses to radioactive events, that saw the participation of representatives from Regional Secretariat Partner Countries, both entities decided to renew the adventure by planning a series of events. The first was the organisation, in August 2019, of training on the Medical Management of Radiation Injuries (I-MED). The audience was composed of 25 Moroccan doctors, nurses and para-medical personnel involved in first response. 5-day



From top left, group pictures of the project meetings:
P69, Senegal, June 2019; P71, Morocco, August 2019;
P71, Côte d'Ivoire, April 2019; P69, Côte d'Ivoire, April 2019;
P71, Morocco, June 2019; P71, Cameroon May 2019;
P69, Gabon, April 2019; P71, Senegal, July 2019.



Mr. Touré, CBRN National Focal Point of Côte d'Ivoire.

training was facilitated by experts of the US Department of Energy, the US National Security Administration Office of Counter-Terrorism and Counter proliferation, and the Office of nuclear incident Policy and Cooperation. The aim was to facilitate the establishment of a network among local practitioners, improve their capacities to treat patients with radiation injuries caused by nuclear or radiological incidents or accidents, as well as their awareness on protection material and possibilities of diminishing the spread of radioactive contamination during patient transport and treatment.

The AAF Regional Secretariat: a big family made of motivated and committed people

The AAF Regional Secretariat is, first-of-all, a community of trust in which CBRN National Focal Points are the main actors of change. Turnover in the region has been relatively low since the start of operations in 2011, which has certainly helped in the establishment of an amazing working group, and above all a big family. Special recognition and congratulations are addressed to the National CBRN Focal Points of Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Togo. In particular, congratulations to Mr. Kader Touré, National Focal Point of Côte d'Ivoire, for his appointment as Director of the National Platform for Risk Management and Reduction, and to Mr. N'Ladon Nadjo, National CBRN

Focal Point of Togo, for his election as Member of the National Parliament. Special thanks to both for readily continuing to be National CBRN Focal Points despite the important workload that their new positions imply.

Special recognition also to Mr. Mustapha Sannoh, recently appointed National CBRN Focal Point of Sierra Leone, who, in a short period of time, has reminded us of the importance of the CBRN issues, and how countries realised the urgency of proposing solutions to ensure a better quality of life to their citizens. Congratulations are also necessary in acknowledgement of the efforts made towards engaging a preparatory meeting in Sierra Leone. The consolidation of the National CBRN Team in Sierra Leone, alongside the organisation of several national CBRN preparatory meetings with the members of the National Team to prepare risk assessment, needs assessment and drafting of the National Action Plan workshops is most commendable.

Congratulations and special thanks to both CBRN National and deputy CBRN National Focal Points of Cameroon, Ms. Cécile Mballa and Mr. Janvier Atangana, for their impressive efforts the organisation and coordination of regional training on CBRN legal instruments in Yaoundé, Cameroon in June 2019.

Last but not least, a special thank you to Mr. Antoine Gouzée De Harven, EU Delegation Regional Cooperation Officer, who has supported the Initiative over the past 5 years from the European Union Delegation in Senegal. The passion and effort he has demonstrated towards the Initiative and the special care he has dedicated to Partner Countries in ensuring visibility at the highest levels of activities carried out in and by Partner Countries will not be forgotten. All the best for his new adventure!

Thank you and congratulations to all African Atlantic Façade CBRN National Focal Points and to Mr. Mohamed Salami, Head of Secretariat, for their continuous engagement and for making the Regional Secretariat a promoter of pioneering ideas and an engine of evolution towards a world free of CBRN risks.

The EU CBRN CoE supports the Central Asian Region in improving chemical and biological waste management

February-March 2019

Project 65 "Strengthening chemical and biological waste management in Central Asia countries for improved security and safety risk mitigation – CABICHEM" is rolling out in the region. In 2019, the team from Project 65 continued to organise a series of fact-finding missions in Partner Countries. On 7th February 2019, experts from Project 65 organised their second fact-finding mission in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The mission enabled the CABICHEM experts to meet a local delegation of 30 selected representatives from local institutions to openly discuss specific needs and interest in the scope of hazardous and/or special waste management. The exchange of information between the P65 Experts and local institutions was focused on the design of tailored training activities and awareness-raising campaigns on Chemical and



P65 experts during a fact-finding mission.

