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National Action Plan

A roadmap towards an improved
CBRN security culture

Projects: Updates from our implementers

Tashkent's CoE Regional Secretariat
officially opens

Algeria signs MoU to establish Secretariat

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About the authors

Kheira Bradai

Head of the North Africa and Sahel Regional Secretariat
(Algiers - Algeria)

Pietro Costanzo

Project Manager of EU CoE Project 6
Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e
Integrazione delle Tecnologie
(Rome - Italy)

Fanny Fert

Regional Coordinator of the
Central Asia Regional Secretariat
(Turin - Italy)

Ali Gakweli

National Focal Point
Ministry of Public Health
and Sanitation of Kenya
(Nairobi - Kenya)

Joel Kamande

Head of the Eastern and Central Africa
Regional Secretariat
(Nairobi - Kenya)

Alicia Mignone

Team Leader of EU CoE Projects 13 and 31
Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie,
l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile
(Rome - Italy)

Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser

Head of the Middle East Regional Secretariat
(Amman - Jordan)

Alma Pintol

Regional Coordinator of the Eastern and
Central Africa Regional Secretariat
(Nairobi - Kenya)

Adil Radoini

Regional Coordinator of the Middle East
Regional Secretariat (Amman - Jordan)
and Acting Regional Coordinator of the GCC
countries Regional Secretariat
(Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates)

Maria Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori

Regional Coordinator of the
South East Asia Regional Secretariat
(Manila - The Philippines)

George Vardoulakis

Scientific Project Officer
European Commission
Joint Research Centre
(Ispra - Italy)

Harro Wittermans

Regional Coordinator of the North Africa and
Sahel Regional Secretariat
(Algiers - Algeria)



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Editor: *Michael Thornton*;

Editorial Team: *Melissa Mouthaan, Fanny Ewann, Massimo Lanfranco, Matthew Lansberry, Riccardo de Conciliis.*



Central Nairobi, Kenya: venue of the National Action Plan workshop.



Kenya National Team and key stakeholders during a NAQ workshop held on 10-11 March 2014.

National Action Plans: Kenyan experience

by Ali Gakweli (NFP for Kenya)

The development of a National Action Plan (NAP) in Kenya was a joint effort led by the CBRN National team and key stakeholder institutions with support from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in needs assessment, gap identification and documentation of existing risk mitigation measures.

The National Team introduced and identified change agents (institutions and individuals) in the CBRN field to spearhead activities.

Three sub committees were formed and chaired by the change agents:

- Chemical subcommittee chaired by the National Authority on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)
- Biological subcommittee chaired by the National Authority on the implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)
- Radiological /Nuclear subcommittee chaired by the Radiation Protection Board.

The chairmen of the subcommittees are National Team members and continuously provide updates on the develop-

ment of the needs assessment and gap analysis which formed the basis of the National Action Plan. A workshop on needs assessment was held with the EC's Joint Research Centre support and a detailed needs assessment report was presented in NAP workshops.

Kenya Government support

The Ministry of Health, which hosts the CBRN CoE initiative, coordinated the meetings by sending official invitation letters to stakeholder institutions to participate in the National Action Plan workshops. A total of three successful stakeholder workshops were held with the support of the EU and UNICRI. UNICRI experts worked closely with the Kenyan stakeholders and CBRN experts to develop the final NAP document which addressed the gaps identified during the NAQ exercise. The NAP meetings were also attended by representatives from international organisations such as the OPCW, WHO and IAEA.

The Kenyan National Team and key stakeholders during the second NAP workshop in September 2014 at the UN headquarters in Nairobi.



