



The management of CBRNe related risks and crises of different kinds (including security and safety) is governed by various international, EU and national policies covering various sectors and operational stages, including preparedness and prevention, detection and surveillance, and response and recovery. A range of research and technological developments, as well as capacity building and training projects, are striving to support the implementation of these policies. However, the complexity of the policy framework and the wide scope of research, demonstration, capacity building and training initiatives often lead to a lack of awareness about policies and/or project outputs by the wide range of “users”, namely policy makers, scientists, industry (incl. SMEs), operators, and civil society.¹ In addition, there is still little to no connection between outputs and outcome, which is essential to ensure relevant outputs are implemented and used, an essential condition to ensure impact.

In light of these conditions, there is a strong need to ensure that EU policies, research outcomes, technology development and practitioners’ best practices are transferred from the European context to the national one.

Introduction

Following the Commission’s initiative on creating a multi user communication platform between policy makers, SMEs, research organisations and practitioners, SCK-CEN works under a current framework contract on the exploration of national stakeholder arrangements already existing in some EU Member States (MS) as well as other nations. The purpose is to learn from them and to produce the blueprint containing basic elements that can be exported to other MS.

Focus

The workshop focused on learning from already existing National CoU initiatives with the purpose of identifying common elements in their structures, so that the concept of operations can be developed and exported in a blueprint readily available for other EU Member or Associated States to adopt, should they wish to do so. The blueprint would contain a set of common elements that have been identified by the working group as elements that can foster the exchange of information among stakeholders, regardless of cultural differences and organisational structures currently in place. These elements could be, among others, a communication platform and organisational arrangements.

Relevance

Defining an effective and efficient mechanism or platform to “interconnect” the various players in security research is of paramount importance, thus creating links among policy makers, industry, practitioners and research organisations who can mutually benefit from each other. The essential point is to raise awareness and reduce fragmentation at all levels.

Stakeholder perspectives

During the workshop, four countries presented and elaborated on their national CoU: the Netherlands, Finland, Norway and Sweden:

- In **the Netherlands**, the city of The Hague (city of peace and security) initiated a 3-year project for the creation of a CBRN Network of Excellence (NoE). The network has frequent meetings with speakers and a networking event. Furthermore, a website has been constructed for sharing information. The project will be finished by the end of 2017 and there are questions about sustainability beyond this period. A debate about this is currently ongoing.
- In **Finland**, the national CoU started its operations in 2012-2016 by implementing a national radiological/nuclear detection capability architecture and capacity building project. In 2015, a CBRNe Suomi association (NGO) was established to support authorities, service companies and the domain specific industry. In 2016, a study was conducted to better understand the CoU functions and how these could be supported by applicable ICT solutions, including integration to EU services. The actions are by now underway to apply the obtained knowledge and to share that knowledge with interested partners.
- The July 2011 terrorist attack in **Norway** challenged the Norwegian emergency and preparedness. A Commission evaluated the response to this incident and concluded that several improvements were needed in order to increase the national preparedness and public security. One element of this conclusion was to establish a National CBRNe strategy. Norway has an annual CBRNe conference (for more than

¹ DG HOME Working Paper, A Community of Users on Secure, Safe, Secure and Resilient Societies, p4.

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10 years now) and various other events for CoU within the field of CBRNe: The annual Societal Security Conference in February, the new Chemical-Explosive (CE) preparedness group according to the National CBRNe strategy, and also the Norwegian Defence Research Institute (FFI) projects where each project has a Steering Group including both civilian and military representatives (which is also a CoU forum).

- Since 2009, **Sweden** has kind of a national CoU where CBRNe activities are discussed. It started out by meetings with mainly national authorities, but since 2014 also local and regional authorities are included as well as research organisations and the industry.

Lessons learnt and challenges

From the presentations given during the workshop one can conclude that, the factors leading to the creation of a national community of users vary from country to country and there are also a number of additional components, such as cultural issues and organisational aspects, that may play a significant role when exporting the concept to other EU Member States and this will be the main challenge to overcome.

Elements identified during the workshop discussion:

- The group acknowledged the use of a software application, not only as a means to “connect” stakeholders and raise awareness, but also as a complementary tool. Two questions need to be addressed: what is the main challenge in creating a national CoU? What are the needs to be fulfilled?
- Sustainability is an important element that needs to be taken into account to ensure the continuation of the network.

Way forward

SCK•CEN will convene a meeting with participation of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Finland to continue with the elaboration of a blueprint based on their experience, which could be presented in a future CoU. In addition, during this meeting the Finish representation will elaborate on their ICT stakeholder platform thus allowing other countries to learn and comment on it.

Forthcoming CoU Events

Brussels, Brainstorming on National CoU initiatives, 29 June 2017

Brussels, Plenary CoU and Thematic Workshops, 12-14 September 2017

Brussels, CoU Thematic Workshops, 5-6 December 2017