



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE



Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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

18<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting  
Hamburg, 15-16 December 2022

### MINUTES

#### **Participants**

*See attached participants list.*

**Thursday, 15 December**

#### **Opening of the Meeting**

The German chair and PACs welcomed to the meeting.

The agenda was adopted by the Steering Group.

#### **1. Latest Updates from PACs**

- Format of SG was discussed. Workshop in Tønsberg established that SG meetings need topical focus, hence the inclusion of guest speakers on dumped munitions and crisis communication
- PAC updates (including cross-sectoral work, meetings, Ukrainian initiatives, etc.)
- Project updates (FIRE-IN, NEEDS, BALTinnoSEC, ChYResilience, Secure KIDS, future projects)

#### **2. Updates from a representative of Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue**

The *Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2022: Civil Security Edition* and [Baltic Sea Youth Declaration](#) are presented to the SG.

The respective outcome (papers) will be shared with the SG who is asked by the Youth to read/use them and consider how to include Youth in the PA Secure work.

#### **3. In focus - Dumped munitions**

**Primer on dumped munitions.** Prof. Jacek Bełdowski (*presentation attached*)

In connection to other activities like the Roundtable on Dumped Munitions in Kiel, 12-13 December 2022, Prof. Jacek Bełdowski gives a presentation on dumped munitions, including information on the environmental effects.

#### Q&A

1. Q: PA Steering Group members are representatives of international civil protection agencies (it is usually not their task to deal with dumped munitions, as coast guards or navy) – how can they contribute to problem solving in the area of dumped munitions?

A:

- development of strategies and procedures
- cooperation and establishing of contacts

- testing technology
- means of handling the munitions/ transportation/ destruction
- sharing of data (restricted vs. publicly)

**Example of local actions.** Dr.-Ing. Kay Winkelmann (*presentation attached*)

Leading deeper into the topic, Dr. Kay Winkelmann presents the local perspectives to problems of dealing with munition dumpsites, corrosion, new construction projects, clearance and more. Moreover, he introduces the overall extent/ scale of munitions dumped into the sea (not only dump sides, but left over munition from war activity, etc.).

#### 4. Implementation of the Joint Position

Roundtable: Updates of MS on coordinating JP priorities. Discussion.

**Overall priority. Building a common societal security culture (CSSC)**

There is an agreement that all activities are supporting the overall priority.

**Priority nr. 1. Combining national efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

- LV reports on continuation of national efforts
- PACs report about contribution to [UNDRR Sendai Framework Midterm Review](#), working on a follow-up to the CASCADE project, upcoming [CBSS PSF call](#) with a focus on security/climate change
- FI will support LV in implementing this priority during FI presidency while continuing on some priorities from DE presidency.

**Priority nr. 2. Enhancing resilience of the BSR to disasters**

DE reports on the Dumped munitions roundtable in Kiel, voices idea of Baltic Excellence Programme (BEP) potentially picking up on the submerged munitions theme, and suggests making use of Exchange of Experts programme for BSR.

**Priority nr. 3. Increasing cross-sectoral cooperation and partnerships.**

PACs/CBSS list cooperation with HELCOM on dumped munitions and volunteer initiatives VOALA+BYFORES.

- PA Secure SG members joined the workshop on potential project on capacity building with Ukraine based on ongoing MSB initiative
- incoming FI presidency will work on engaging Ukraine in its activities.

**Priority nr. 4. Building capacity of Member States in the civil security area.**

The 11<sup>th</sup> BEP (28/2-2/3/2023) is named as an example; content tbc. with inclusion of dumped munitions, youth engagement, early warning systems.

**Priority 5. Supporting mutually beneficial interaction between research and practitioners.**

- PL reports on the BALTinnoSEC pilot forum with focus on “risk and crisis communication”.
- CBSS mentions ERASMUS+ project NEEDS.

#### Discussion/ Decisions

- Wednesday 18th January 2023 for online interactive meeting on possible use of EU Exchange of Experts in the region 10.00-11.30 CET (CBSS sends calendar invite)
- PACs + Troika will have a meeting about BEP programme



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE



Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

- ALL to think about whom to bring to BALTinnoSEC pilot Forum on 27/1/23, any of the 3 panels (CBRN, mass migration in the context of war, natural disasters).

## 5. Support letter from the SG on Policy Area Secure Coordinators work for Interreg report.

PACs need to submit to the Interreg's Joint Secretariat the Support letter from the SG together with the first year report. The template to be circulated among SG members for the silent procedure.

### AOB and organisational remarks

#### End of first day

Friday, 16 December

#### Opening of second day

## 6. In focus – crisis communication

**Primer on crisis communication.** Prof. Dr. Nina Springer, University of Münster, Department of Communication (*presentation attached*)

Prof. Springer presents on the basics of crisis communication, focussing on giving general information and definitions of crisis communication, looking at different stages of crisis in connection to communication, as well as sharing aspects to consider when writing a project application.

Q&A

**Risk and crisis communication in action.** Dr. Su Anson, Head of Innovation and Research, Trilateral Research, findings, lessons learnt and recommendations from projects [COVINFORM](#), [PROACTIVE](#), [RiskPACC](#), [STAMINA](#), [PANDEM-2](#)) (*presentation*)

Dr. Anson is further going into the topic by shedding a light on crisis/ risk communication in practice by giving examples of some EU projects (at least partly connected to health and the pandemic), as well as lessons learnt and recommendations of components like audience, trust or communication channels.