National Action Plans

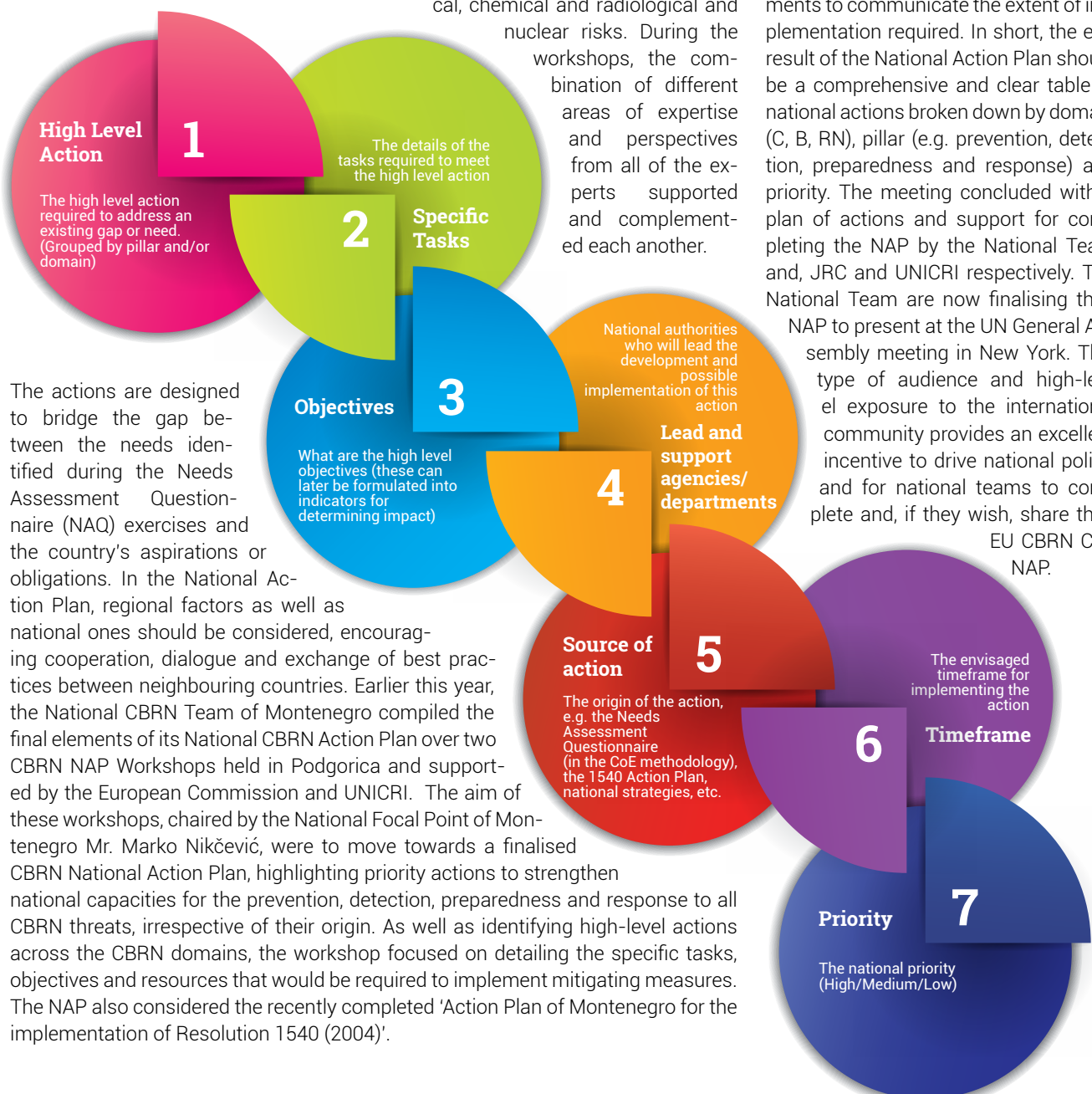
by George Vardoulakis

The CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) constitutes a roadmap for the implementation of measures designed to address gaps in capacity and capabilities. As a communication tool, it also sets a national agenda, highlighting the country's priorities and objectives over the coming period of implementation. The action plans themselves are as diverse in content as the countries that develop them.

This was presented by the National Team experts during the workshop, and described the international obligations of Montenegro. The needs and the obligations were considered together in developing a comprehensive and detailed EU CBRN National Action Plan. Demonstrating the complexity and diverse nature of the CBRN CoE initiative, both EC and UNICRI experts supported the three domain-orientated sessions on biological, chemical and radiological and nuclear risks. During the workshops, the combination of different areas of expertise and perspectives from all of the experts supported and complemented each another.

Use of CBRN scenarios and examples provided by UNICRI and the JRC served to illustrate potential threats and risks that could be encountered both in Montenegro and in the region more widely. Parallels with the EU CBRN Action Plan were also highlighted at the Montenegrin NAP Workshop. This included details on how to structure the 'Table of Actions' as well as the level of detail to include and phrasing of the action statements to communicate the extent of implementation required. In short, the end result of the National Action Plan should be a comprehensive and clear table of national actions broken down by domain (C, B, RN), pillar (e.g. prevention, detection, preparedness and response) and priority. The meeting concluded with a plan of actions and support for completing the NAP by the National Team and, JRC and UNICRI respectively. The National Team are now finalising their NAP to present at the UN General Assembly meeting in New York. This type of audience and high-level exposure to the international community provides an excellent incentive to drive national policy, and for national teams to complete and, if they wish, share their EU CBRN CoE NAP.

EU CBRN CoE
NAP.



Central Asia

by Fanny Fert

Technical round table meeting on biosafety and biosecurity for the Central Asia Region (Brussels, March 2015). Representatives from Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as experts from Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Pakistan, met EU/UNICRI team.



Dushanbe, Tajikistan 19 - 21 January 2015

A Needs Assessment Questionnaire meeting was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to discuss country needs in CBRN. The meeting was facilitated by the National Team, in collaboration with the Regional Secretariat and the EU CBRN CoE team (European Commission - Joint Research Centre). The EU CBRN CoE team presented the CoE Initiative, with a focus on the needs assessment process and the subsequent National Action Plan development. A general discussion on the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) was held, aimed at reviewing CBRN risk mitigation elements and measures, and identifying gaps and needs in CBRN risk mitigation. Questions of the NAQ were discussed in detail, focusing respectively on C, B, R and N. It was realised that there were some different responses due to different institutional perspectives. Examples

provided from the different EU CBRN CoE team members were helpful in reaching a consensus. The Tajik National Focal Point thanked the participants and it was agreed that the National Team will collect stakeholders' reviews in the next weeks. In addition, the stakeholders will start to work on the gaps identified during the meeting in preparation for the National Action Plan formulation.

Brussels, Belgium 24 - 25 March 2015

A technical round table meeting on biosafety and biosecurity for the Central Asia Region was held in Brussels on 24 - 25 March 2015. The meeting brought together representatives and experts from three partner countries in the Region, namely the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as representatives and experts from the European Union Directorate-General for International Cooperation and

Development (DG-DEVCO), the European Commission Joint Research Centre (DG-JRC), and UNICRI. Experts from Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Pakistan, considered as potential partner countries, also took part in the meeting. The technical meeting for Central Asia focused on biosafety and biosecurity. The first day was devoted to current state of biosafety and biosecurity in the countries, including a review of the ongoing activities in the region. It also allowed discussions on the progress of the Needs Assessment Questionnaire for the creation of National CBRN Action Plans for Central Asia. The overall purpose of the National CBRN Action Plan is to articulate a national vision for CBRN risk mitigation and to identify priorities for building capacity in this area. The second day was devoted to technical discussions, aiming at developing a regional project proposal addressing biosafety and biosecurity needs. Experts from the region were well prepared and provided useful



input. The discussed project proposal was on the agenda of the subsequent regional round table meeting which took place in the framework of the National Focal Points meeting in Brussels on 19-21 May 2015.

Central Asia Round Table Meeting Brussels, Belgium 20 - 21 May 2015

The Round Table Meeting for the Central Asia region took place in Brussels, 20 May 2015, on the second day of the National Focal Points' Meeting.

The meeting was attended by experts and National Focal Points from the four partner countries, namely, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as potential partner countries, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Together with experts from the European Commission and UNICRI, the representatives from the Central Asian countries worked actively towards the development of a regional project on biosafety and biosecurity. The RTM presented an opportunity to take stock of progress achieved so far in the CEA region and to plan next steps.

Regional Secretariat:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICRI and the Government of Uzbekistan for the establishment of the Regional Secretariat for Central Asia in the country. The signing ceremony took place on 18 May 2015 during the European Union-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council in Brussels, Belgium. It involved the signature between UNICRI's Director, Mr. Jonathan Lucas and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov.

