

**EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Policy Area Secure**

**16th Steering Group Meeting
16 November 2021**

Videoconference

MINUTES

Participants

See attached participants list.

1. Welcome addresses by PACs: adoption of the agenda and introduction of the participants

The agenda was adopted by the Steering Group

2. Latest updates from PACs on the Strategy work

- PAC's activities since the last meeting in May 2021 were presented.
- [Video from PA Secure workshop on youth and children resilience](#) at the EUSBSR Annual Forum will be send out to the Steering Group.
- Work done in **SE**: dissemination and discussions around the CASCADE result. Climate change adaption is high up on the agenda.

Please find specific information about activities in the separate presentation attached

3. Updates on the Joint Position and the overview of the implementation of the Joint Position

Overview of the implementation of the Joint Position

Priority nr.1 Building a common societal security culture (CSCC)

CBSS secretariat informed that:

Everything done within PA Secure: meetings, projects etc is contributing to build a common societal security culture.

LV informed that:

1. **LV** is working on a few projects regarding the following: working together with the Ministry of Defence on a comprehensive national defence strategy, to ensure all sectors can help in the prevention and security culture.
2. **LV** has remote meetings with municipalities and different sectors where resilience on the availability in energy, food, vital services etc. is discussed.
3. **LV** will share links from a seminar in Riga.

Priority nr. 2. Combining national efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction

FI informed that:

1. **FI** has established a national network on 25 different stakeholders including 9 ministries, NGO:s and centre of bureau representatives. First meeting has been organised.
2. UNDRR visit Finland for a meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. **FI** will be at the 26th European DRR forum (Portugal) and organises a side event to present a Finnish network.

LV informed that:

1. **LV** has recently launched two studies: one is based on the exploring and implementation on Early Warning Systems (EWS) on telecommunication technologies which went through the cabinet of ministers.
2. **LV** has supported the decision to improve the national EWS in broadcasting (mobile based solution)
3. **LV** has finalized the procedures documents, which are ready to be delivered in the market when there are financial resources.
4. The other study launched by **LV** on national disasters loss database issues.
5. **LV** priority is new EWS and then in the next 4-5 years is the disaster loss database

CBSS informed that:

1. **CBSS** has dialogue with UNDRR on what has been done on the regional level in order to implement the CASCADE results. UNDRR would like to present this as an example for other regions in the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.
2. **CBSS** DG will talk about the implementation of the Sendai framework in the region during a session on EFDRR (26th Nov) representing our regional approach.

NO informed that:

1. **NO** (DSB) is a co-organizing partner to a focused thematic discussion on Chemical and industrial accidents in the framework of the UNDRR EFDRR 24th Nov 2021 – 10.00 - 12.00

Priority nr. 3. Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation on CBRNE preparedness

FI informed that:

1. **FI** still have some issues nationally on identifying responsibilities for this area.
2. Subgroups are established for all three priorities coordinated by **FI** including CBRNE cooperation
3. **FI** is supporting the idea to use EU exchange of experts programme for CBRN cooperation.

LV informed that:

1. **LV** planned national exercise with focus on CBRN issues which was recently postponed to 2022. Want to examine how these issues affect critical services and how to monitor in a nuclear accident or at explosion.
2. **LV** sees this as a new horizon where new cooperation could be founded.
3. **LV** think it is important to look into NATECH accidents (which were discussed during the NO teaser online seminar) for the safety of the Baltic Sea Region seabed and how we are prepared.
4. **LV** raise possible areas for future cooperation: NATECH, dumped chemicals, critical/not critical infrastructure and on critical services that could be affected by natural/technological disasters.



NO informed that:

1. Regarding dumped ammunition, the Norwegian defence Research Establishment (FFI) is working on a project and The Norwegian Coastal administration (Kystverket) has developed guidelines for the fisheries. Link: <https://www.ffi.no/forskning/prosjekter/dumpet-ammunisjon-og-krigsetterlatenskaper>

Priority nr. 4. Increasing involvement of the local authorities and civil society organization

FI informed that:

1. SPEK (the Finnish National Rescue Association) has the role of the coordinator in this subgroup and will organize an open meeting for all interested parties on the 30th November.

Priority nr. 5. Initiating projects as platforms for innovation and cooperation

LV informed that

LV is in the planning phase of Helcom Balex Delta 2022 exercise which will be held in DE. The aim of the exercise is to test the HELCOM Response Manual and response capability procedures, international response cooperation, preparedness etc., in case of a major accident. Next meetings will follow to frame the exercise structure and agenda.

Priority 6. Supporting mutually beneficial interaction between research and practise

FI informs that:

1. FI has coordination with colleagues from **PL**, from **FI** side the coordinator is the Academy for Emergency Services (former Emergency Services College). They discuss how to connect stakeholders from different joint positions to not duplicate work.

PL informed that:

1. **PL** will have meeting with Polish and CBSS colleagues next week regarding the BALTINOSEC programme.
2. **PL** is sending out a short questionnaire to the PA Secure steering group in the upcoming weeks to collect input on how to start the project

Priority 7. Developing demand-driven and well-tailored training and education

NO gave an update on the Baltic Excellence Programme (BEP) later under agenda point 7.

