

TREFF BSR – CBRNE

CONCEPT

Background

This concept note describes the objectives, content, format, participants and long-term impact of a large **stakeholder networking forum focusing on CBRNE issues**. The working name for such a forum is **Treff BSR – CBRNE**. This concept has been developed within the scope of the project **STAC-CBRNE – Strengthening the Transnational Capacity of the Management of CBRNE agents related Emergencies**, funded by the Swedish Institute. The Treff BSR – CBRNE concept is a product of joint brainstorming, discussions and deliberations, in two workshops (February 2018 and April 2018), between the organisations participating in the STAC-CBRNE project.

The STAC-CBRNE project, and subsequently the TREFF BSR – CBRNE initiative, are actions contributing to the third priority of the [Joint Position](#): “*Strengthening cross-sectorial cooperation in CBRN(E) preparedness*”, adopted by the Directors General for Civil Protection in the BSR, in May 2017. The aim is also to contribute to the implementation of the [EU Action Plan](#) to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks.

Objectives

Treff BSR – CBRNE is a **tool** – the way and means – to address the following jointly identified **needs, capability and capacity challenges**:

- There is a need for an intensification and a continuity in the knowledge exchange between CBRNE experts in the region.
- Research and project results should be better utilised and made available for practitioners, and practitioners should also take part in the identification of research gaps, with the focus on their own needs or requirements.
- Coordination, communication and mutual capacity building for collaboration between different national authorities, agencies, and sectors, working with CBRNE management, in different stages of the emergency management cycle, should be improved.
- A holistic view of CBRNE threats, that considers the associated risks, can improve prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The **general objectives** of the large stakeholder networking forum, Treff BSR – CBRNE, are:

- Peer-to-peer learning and networking by focusing on exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned, with particular attention paid to highlighting best practices, between professionals, with the aim to strengthen both the individual and organizational capacities.
- Learning and networking particularly focusing on furthering the implementation of the national CBRNE strategies.
- Identification of capability gaps and strengths by addressing cases and scenarios in a transnational, multi-level and multi-sector context, with the aim to develop structures for sharing resources where needed, or develop more cost-effective learning opportunities and training programmes that address joint needs.
- Establishing better connections within, and across, sectors and levels, to facilitate knowledge creation and sharing, and make better use of research and project results, by making knowledge and research results more easily available and accessible.
- Connecting different parts of operational responses more closely to each other to facilitate practical cooperation, enabling collaboration in case of emergency, focusing on common standards and communication.

- Identification of obstacles for practical cooperation, and screen for solutions to overcome those obstacles, to increase the effectiveness of the emergency response systems.
- Generating new partnerships to fully utilize the existing funding instruments and to combine the needs of end-users, national resources and research findings towards better effectiveness and efficiency of the CBRN cooperation at the BSR.

Content

Management of emergencies related to CBRNE agents, is a complex and fragmented area. Therefore, it is important to approach the area in a focused and concrete manner to get the best possible results for this initiative. By using **cases and scenarios** as the base for discussions, and having role-based collaboration as the model, it is possible to get more concrete results. For example, the identification of gaps in capabilities or identification of rules or legislation that may be problematic for optimising emergency response. The use of real world cases enables learning from each other and from previous events. Additionally, using scenarios enables better prevention and preparedness for future challenges, and to address unexpected eventualities.

The work with the cases and scenarios should be carefully prepared, and they should be matched with the target audience for the event, and well customized for them. External experts should be used for the preparation and evaluation of the scenarios, to fully test and develop the existing CBRNE preparedness, response and consequence management mechanisms and the regional, national and local levels. The cases and scenarios will provide the topical framework for the event. The presentations and workshops will be organized to address efficiently the issues in focus.

Format

The Treff BSR – CBRNE should be organized biennially, with rotating host countries. It would be a two-day event, with the first day more general, and the second day divided into specific working groups or have a more clearly defined thematic focus.

The event would be a mix of the following work formats:

- Discussions on real world cases, presented by those who were involved in addressing them operationally.
- Group work on scenarios likely to occur in the future.
- Out of the silos – promoting cross-sectoral cooperation, and learning possibilities.
- Match-making – for future initiatives.
- Companies engaging in an “Interactive Exhibition” where their products and tools can be tested in a stimulating environment.
- Showcasing the experiences from the implementation of national CBRNE-strategies.
- Focused networking on specific topics and issues.
- Feed-back workshops – ideas are presented and there is a possibility to get feedback from various groups of stakeholders.
- Presentations of finalized research and projects and their results, along with findings of new products contributing to possible solutions.
- Presentations of on-going research and projects – results so far, and expected results.
- Presentations of future research.
- Presentations of funding programmes relevant to the CBRNE field – both ongoing and upcoming programmes – by the responsible authorities. Special attention should be paid to constellation of partnerships and public-private initiatives.

Stakeholders/participants

It is important that the event has broad participation since one of the main objectives is to connect different domains (CBRNE), sectors and levels better with each other. However, for each event the target audience must be identified to make it as relevant as possible for the stakeholders and other participants, and to make the content tailored for the target group at hand.

Target groups:

- End-users/practitioners/first-responders – “people with real-world experience”
- Research institutes: academia, basic-research, applied-science etc.
- Responsible authorities: central, regional and local administration
- Responsible national agencies: civil protection, police, ministries of interior
- Cities and municipalities
- Societal and voluntary organisations
- Project leaders and key experts
- Private sector
- Institutes teaching and organizing exercises
- Organisations responsible for training
- Policy makers
- Representatives from funding programmes
- Similar/overlapping networks

Long-term impact and sustainability

The long-term objective is to establish an institutionalized network of CBRNE stakeholders in the BSR, to facilitate knowledge exchange and to strengthen connections between actors in this complex area. By connecting the network to the CBSS structures it would be possible to have a continuation, follow up and report on the initiative, as desired. To continually improve and develop the Treff concept and operation, regular assessments and evaluations will be made with the stakeholders and other participants, that will be the base for recommendations for improvements that will be passed on to the next organiser. The ownership and facilitation of each event must be with the member states.

Organisations contributing to developing the Treff BSR – CBRNE concept

The organisations who have participated in the workshops organised within the scope of the STAC-CBRNE project, where the Treff BSR – CBRNE concept was developed, represent the given complexity of the field. The STAC-CBRNE consortium is a multi-level and multi-sector partnership, consisting of authorities, civil protection agencies, research institutes and universities, NGOs, and the private sector, from seven countries in the BSR.

The contributing organisations to developing the Treff BSR – CBRNE concept are: **European CBRNE Center (Sweden), Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB), Estonian Rescue Board, Estonian Internal Security Service, Finnish National Rescue Association (SPEK), Finnish Border Guard, Emergency Services Training Centre of West Finland, CBRNE Suomi Association, Finnish Ministry of Interior, Federal Office of Radiation Protection (Germany), Hamburg Fire and Rescue Service, State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia, Laurea University (Finland), Lodz University (Poland), Hellenberg International, HT Nuclear, Mikkeli Development Miksei, and the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)** (facilitator of the process).

Other partners in the STAC-CBRNE project are: Main School of Fire Service, Warsaw, Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence at the Border Control Management Board of the State Border Guard Service of Ministry of Interior (Lithuania), and the Arctic University of Norway.