Official opening of the Central Asia Regional Secretariat

Opening of Central Asia Regional Secretariat in Tashkent, July 2015. Ribbon cutting ceremony, from right Mr. Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, Mr. Maciej Popowski and Ms. Cindy Smith.



Top officials from the European Union, United Nations and the Republic of Uzbekistan launched the Central Asia Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative in Tashkent on 17 July 2015. Currently four countries are partners of the initiative in Central Asia, namely Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, although other potential partner countries in the region have shown interest in joining the initiative and it is hoped that participation in this region will expand in the near future. Eight targeted projects have already been implemented in the region within the initiative and partner countries are currently working on the development of further regional projects, needs assessment and CBRN National Action Plans for each country.

Mr. Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, Head of SanoatGeoKonTexNazorat, shaking hands with Maciej Popowski, Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service.





Eastern and Central Africa

3rd Kenyan NAP workshop Nairobi
23-24 February 2015

by Alma Pintol and
Joel Kamande (HoS)

Malawi joins the ECA CoE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Malawi formally submitted its intention to join the CBRN CoE initiative by letter to the Delegation of the European Union on 22 December 2014, nominating as its National Focal Point, Mr Warren Gunda – Deputy Director of Political Affairs on 6 January 2015. In his function as NFP, Mr. Gunda started to assemble the Malawi National Team. Malawi became member of the Eastern and Central Africa Regional Secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya.

CBRN Needs Assessment in Burundi Bujumbura, 2 - 4 February 2015

On 2 - 4 February 2015, Burundian experts met in Bujumbura together with the National Focal Point, the IcSP (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace) representative for the Eastern and Central Africa region and experts from the European Commission. During this workshop, they established the status of the country relative to CBRN risk mitigation. The NAQ-ST (Needs Assessment Questionnaire - Software Tool) supported three days of fruitful discus-

sions and exchange between the various participants. These debates reflected the involvement and motivation of the experts for the CBRN CoE initiative. The data gathered during the meeting will be used by the experts of Burundi in subsequent workshops to develop their CBRN national action plan.

Final workshop for the preparation of the Kenyan CBRN National Action Plan Nairobi, 23 February 2015

The third, and last, in a series of workshops on the CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) was held on 23-24 February 2015 in Kenya. The two-day workshop was part of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. This workshop represents the final step in the development of the CBRN National Action Plan for Kenya.

The event was opened by the Director of the UN/Multilateral Affairs directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Amb. Anthony Andanje, who reiterated the commitment of Kenya to the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative, and to Kenya's hosting of the Eastern and Central Africa (ECA) Secretariat. The main objective of the workshop was for the National CBRN Team and international experts to conduct a

final review of the National Action Plan. The National agencies present at the workshop were: Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Bomb Unit; Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI); Kenya National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC); Kenya Red Cross Society; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Ministry of Health, Government Chemist Department; Ministry of Interior, Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service; National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU); Nuclear Security Coordination Center; Radiation Protection Board; St. John Ambulance Kenya; Technical University of Kenya; and the University of Nairobi. The meeting was also attended by experts from UNICRI, who facilitated the work of the National Team, and a representative from the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya.

OPCW meeting attended by the ECA Regional Coordinator Arusha, Tanzania 23 - 25 March 2015

OPCW Technical Secretariat in cooperation with East African Community and the National Authority of the United Republic of Tanzania organised a



planning meeting for a capacity building project covering Chemical Emergency Response, Planning and Management for East African Community member states. The ECA Regional Coordinator attended the meeting and presented the activities of the ECA CBRN CoE focusing on EAC countries.

First workshop to prepare the National Action Plan for CBRN Risk Mitigation in Burundi Bujumbura, 23 - 24 April 2015

The first workshop for the drafting of the National Action Plan (NAP) for Burundi to mitigate Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks took place on 23 – 24 April 2015 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The workshop was held as part of the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative (EU CBRN CoE) and represents the first step in the development of a NAP for Burundi. The main objective of this first workshop was to identify the relevant CBRN risks in Burundi by bringing together the National CBRN team and stakeholders from Burundi along with international experts from UNICRI.

Twenty representatives of Ministries and national experts participated in the event which was opened by the CoE National Focal Point of Burundi, Ambassador Karonkano, of the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation. The national representatives present were the following: Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Public Security; Ministry of Finances; Ministry of National Defence; Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS; Ministry of Energy and Mines; Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Ministry of Water, Environment, Territory Management and Urbanism; Ministry of Civil Service, Labour and Social Security; Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Equipment; Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Posts and Tourism; the Chemical Pacific Use Observatory; and the Burundian Office of Standards. The overall purpose of the National Action Plan is to articulate a national vision for risk mitigation into a national CBRN action plan and to identify priorities for building capacity.



Project 42 kick-off meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, April 2015). In the centre, the Head of Secretariat Mr. Joel Kamande, surrounded by ECA NFPs and stakeholders.

The action plan – to be developed in a series of workshops – will be designed to ensure that separate efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, thus strengthening national capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats. The initiative also facilitates the identification and implementation of projects and ensures that capacity building is part of a coordinated and sustainable approach.

Second Workshop in Uganda to prepare the National Action Plan to mitigate Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risks Kampala, 26 - 27 April 2015

The second workshop held in Uganda for the National Action Plan to mitigate Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risks successfully concluded on 28 April. Over thirty officials from different ministries, EU Delegation to Uganda and international experts shared experience on mitigating risks related to CBRN materials and agents.

The two-day workshop opened by Mr Denis Manana from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Thomas Millar, First Secretary, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uganda, was organized within the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN CoE). This initiative promotes and supports the development and implementation of national CBRN policies and creates a network of regional initiatives. It aims at strengthening regional security by increasing local ownership, local expertise

and long-term sustainability. The aim of the workshop, chaired by the National Focal Point of Uganda, was to move towards a more consolidated draft of the CBRN National Action Plan, highlighting priority actions to strengthen national capacities for the prevention, detection and, preparedness and response, to all CBRN threats, irrespective of their origin. As well as identifying high-level actions across the chemical, biological and radiological and nuclear domains, the workshop focused on detailing the specific tasks, objectives and resources that would be required. Representatives of the following national agencies attended the workshop: Ministry of Defence - NBC Defence Regiment; Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development - Atomic Energy Council (AEC/MEMD), Nuclear Energy Unit; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory (DGAL); Office of the Prime Minister; President's Office; Uganda National Bureau of Standards; Uganda Police Force, Directorate of Forensic Services; Uganda Revenue Authority as well as academia and private companies. The workshop was also attended by the representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uganda, Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies and UNICRI. The training consisted of presentations and interactive table top exercises for participants.