Updates on the Joint Position

Vineta Polatside from the CBSS secretariat presented the changes in the JP. The updated version will be sent out after the meeting for comments. Priorities are changed to be more flexible and more inclusive. There are now 5 priorities, instead of 7 as before, and one overall strategy priority (priority 5 and 7 have been emerged into other priorities).

- The revised version will be send out for additional comments **the 10th December at the latest.**

Please find specific information about the changes in the separate presentation attached.

NO open comment: **NO** believes the changes are good and give more flexibility. Planning a GD meeting in May-June with a signing ceremony, unless the revision process turns out to be more comprehensive.

LV open comment: need to take into account other strategies from EU when developing these priorities. Support the direction and vision in this.



5. New Common structure for Rules of Procedure including overview of the ToR – presentation of proposals for SG work by PACs and open discussion. Way forward

- Julia Fredriksson (MSB SE) presented new Rules of Procedure.
- Updated and approved the Terms of Reference for PA Secure steering group need to be submitted to the NC group by 1st December and operational from 1st July.

The Rotation order for the countries Presidency in the SG was discussed. Proposal:

- Synchronise the Presidency in the PA Secure SG with the CBSS Presidency with some adjustments covering the non-EU countries Presidency in CBSS.
- Non-EU countries can be members/observers upon SG consensus and NC endorsement
- Updated ToR will be sent out after the meeting for fast comments and approval through the silent procedure before the 1st of December.

Open comments:

EE: in general in favour of the new proposals. Will discuss within organisation. Willing to participate in this work.

FI: have had discussions on these suggestions internally with relevant units within the Ministry. If the proposal goes through, we are happy to host the presidency for 1,5 years and organise 2 extra meetings.

DE: positive to the proposal and has no problem to chair and host PA Secure meetings. Question if there are possibilities to get a financial support for PA Secure SG meetings. Need to discuss with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Believes that it is better if everyone had the same presidency time but OK with chairing for 1,5 years as a special arrangement.

LV: Since NCG group decided, we should follow. Organising purposeful, content-driven presidency will be challenging but it will make us look at cooperation at a new angle.

PL: need more time to discuss this proposal internally. Do not see any obstacles, but need to discuss it. It was expected and we are in favour of it.

SE: PACs will support countries in the presidency as usual. Regarding funding, additional funding for PA Secure SG meetings could be discussed with NCs.

CBSS: we will not change the well-working mechanism of coordination of PA Secure. PACs will continue working as main organizers for PA Secure meetings and providers of venue when needed. National presidency will add an extra push to cooperation and chairmanship is rather an opportunity than a burden.

NO: want to continue as a member of PA Secure as a non-EU country. Regarding two extra meetings on presidency (in addition to CBSS CPN), we need to look over our resources, this task is time-consuming and funding issue need to be solved.

6. Presentation of the concept note on a potential initiative in crisis communication for different vulnerable groups by CBSS Secretariat. Moderated discussion

CBSS Vineta Polatside presented the initiative that CBSS Secretariat is proposing regarding inclusive crisis communication to vulnerable groups such as elderly, children or migrants.

Specific information about the initiative could be find in separate Concept note attached.

Comments:

Henrik Olinder (MSB): We are all vulnerable in different ways. Several groups have already established their own channels for crisis communication and these groups say that we should not invent new

include authorities and then civil society actors in this project.

Nina Springer (senior lecturer, Södertörn University): important subject. Identified four different aspects in the proposal: different crises, different targets groups, different communication phenomena and different stages of crises. Depending on the resources available, Nina suggest that the focus not on

several aspects but on the few. The initiative could also work as a platform. Need to understand how the needs are not meet. Important to think about how to reach the groups that are not usually reached.

Open comments:

UBC: informed that they will be interested in this initiative.

NO: positive to the initiative, ministries in NO have requested DSB and the Directorate for Integration and Diversity (IMDi) to develop a report within this area, although the focus is on immigrants only. They come up with 30 recommendations for authorities. Important to acknowledge volunteers organizations role in crisis communication.

DE: support the initiative and is interested in cooperation regarding this.

CBSS secretariat: the next step could be to form a small planning group and think about funding for the project.

7. Reflection of the teaser event and information on the coming CPN Presidency activities, Norway

CBSS secretariat emphasize that the event was very successful. Dag Olav Hogvold (Norway, DSB) explain that DSB was very impressed by the number of participants, up to 49 participants. Looking forward to the event in March (BEP) where we will look deeper into disaster prevention. Asks states to start process of nominating candidates (information about the course will be send out soon). Another coming event is the Senior Experts meeting in April. Planned dates for the GD meeting 31st May - 1st June 2022 (TBC).

8. Announcements and AOB – all MS

Mr. Petri KOISTINEN from DG REGIO informed that the implementing acts 2021-2027 hopefully will be adopted by the end of the year . The next Macro-Regional Week are under development. The annual report on the Macro-Regional Strategies will be coming out by the end of the year. The next year is the European Year of Youth.

No other announcements

9. Summary, plans for the next meeting and closing of the meeting

- SG was updated on activities related to PA Secure priorities
- Overview of the implementation of the JP will be updated and sent to the Steering Group
- The reviewed version of the JP will be send out to CPN countries for comments by the 10th December.
- Discussed new Rules for Procedures and proposal for Presidency rotating order in the Steering Group
- The revised version of ToR will be sent out, for comments and then for approval, all before 1st December.