Biological Waste Management, as well as on coordination with ongoing national, regional and international projects. Thanks go out to all of those who attended from the most important Uzbek institutions, for their active participation and widespread attendance. Many discussions and proposals arose during the meeting, clearing the way for a definition of the most urgent priorities to be tackled within the CABICHEM implementation.

From March 18 to 20, 2019, experts from the CABICHEM Consortium carried out another fact-finding mission in the Kyrgyz Republic. The mission included a field visit and conferences. Site visits usually focus on site familiarisation: hospitals; chemical, biological, medical, veterinary and epidemiological laboratories; chemical plants, mining sites and other facilities, which are generating, processing and disposing of relevant wastes.

In Kyrgyzstan, CABICHEM and local experts visited Ak-Tjuz, Tien Shan. The

site has been used for Pb mining since 1941. Tails storage was not properly designed and constructed at that time. Pollution from hazardous heavy metals, including Pb, Hg, Th90 and other elements, have run into the river and then to populated areas. Serious technical project and engineering works are required. Project 65 aims to improve the situation with dangerous chemical and biological waste management in Central Asia.

Regional Round-Table Meetings June 2019

In 2019, the Central Asia Regional Secretariat organised its 9th and 10th Regional Round-Table meetings during which the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points had the opportunity to meet. They were able to exchange and discuss activities performed within the projects implemented in the region, the situation concerning the development and adoption of National Action Plans, as well as the sharing of ideas for regional

priorities. The Regional Secretariat worked on the organisation of the 11th Central Asia Regional Round-Table Meeting held on November 11-12, 2019. It plans to introduce a new effective and flexible interactive format during the meeting allowing the hosting of large group dialogue, greatly enriching the possibility for new insights.

Praesens Foundation on mission to Ethiopia

During the session breaks of the 7th International Meeting of the National Focal Points, all participants had the opportunity to visit a mobile biosafety laboratory developed by the Praesens Foundation.

The Praesens Foundation operates at the intersection of global health technology innovation and social impact. Based on field observations of local needs and driven by a system-focused approach, it developed a connected and autonomous truck-based mobile biosafety laboratory (MBS-Lab) that includes an isolator for the safe handling of samples and a range of innovative diagnostic tools.

The MBS-Lab aims to provide an innovative and open platform for the immediate detection and identification of pathogens in clinical samples of patients, even those who live in hard-to-reach regions with very limited access to non-existent healthcare infrastructure. The goal was to develop an integrated solution for better preparedness and faster response to outbreaks and



A technician at work with the isolator.

“ Pollution from hazardous heavy metals, including Pb, Hg, Th90 and other elements is running into the river and then to populated areas. ”

epidemics in high-risk areas, but can also be considered an open mobile healthcare platform that offers various opportunities such as field-deployable technologies for surveillance programs, as well as other functionalities such as clinical trials and vaccination campaigns.

The visit of the mobile laboratory, which will be deployed to Ethiopia soon, was greatly appreciated by event participants.

For more information:

www.praesensfoundation.org

E-mail: info@praesensfoundation.org

12th Round-Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in Accra, Ghana

26-27 March 2019, Accra, Ghana

On 26 and 27 March 2019, the Republic of Ghana, in collaboration with the Ghana National Security Council Secretariat, and the Regional Secretariat, organised the 12th Regional Round-Table Meeting for the Eastern and Central Africa (ECA) National Focal Points in Accra.

The meeting was marked by the presence of important representatives involved in the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative. The floor was opened by the National Security Coordinator, Mr. Joshua Kyeremeh,

who stated that security concerns keep rising, in particular in Africa, and it is of key importance, to prevent non-state actors from acquiring CBRN materials to be used in criminal acts. Other remarks were made by the Head of the ECA Regional Secretariat, Mr. Joseph Maina, who congratulated the National Focal Points and their CBRN teams for their commitment; by the Acting UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, who stressed, the importance of an effective strategy to mitigate CBRN risks based on collaboration; and by the Head of Governance of the EU Delegation to Ghana, Ms. Maria Luisa Troncoso, who underlined how the EU is making available relevant expertise, best practices and training to counter the threat of CBRN terrorism. The introductory session was closed by a Guest of Honour, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng, the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Ghana, who expressed his appreciation for the work done and for the role of Ghana within the Initiative to strengthen CBRN risk mitigation.