The training is based on the assessments made during 2014 following discussions, exercises and seminars. A second training course will be provided later in the year for CBRN Responders.

Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

by Adil Radoini

Recent developments in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar have recently become official CoE partner countries. The point of contact in Saudi Arabia is the National Commission for the Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons while the acting National Focal Point is Dr. Fahad Alruwaily, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Qatar the National Focal Point is Eng. Abdul Rahman Al Abdul Jabbar, from the Ministry of Environment.



2nd Round table meeting for Gulf Cooperation Council countries region in Genval – Belgium (June 2015).

Genval Round Table Meeting

Representatives from the CoE Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) region (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates) met in Genval, Belgium to hold the second regional round table meeting.

- The countries decided that when the National Teams are ready, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and UNICRI will organise technical workshops in the capitals with the National CBRN Teams/stakeholders of the GCC countries to conduct the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) (by JRC) and to support the drafting of the National Action Plan (NAP) (by UNICRI);
- There was an agreement on the importance to ensure a proper level of coordination both at the national level, including all the relevant CBRN stakeholders during the meetings of National CBRN Team/Stakeholders, and at the regional level during the

round-table meetings of the National Focal Points of the CoE initiative;

- It was agreed that UNICRI will start discussing with the other partners such as the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL and others, the practical steps to organise the Arabatomic Exercise.

The Arab Emergency Cooperation Exercise on Radiological and Nuclear threats - Arabatomic

As a result of the discussions of the round table meeting for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, UNICRI in partnership with the European Commission, the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Morocco, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and other relevant international organisations is organising an inter-Arab exercise simulating a Radiological or Nuclear incident.

The exercise will be regionally oriented and will have a strong focus on the 'left-of-bang' phase, i.e. on the prevention and detection of the threat rather than on response. The exercise will be run as a table-top exercise with an underlying realistic scenario, involving several countries and organisations. Ideally, the participants will play their own authentic role in a web-based environment.

The exercise, envisaged to take place in early 2016, will bring focus on the necessity of cooperation in security and on viable mechanisms for gathering and sharing information among countries and organisations.

Middle East

by Adil Radoini and Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser (HoS)



Lebanese defence delegates attended P34 CBRN awareness training course at the Presidency of Council of Ministers in Beirut. February 2015.



CBRN protective clothing will be delivered to partner countries in the framework of P34.

Recent Development in the MIE

Genval:

During the last Genval meeting, the Middle East National Focal Points (NFPs), together with the European Commission and UNICRI discussed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the so-called project proposal 34+ "Capacity building for medical preparedness and response to CBRN incidents". In addition to that:

- It was agreed that NFPs should be involved in the drafting of the ToR and evaluation of the bids; it was

also agreed that the local entities should have a greater role in the projects in terms of responsibilities and budget and the NFPs should have the opportunity to identify the non-key experts; the NFPs also requested the possibility to endorse the progress report drafted by the implementers before the submission to, and the approval of, the European Commission.

- New areas for potential new projects were discussed. Proposals were made for projects on "protection of CBRN facilities" and "further developing an international network of universities to develop awareness on CBRN laboratories and warehouses". Both the projects need to have a regional dimension and the NFPs agreed on giving feedback on the proposals after consultations with the members of their national teams.
- In view of interregional exchanges the NFPs of Morocco and Georgia gave presentations on their respective experiences in drafting the National Action Plan. The Middle East NFPs showed a great interest and asked to organise a regional meeting to further explore the process of drafting the NAP with the Georgian colleagues tentatively during the second half of July 2015 at the Amman Secretariat.

Jordan

Nomination of a new CoE National Focal Point in Jordan as Colonel Saleh Al Sheyab, from the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management.

Iraq

Iraq drafted a national strategy for counter terrorism associated with weapons of mass destruction in early 2015.

As a follow-up, an action plan for weapons of mass destruction counter terrorism has been recently drafted by the Iraqi stakeholders under the leadership of the Iraqi National Monitoring Authority.



Demo kit used in P34 CBRN awareness training course for MIE countries.



North Africa and Sahel

by Harro Wittermans and Kheira Bradai

Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNICRI and the Government of Algeria

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Algerian Government and the CBRN Centres of Excellence, represented by UNICRI, took place in Algiers on 2 September 2015 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This MoU regards the establishment of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat for the North Africa and Sahel (NAS) region. The signing ceremony was hosted by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Senouci Bereksi. The MoU was signed by Mr. Rachid Beladhane, Director General of Political Affairs and International Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Cindy Smith, Director of UNICRI. The event was attended by representatives from the European Union Delegation to Algeria, the United Nations Development Programme and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior. During her speech, Ms. Smith highlighted that the creation of the Regional Secretariat for North Africa and Sahel represent a "significant benchmark" in the growth of the CBRN CoE. "This objective was reached through the joint and committed efforts of the Algerian government, the EU and the UN". She also thanked the Algerian government for its "con-

tinuous support" and its willingness to host the Regional Secretariat. Through his statement, Mr. Dirk Buda, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation in Algeria reiterated the support of the European Union to the North Africa and Sahel region: "The initiative has now entered a new phase. The participating countries are invited as a next step to carry out a needs assessment and to continue round table discussions to find solutions for issues of common concern. EU expertise will be made available to facilitate the discussions". The Regional

Secretariat for North Africa and Sahel is placed under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and local authorities (Délégation Nationale aux Risques Majeurs). Its role is to develop and ensure cooperation between the partner countries in the Region (currently Burkina Faso, Libya, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia). Several tailored projects have already been implemented in the region and a new regional project on border security is being developed. The official opening ceremony of the Regional Secretariat is scheduled for this coming December.