Q&A

## 7. Updates on EUCPM Knowledge Network

Kristine Fedotova, State Fire and Rescue Service, Latvia (+**discussion on how PA Secure can contribute to the Knowledge Network**) (*presentation attached*)

Kristine Fedotova starts her presentation with an insight on EUCPM, to continue further with the introduction to and development of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network: such as the need for it as knowledge broker, partnership facilitator and innovation catalyst, the operational structure, as well as activities.



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE



Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

(NB: there is an option to join as an organisation by registration at [www.civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/](http://www.civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/))

#### Q&A

1. How can PA Secure contribute to the Knowledge Network?
  - join the Network as organisations and/or region (CBSS, PA Secure, UBC...)
  - share stories of what is done (projects, etc.) on the Network's website
2. What can Knowledge Network do for PA Secure/ our work?
  - it can help sharing the stories/activities/results from project as it has a wider reach
  - NEEDS community could potentially be introduced in it.

Also: recommendation to participate in the EUCPM training course and/or Exchange of Experts programme

### 8. Tour de table

**DK** mentions the new government and Covid no longer being considered a societal threat. Furthermore, DK's national focus is on working on its strategy for security including total defence and empty stockpiles, with the mapping having started also during pandemic. When it comes to international cooperation, the Faroe Islands expressed a wish to be more involved.

**EE** reports being focused on internal actions related to Ukraine and (early) warning systems. Regarding international cooperation, EE mentions Ukraine related meetings, and regular meetings with the Baltic neighbours (also B3, UA, PL and EU) about security concerns. One visit had been made to Ukraine and one to Georgia to learn about their situation.

**FI** reports about the ongoing cooperation with Sweden regarding the NATO membership. The Ukraine is still on the top of the agenda, as are citizens preparedness and the national administrative reform (from 1/1/2023 – social welfare and rescue services will be merged). FI (SPEK) is also working on the topic of forest fires in the Barents region and preparing for the chairmanship after DE.

**DE** concentrates on the ongoing presidency activities and is very involved in both PA Secure related projects (BALTinnoSEC, VOALA, Dumped Munitions Roundtable, Youth BSYD, etc.) and non-related ones (Interschutz, Civil Protection Forum in Brussels, etc.). On a national level, DE reports about dealing with support to the Ukraine, HFRS's 150 years anniversary, training of German colleagues for EUCPM and states that HFRS is happy to welcome interns from partners' institutions.

**LV** reports about the B3 (Baltic 3), UA, PL and EU meeting on the concerns of the bordering countries to RU and on how to strengthen the EU disaster response in general. Nationally, LV is organising outgoing assistance, visits to Poland and Ukraine and coordination of migration influx. Changes in government and administration are the new Minister of Interior (as of 15/12/2022) and a new deputy chief at VUGD. Upcoming activities are a national civil protection table-top exercise (CBRN as main challenge) and two new projects (project within the UCPM Single Country Grants for Disaster Risk Management (Track 1), 2. Study project on how to build up national stockpiles).

**LT** was equally involved in BS meetings on security in border region. They also held a bilateral working group with Poland (to have a joint exercise on CBRN), visited Poland regarding fire and social prevention and visited Finland regarding shelters. LT reports about twinning project in Armenia with MSB being concluded (assistance with civil protection legislation). Furthermore, there are ongoing discussions with Lithuanian NCM office on potential common



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE



Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

projects. On the national level parliament adopted a new crisis management law for national crisis management (= National Crisis Management Centre under government beginning in January, agencies will get new roles).

**NO** had chaired the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention CoP-12 conference; welcoming Ukraine as 47<sup>th</sup> member. Otherwise, NO reports working on the Sendai Framework and plans a conference on innovation and technology for DRR (for all under EEA/NOR grants) which had to be postponed. NO assistance to Ukraine includes medical evacuation operations under EUCPM plus delivering additional equipment.

**PL** reports about its multi & bilateral meetings with countries including Baltic States, assistance to Ukraine, ResceEU, CBRN, stockpiling and awareness rising. PL is counting 20 initiatives with other countries (trainings, etc.) and works on its new Act in Civil Protection (currently with parliament). Other actions include cooperation with Georgia on IT topics, and EU activities.

**SE** highlights working on NATO membership issues. SE reports on the new structure for civil defence (starting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, [forming 10 sectors](#)) with MSB being a responsible agency for one sector (Emergency Services and Civil Protection) – this means establishing a new structure and including private sector in civil security efforts. SE is working with the incoming EU presidency and presidency events: its overall priorities include security (Ukraine) and working to further improve EUCPM response. New government in Sweden, MSB have moved to the MoD and have a minister in charge for civil defence.

**UBC** reports of working with support to Ukraine, being part of several (CBSS) projects like Secure Kids, NEEDS, follow-up to CASCADE, and is involved in the European Week for Cities and Regions.

## 9. Conclusions, next steps and upcoming dates

- Next meetings within CBSS CPN and PA Secure:
  - CBSS CPN BEP – 28/2-2/3 2023
  - CBSS CPN Senior Experts Meeting – 18-20/4
  - Policy Area Secure Steering Group Meeting – 31/5-1/6
  - CBSS CPN Directors General Meeting – 20-21/6

### AOB & End of second day

- PACs remind to consider participation in new projects, and to join the interactive session in January on Exchange of Experts
- PACs conclude by summarising and thanking HFRS for hosting.
- DE thanks for participation and presentations.