The meeting represented a crucial opportunity for National Focal Points to exchange information and provide an update on their CBRN risk mitigation efforts, including the implementation of projects and discussion on future actions, and how to enhance regional

co-operation. The regional Round-Table Meeting also provided an important occasion to review the regional priorities identified in 2016, and to start working on the formulation of a Regional CBRN Action Plan.

Workshop for the Ethiopia National Action Plan

15-17 May 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

After the first workshop conducted in October 2018, the Ethiopia National Team and the JRC experts met for the second time, to work on the country's CBRN National Action Plan. The three-day workshop was organised with the support of the Ethiopian government from 15 to 17 May 2019, in Addis Ababa. The Head of the Political & Press Section of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia and CBRN National Focal Point formally opened the workshop, underlining the importance of partnership and cooperation in the security sector.

The National Team continued discussing the risks and threats related to CBRN materials and improving the first draft of the strategic plan, by identifying country priorities in prevention, detection, and response to CBRN threats. The meeting was marked by fruitful debates and exchanges among the representatives of ministries, national institutions, authorities, and universities, once again showing Ethiopia's commitment in the area of CBRN as well as its interest in reinforcing risk mitigation capacities in the country.

3rd workshop for Malawi National Action Plan

17-19 July 2019, Lilongwe, Malawi

The European Commission JRC experts supported the Malawi National CBRN Team in their final efforts to draft their NAP, throughout a three-day workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi. The 3rd NAP Workshop was opened by Ms. Faith Kazembe-Mwalubunju from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on behalf of the Government of Malawi,



Group shot of the participants, 12th RTM of the NFPs, Ghana.



Final NAP workshop, Lilongwe, Malawi. Group shot of the workshop participants.

by Ms. Virginie Lafleur, representing the Delegation of the European Union to Malawi, and by Ms. Patricia Gitari, the newly appointed OSA regional expert. The workshop, held from 17 to 19 July 2019, marked the last step to finalise the NAP. The participants updated and reviewed the document, with the direction of JRC experts. During the breakout sessions, there was sustained discussion and constant clarification on the roles of institutions and priorities in C, B, and RN domains. This work has also facilitated the identification and implementation of actions and aims at ensuring that capacity-building efforts are part of a coordinated and sustainable national strategy.

The wide representation from Government institutions, including, but not limited to, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; the Ministry of Disaster Relief Management and Public Events; the Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority; Malawi Police Service; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Homeland Security; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism; Ministry of Defence; National Intelligence Service; Universities etc.

Timelines for completion of the NAP were agreed, and the hope that the

process would be completed before the end of 2019, in order to proceed with adoption and implementation, was expressed.

2nd NAP workshop for Ghana

21-23 August 2019, Accra, Ghana

The Ghana National CBRN Team, JRC experts, and the ECA OSA expert met in Accra for the second workshop devoted to the elaboration of the NAP from 21 to 23 August 2019.

Following the first workshop held in November 2018, this new meeting allowed members of the National Team to dig deeper into the identification of risks and the capabilities to be strengthened in the country, to cope with the challenges posed by CBRN threats. The opening session included remarks from National Focal Point, Mr William

Kofi Baffoe-Mensah, who reiterated Ghana's intention to see the completion of the NAP document within the shortest time possible. The representative of the European Union Delegation from Ghana, Ms Maria Luisa Troncoso, expressed her gratitude to the members of the National Team for making the time and effort in providing crucial information necessary for achieving the objectives of the Initiative. She mentioned the continued support for regional projects such as the proposed Chemical Waste Management project.

During the sessions, officials from various government institutions participated actively and productively, and the progress on the elaboration of the plan was evident. The debate was constructive, given the participation of relevant Governmental institutions, such as the Military Academy, National Disaster Management, Medical Research Institutes, the School of Nuclear and Allied studies, the Police Service, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, the Ghana Revenue Authority, the National Security Service Secretariat, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Regional Coordination, Food and Drugs Authority, CSIR. The multidisciplinary of the team is, indeed, an important added value which gives the final document a wider scope and a strategic, as well as comprehensive approach. This event brought the country one step closer to finalisation of the NAP. □



A moment of the workshop in Accra.



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An initiative of the European Union

About the EU CBRN 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.

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