Burkina Faso joins North Africa and Sahel Regional Secretariat

In a letter to the European Commission dating from May 27 2015, the government of Burkina Faso announced its interest in officially joining the CBRN CoE initiative.

Burkina Faso has since joined Algeria, Libya, Niger, Morocco and Tunisia to form part of the North Africa and Sahel Regional Secretariat.

Mr. Charles Joseph Guibla has been nominated National Focal Point.

Mr. Rachid Beladhane and Ms. Cindy Smith signing the MoU establishing the North Africa and Sahel Regional Secretariat. September 2015.



South East Asia

by Maria Rettori and Oscar Valenzuela (HoS)

National Action Plan Workshops

Working Group Meeting on the National CBRN Action Plan Naypyidaw, Myanmar 26 - 27 January 2015

The third phase in the development of the CBRN National Action Plan (NAP) of Myanmar took place on 26 - 27 January 2015. International experts worked together with the CBRN National Team and other national stakeholders to review and complete the NAP. This activity followed a series of workshops held in 2014 (NAP Phase 1 and Phase 2). Experts from different ministries and agencies interacted throughout the workshop, achieving positive results which will help to ensure the quality of the NAP.

1st Workshop on the National Action Plan on CBRN Risk Mitigation for Lao PDR Vientiane, Lao PDR 4 - 5 May 2015

The first workshop for the preparation of National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks for Lao PDR took place on 4-5 May 2015. The two-day workshop was opened by representatives from the Ministry of Science and Technology of Lao PDR, the Delegation of the European Union to Lao PDR, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The workshop was the first in a series of national workshops of which the overall purpose is to put the national vision for risk mitigation into a national CBRN action plan and to identify priorities for building capacity. The action plan will be designed to ensure that future efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, thus strengthening national capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats.

1st Workshop on the National Action Plan with the National CBRN Team and stakeholders of Vietnam Hanoi, Vietnam 7 - 8 May 2015

The first workshop for the preparation of National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks for Vietnam took place on 7-8 May 2015. The two-day workshop was opened by representatives from: the Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST); the OPCW; and UNICRI. The first workshop for the National Action Plan included an overview and discussion of the risk scenarios in each of the areas dealt with – chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear – in addition to a presentation of a Needs Assessment Questionnaire, a key part of the Centres of Excellence methodology. National subject matter experts from Vietnam worked with their international counterparts to consider the best ways of incorporating the identified needs and priorities into the respective National Action Plans.

SEA and EU experts participated in the 9th RTM in Nha Trang. February 2015.



Lao PDR Experts gathered in Vientiane to discuss their country capacity and needs regarding CBRN risks mitigation. May 2015.

Round Table Meetings

9th National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for SEA
Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa, Vietnam
 4 - 6 February 2015

Within the framework of the CoE Initiative, the ninth Round Table Meeting of National Focal Points for the South East Asia Region was held. The Round Table Meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate projects completed in South East Asia in the last two years, to discuss the latest developments of the CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative in the region, and to consider regional priorities for future projects (including projects involving export control). The meeting also offered an occasion to examine cooperation among CoE partners and facilitated bilateral discussions between individual South East Asian nations and the Regional Secretariat of the CoE Initiative for South East Asia, hosted by the Philippine government.

10th National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for SEA
Genvul, Belgium
 19 - 20 May 2015

The 10th National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for SEA was held at Chateau du Lac Hotel in Genvul, Belgium on 19-20 May 2015. The discussions centered on the strategy of the Regional Secretariat, regional priorities and basis for new projects, presentations of local institutions that could become technical centres of excellence, the creation of a regional pool of CBRN experts, and finally upcoming projects. A panel of experts on radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness and response was organised on the afternoon of 20 May 2015.



International Cooperation

Needs Assessment Questionnaire

NAQ Workshop in Lao PDR
Vientiane, Lao PDR
 30 March - 1 April 2015

On 30 March 2015, ahead of its first National Action Plan workshop scheduled for early May, experts from various Lao-tian institutions gathered for the National CBRN needs assessment. In the course of workshop, the CBRN National Team of Lao PDR, with the support of European Commission experts, engaged in reviewing the 300 questions of the NAQ-ST in order to identify the capabilities and needs of Lao PDR regarding CBRN risk mitigation. The result of this exercise is a comprehensive overview of the status of the country, which will serve as basis to the drafting of the NAP. It will also be used for the identification of project activities to be undertaken.

National experts gathered in Hanoi to work on the National Action Plan. May 2015.



European External Action Service Visit to the SEA Secretariat
 27 February 2015
 Manila, Philippines

On 27 February 2015, Mr. Joaquín Tasso Vilallonga, Deputy Head of the Security Policy Division, European External Action Service (EEAS) visited the Regional Secretariat (RS) for South East Asia (SEA) and had a meeting with Mr. Oscar Valenzuela, Head of the CBRN CoE RS and Executive Director, Anti-Terrorism Council and Programme Management Council (ATC-PMC), Dr. Robert Frank, Regional Cooperation Officer (Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines) and Ms. María Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori, Regional Coordinator for SEA (UNICRI). The discussion centred on an update of the current status of CBRN activities in SEA, exchange of ideas regarding the positioning of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative towards the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and preparation for the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on "Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on CBRN risk mitigation".



Project news

Final Report from FORMIT on the Completion of Project 6 Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on chemical and biological waste management

*Pietro Costanzo
Fondazione FORMIT*

In 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration emphasised the importance of protecting future generations by protecting the environment: "We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs". In this view, one of the top concerns of contemporary societies is the management of waste and, in particular, due to the multifaceted implications and specific environmental problems that it creates, the management of hazardous



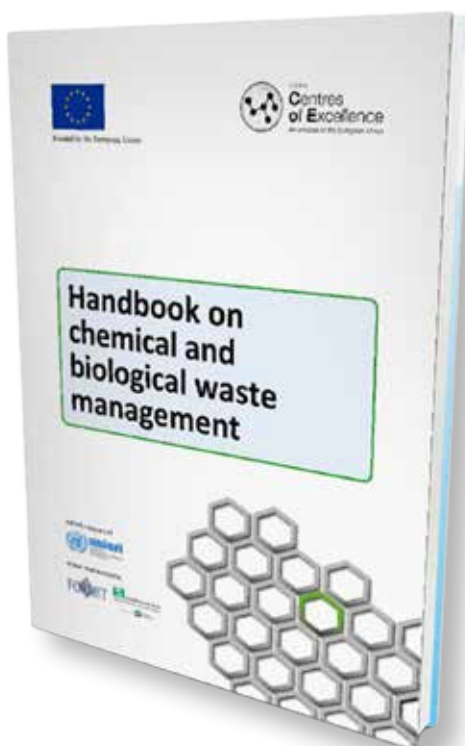
Participants in Project 6 final conference at the SEA Regional Secretariat (Malacanang Palace) in Manila. December 2014.

waste. Project 6, "Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on chemical and biological waste management", implemented in 2013-2014 by an Italian consortium (founded by Fondazione FORMIT and L. Sacco University Hospital), addressed the challenges related to hazardous waste management, thus creating a set of training tools aimed at facilitating the knowledge development of chemical and biological laboratories. The project team cooperated with stakeholders from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, in defining training needs and preferences through a bottom-up consultation process, while also taking advantage of the valuable support of UNICRI and EU teams. The core project output is the "Handbook on chemical and biological waste management", a guidance document describing the various issues that hazardous waste management entails, in terms of technical procedures and legal framework. This manual is designed to achieve a clear understanding of identification, classification and handling of hazardous waste in compliance with international standards and best practices, and it is meant for a diverse audience, including public health managers, policy-makers, laboratory managers and staff. Training courses and workshops were held in the participating countries, with the involvement of about 70 different organisations and 230 laboratory managers and staff, and were also based on tailored and selected practical examples. A key element of success in these activities was an inclusive decision-making pro-

cess, ensuring activities were tailored to local preferences. In addition to this, an e-learning platform was developed to support the activities, producing about 20 hours of online dedicated lessons, and hosting project documentation. The project closed with a final conference on the premises of the Regional Secretariat in Manila, in December. Project results were appreciated by local and international stakeholders, and also requested by countries from other regions of the CoE initiative; moreover, the project's approach and results were presented as possible good practices during a side event to the Meeting of States Parties of the Biological Weapons Convention, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and to the 2015 NFPs annual meeting in Genval, Belgium. The challenging and stimulating experience of the project provided several lessons to be learned: at the top of the list, a flexible approach in the implementation of activities is key to building up fruitful and close working relationship with participating countries' stakeholders, as they are a core factor in the success and sustainability of cooperation efforts.

Project 8 Prerequisite to strengthening CBRN national legal frameworks

A fourth technical assistance visit to both Cambodia and the Philippines were conducted in June 2015 as part of the project which aims to enhance national legal systems to comply with international obligations in the field of CBRN.





Cambodian experts worked on CBRN legislation with Project 8 implementers. Phnom Pen, Jun 2015.

In an initial assessment phase, data on the national legal framework addressing CBRN risk mitigation was collected and analysed. The need for new or amended legislation in the CBRN sectors in each country were further debated during a series of three technical assistance visits to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and the Philippines (November 2013, April 2014, November 2014). In addition, international experts from VERTIC (lead implementing partner of the project) have continued to work with national experts on the drafting of legislation for CBRN security and amendments of existing legislation.

Project 10 **Development of e-learning courses for CBRN risk mitigation** **Presentation of the CBRN e-learning to the Ugandan National Team**

Mr. Bryan L. Lee, Interim Deputy Director of James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) delivered a presentation to the Ugandan National Team members on the CBRN risk mitigation e-learning course that was developed through Project 10. The Seven-module (Introduction to CBRN and chemical weapons; Nuclear and radiological weapons; Biohazards – Natural and deliberately caused diseases; Biosecurity and biosafety – Preventing biological warfare and terrorism; Strategic trade controls and CBRN; CBRN risk assessment and management; Identifying an event: Case study and analysis) e-learning platform is aimed at providing mid-

to senior level officials with responsibilities in CBRN detection, response and mitigation with the technical knowledge necessary for the development of appropriate policies in these fields.

Project 13 **Capacity building and raising awareness for identifying and responding to threats from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials in Sub Saharan African countries**

Alicia Mignone

Project 13 came to conclusion in June 2015 after two and a half years of implementation, having successfully organised one Regional Seminar in Uganda in 2014 and two National Seminars in Italy and Seychelles in 2015. The project was implemented by ENEA (Agenzia Nazionale per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e lo Sviluppo Economico Sostenibile) and its partners Luigi Sacco University Hospital in Milan, Italy and France Expertise Internationale (FEI). The Regional Seminar took place at the Speke Resort in Kampala in July 2014, with the participation of seven countries from the Eastern and Central Africa region, namely, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia. As a potential partner country, South Sudan also participated. Following the event in Kampala, Tanzania, Seychelles and Zambia expressed interest in hosting national seminars. The first national seminar took place in Bologna,

at the ENEA Research Centre from 20-23 April 2015. Breakout sessions were held separately the last day allowing the twelve participants from Tanzania and Zambia to discuss their country perspectives and to carry-out an evaluation of the seminar. Positive comments were made about the seminar's content and, in particular, in connection with Project 42, which focuses on chemical safety and security in the Eastern and Central Africa region. The implementation of project 42 is currently being led by Gesellschaft für Anlagen und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS), Germany. The second national seminar was subsequently held in Victoria, Seychelles from 18-21 May 2015 with the participation of almost forty representatives from different national organisations in Seychelles. After the seminar, the hosts organised a series of visits to the Division of Risk and Disaster Management, the Seychelles Petroleum Company (SEYPEC), the Fire Rescue Service Agency, the Red Cross Society of the Seychelles and the Seychelles Port Authority. These visits enabled the Project 13 team to deepen its understanding of the progress made by Seychelles in CBRN risk management. Upon the request of SEYPEC, the experts further provided their support by drafting a discussion paper on the visit to the installations. The involvement and active and constructive participation of partner countries in these Seminars reaffirmed the importance of this project. It furthermore demonstrated the need for ensuring continuity in the provision of training on CBRN risks in the region.

Project 14 **Provision of specialised and technical training to enhance the first response capabilities – CBRN FRstCap**

Project 14 aims to support a more effective response to CBRN events and to promote a common regional approach to CBRN threats. It entails the enhancement and standardisation of knowledge and expertise of national agencies engaged in responding to incidents involving CBRN materials. After an assessment of capacities and needs





Representatives from various Seychelles national organisations participated in Project 13 CBRN seminar in Victoria. May 2015.

of the participating countries, the European CBRNE Centre at Umeå University (Sweden), with the assistance of Swedish Defence Research Agency, designed a standardised training course for the three branches of first responders: law enforcement, fire and rescue services, and emergency medical services. The two-step training course in CBRN incidents was carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia (March-April 2014). A total of 40 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia attended the courses which included modules focusing on: CBRN substances, civil emergency planning, and the identification and management of CBRN incident scenes, in addition to exercises based on possible CBRN incident scenarios. A study visit took place in May in Stockholm, Sweden. National Experts from the participating countries received lectures by Swedish authorities and national organisations involved in CBRN preparedness and response. The visit included a guided tour of Södersjukhuset emergency hospital which has specific CBRN expertise.

Project 19 Enhancing Information Security Management Systems Defending CBRN related Information, Materials, and Facilities from Evolving Threats

This workshop took place on Zagreb,

Croatia in April and was held in conjunction with the World Congress on CBRNE Science & Consequence Management, this conference being attended by hundreds of officials and subject matter experts from over 40 countries. The aim of Project 19 is to enhance the awareness of regional, governmental and academic institutions on the importance of information security for CBRN facilities and the steps that can be taken to enhance information security. The first day of the workshop mainly focused on the practicalities of information security breaches, including: threats, vulnerabilities and consequences of such breaches, while the second day focused on best practices and guidelines for optimal information security.

Project 21 Building regional border control capacity to identify and detect CBRN materials

The European Commission organised a Train-the-Trainer course on radiation detection techniques and procedures at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) site in Ispra, Italy in February for the South East Asia region. The course gathered 16 participants from Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The main objective was to enhance participants' knowledge in the field of radiation detection techniques and procedures and to enable them to transfer their knowledge to other trainees in their respective countries. A combination of morning

theoretical courses and afternoon practical exercises were performed, with a particular focus on advanced aspects of radiation detection. The aim of the multi-national regional participation was to enable the attendees to meet and share experiences, strengthening regional cooperation and coordination in this activity. Following lectures by JRC staff and invited speaker Mr. T. Pelletier from the International Atomic Energy Agency, some participants delivered presentations in two different fields: a technical one which included detection instrumentation and/or case studies; and a legislative one covering their national legislation related to Nuclear Security. The participants also had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with radiation detection equipment. On the final day, the trainees demonstrated their training capability by developing a scenario in order to check their colleagues' operational response and to provide them with useful feedback. Then, they were asked to switch places and repeat the same routine with a new scenario. This way, all participants experienced both trainer and trainee positions, receiving and giving comments to their colleagues.

Project 25 Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on biosafety/biosecurity/biorisk management

In the framework of Project 25 national workshops have taken place in Amman, Baghdad and Beirut in January. Intended as an assimilation of the e-learning course on biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management developed in the course of the project, these workshops were coordinated by national experts and aimed to train local personnel in facilities handling human pathogens and toxins. They combined lectures, group discussions and table-top exercises aimed at university professors, laboratory managers and directors, biosafety professionals and safety managers, research and science staff in the field of microbiology, veterinary, pharmacy and public health. Each event was tailored to the country's needs. The workshops



benefited over 60 participants of various entities from a wide spectrum of government, private sector and academic biological laboratories. These activities were followed by a regional event organised in February in Amman. It was attended by 29 participants from Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon and combined a training follow-up and the final project meeting. It aimed at giving the opportunity to the participants to compare the experience gained during the local workshops in view of developing common approaches.

Project 27 Biorisk management

The purpose of Project 27 is to support the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand in the establishment a training program in biorisk management (BRM). The BRM training materials developed during the first phase of the project were used during a Train-the-Trainer course held for 26 trainees from the Thailand National Institute of Health and 14 trainees from the Regional Medical Sciences Centres - Department of Medical Sciences. The course was divided in two workshops. The first one (held 12-16 January) aimed at familiarising the future trainers with BRM and training procedures. Subsequently all participants were required to perform a pilot BRM training for the laboratory personnel in their workplace using the training toolkit. The results of these pilot trainings were reported during the second workshop that focused on activities organised and issues encountered. It closed on the awarding of trainers certificates. In March and May, the trainers taught during the first phase of the project provided trainings to microbiology technicians and scientists of the Department of Medical Sciences and hospitals in three different Thai provinces (Ayutthaya, Nakorn Pathom, Samutsongkram). The 3-day training courses were delivered by 5 trainers and were attended by a total of 73 trainees. In each course the trainees' knowledge was assessed by a pre-test and a post-test. The Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences and the executive board praised the BRM Train the Trainers program as it represents an opportunity for trainers to pass on their



SEA participants in Project 21 train-the-trainer course on radiation detection techniques and procedures at JRC Ispra. February 2015.

Project 27 certified trainers delivered training in biorisk management to microbiology technicians and scientists. Thailand, May 2015.



knowledge on BRM to all hospital laboratories across Thailand. Consequently the Department of Medical Sciences allocated budget to all 14 Regional Medical Sciences Centres for organising the BRM training in hospitals. These activities are a definite step forward for the country in biosafety and biosecurity concerns.

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

Under Project 28, a National Training Course on the security of radiological and nuclear materials was held in Vien-

tiane, Lao PDR in January 2015. The event was organised in close collaboration between Lao's Ministry of Science and Technology, the European Commission (Joint Research Centre, Institute for Transuranium Elements, Nuclear Security Unit) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The course brought together about forty high-level officials from different national agencies and ministries of Lao PDR. The event included:

1. An overview of the international legal framework for nuclear security, assistance programs, IAEA guidance and the examples of regulatory frameworks for the security of radioactive sources;



2. A thorough introduction to best practices and process evaluation for the security of radioactive sources based on practical legal requirements, other regulatory approaches and a risk-based security compliance inspection programme of licensing of radioactive sources, security plan evaluations, enforcement and implementation; and
3. A discussion on Nuclear Security Management, Nuclear Security Culture and Import/Export Controls. On the last day, technical visits and bilateral meetings with national officials were arranged.

Under the implementation of the project, a national training course on nuclear security awareness and security of nuclear and radioactive materials was hosted for Cambodian senior officials by the Cambodian Secretariat of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee. The training course was organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Institute for Transuranium Elements Nuclear Security Unit, and took place in Siem Reap in March 2015. Several topics of nuclear security were presented and discussed such as capacity building, nuclear culture, security management, threat assessment and mitigation and compliance with international obligations and recommendations regarding nuclear and radioactive materials. Senior officials from different ministries and national agencies involved in Nuclear Security attended the training.

Project 33 Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities

Project 33 is divided into two phases. The first proposes a review of the existing national legal framework. The second phase consists in delivering training sessions on both strategic and operational considerations in the prevention and response to CBRN risks and the subsequent elaboration of tailored National Response Plan. A tailored gap analysis, based on a comparison with the standards set out in European and international legal frameworks, of each partner country's legal framework was shared with the relevant stakeholders of the country. Country visits are planned from September to December to discuss and finalise a report for each country, as well as to discuss the implementation of a Regional document for the control of dangerous goods. The first training session, aimed at operation commanders, was held in June. The experts team delivered the week-long training to 40 trainees per country (Morocco, Uganda, DRC). The main goal of the training sessions is to reinforce coordination between all the ministries and agencies involved in response to a CBRN incident. On that account, the programme consists of a package of various tutorials, exercises, debates, simulations and final knowledge assessment. The implementation team is also working on the organisation of the second step of training sessions, which will be practical in nature and intended for first responders of each partner country.

Project 36 Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

MediPIET is a sustainable training programme in intervention epidemiology, including a two-year 'learning-by-doing' course composed of 7 modules. The third module of the training programme on Time Series Analysis and Spatial Analysis took place in March at the premises of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Milan Jovanovic Batut". It gathered 46 public health specialists from 13 participating countries (Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo*, and Serbia). The training module was attended by the fellows and supervisors of the four established MediPIET Training Sites. In May, MediPIET organised training on health risks in humanitarian crises and mass gatherings in Amman, Jordan. This event, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Jordan, brought together 40 participants and 10 trainers from 14 countries of the MediPIET network. External professionals from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Network of Public Health in the Eastern Mediterranean (EMPHNET), as well as the scientific coordinator of the project, delivered lectures. Given the nature of training and the extensive experience of Jordan in receiving refugees from neighbouring conflicts, a field exercise was carried out in the Zaatari refugee camp. The Zaatari camp was established in 2012 and currently hosts more than 80,000 Syrian refugees. The field visit was coordinated by the delegate of the Jordanian Ministry of Health and served as an exercise in the collection of health data in the context of a humanitarian crisis.



Project 28 provided training on security of radiological and nuclear materials to representative of Lao PDR ministries and national agencies. January 2015.



AAF country representatives discussed upcoming activities of Project 41 on Chemical high risk facilities during the kick-off meeting in Marrakech. April 2015.

Meeting to fully integrate the countries of the Black Sea region into MediPIET

In Tbilisi (Georgia) in May, the MediPIET Programme worked with the Georgian National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), with members of the public health institutes of Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia and Ukraine, and guest colleagues from Egypt, Tunisia and Serbia, to expand the certified MediPIET training sites to the Black Sea area. A training site hosts fellows that follow the entire two-year learning-by-doing training programme. These fellows are professionals working in public health institutions and their progress is closely monitored by the site's supervisors. During this meeting, the public health institutes of Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia and Ukraine shared the results of their training needs assessment and their experiences, and discussed the opportunities for improving capacities of their institutions and professionals. Finally a commitment was reached for the new countries' full participation in the MediPIET Programme.

Project 41 High-risk chemical facilities and chemical risk mitigation in the Atlantic Façade Region

The 36-month project, implemented by Expertise France, was officially launched in Brussels on 28 January. On 7 April, the project was presented to the partner countries in Marrakech for a one day meeting, gathering National Focal Points and National Correspondents, members

of the EC, UNICRI, representatives of French embassies, the key experts and the project management team from Expertise France. This regional kick-off meeting was the occasion to explain the stakes in mitigating chemical facilities risks and detail the different phases of the project; working methods were also introduced. The project management team also stated the national and regional goals. It was also an opportunity to exchange with countries through multilateral and bilateral debates on their needs and expectations for the project. The countries all agreed to keep a large general scope to be adapted to each country according to the national priorities after the first visit of key experts. The first visit is targeted at determining the scope of the project for each country and the short term action plan, with regard to the need assessment provided by the local partners. Since the beginning of May, working missions are being organised in all participating countries, aimed at identifying national stakeholders and national teams, determining the scope of the project, working methods, as well as gathering and sharing information. So far Benin and Morocco have already held the first mission while Gabon, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire will be visited in July, followed by Liberia, Togo and Mauritania in August and September. The first steering committee was held on 6 July in Paris, gathering members of the consortium, M. Salami (National Focal Point of Morocco and head of the AAF regional secretariat), representatives of DEVCO and the JRC, to discuss the progress of the project and next steps, in particular regional and

national upcoming training sessions, which will begin in early 2016.

Project 42 Chemical Safety and Security in the Eastern and Central African Region

Project 42, was officially launched in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 - 22 April 2015. The event brought together National Focal Points and CBRN experts from Burundi, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia, as well as representatives from the implementing EU Consortium, the European Commission (DG DEVCO), UNICRI and the Embassy of Poland in Nairobi. The head of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA), Joel Kamande, opened the event. He highlighted the importance of international cooperation and underlined the role of the project in significantly raising safety and security standards in the ECA region with respect to chemical risks and accidents. All participating countries expressed their common interest in improving the chemical safety situation in their countries especially with respect to high-risk chemicals and high-risk facilities through the strengthening of the national chemical legal framework, preparedness, response and remediation capabilities in case of a chemical incident.



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About CoE

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

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

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

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

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