

PA Secure/CBSS CPN Online Interactive session

18 January 2023

Theme: Utilising UCPM Exchange of Experts Programme (EoE) for implementing the Joint Position

Brief summary of the meeting

Participants:

DE (Jürgen Krempin, Pascal Haak)

DK (Lise Dragø-Lauersen)

EE (Ketlin Tammsalu)

LT (Ieva Monika Jankuvienė)

LV (Ivars Nakurts, Kristīne Fedotova)

NO (Torill Tandberg, Dag Olav Hogvold)

SE (Julia Fredriksson)

PL (Adrian Bucalowski)

UBC Safe Cities Commission (Kaspars Vārpiņš)

CBSS Secretariat (Vineta Polatside, Andriy Martynenko, Franziska Seufert)

FI (Jari Honkanen) sent written input

Guest speaker: Roxana Branda, CN APELL-RO

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- Roxana Branda, representative of the EoE main programme coordinator, briefed the participants about the main details of the EoE and encouraged getting full information on <https://www.exchangeofexperts.eu/>
 - Organisational principles of EoE, most relevant for BSR:
 - EoE is not used for organising conferences
 - Not more than 10 experts can be funded per exchange
 - All applications are individual, carried out on the website and must be approved by [the National Training Coordinators](#) (if, for example, experts from 8 countries participate, 8 applications and 8 approvals from NTC are expected plus an approval from the host country NTC)
 - From application to approval – it takes ca 2-3 weeks
 - From approval it takes ca 2 months till the exchange can take place (it can be sped up by host country intensifying logistical preparations).
 - There are no precedents for macro-regional/international organisations applying for EoE and no “groups” or “batches” processing so far
 - Priorities for EoE are on the main website, but DG ECHO might be responsive to a request for a particular theme if it deemed important by CPN/PA Secure, for example.

- After a brief discussion it was agreed that **using EoE as an instrument for implementing the priorities of the Joint Position will be beneficial for intensifying international collaboration in societal security in BSR** and should be explored by CPN/PA Secure.
- It was also agreed that approaching EoE as a macro-regional network is beneficial for the BSR since it allows to determine a need for certain capacity building more precisely and reduce the bureaucracy of the process. It can be done by handling the preparatory process of choosing the topic, nominating experts and drafting motivation for applications centrally at the network level and applying as an international organisation (in our case - CBSS).
- Our network has at least two members (DE and LV) with extensive experience in successfully conducted EoE and who could assist with application process should such need arise.
- CBSS will provide technical and administrative support with filling in the applications, drafting reports etc.
- Several proposals of incorporating the EoE into the BSR networks' activities were voiced:
 - Synchronise EoE with CBSS/PA Secure presidency (might increase burden on the presidency country)
 - EoE organiser (host country) could be the next (incoming) presidency country on any given year ("good warm-up" for the presidency)
 - EoE can support the presidency country's priorities
 - A presidency can decide to organise an EoE parallel to or instead of a BEP
 - We should look beyond the BSR for EoE and use this opportunity to explore potential knowledge exchange with other countries/macro-regions

Input from FI: Finland supports the idea to use EoE in BSR cooperation and proposes to discuss an opportunity to organise a CBRN themed EoE with Finland as a host.

Next steps:

1. CBSS (also as a co-PAC Secure) sends a letter to APPEL with a request to consider accepting applications for EoE from an international organization on behalf of the macro-regional network. The letter will be forwarded to the European Commission for their answer.
2. CBSS will present a concept paper (together with the answer from the EC) at the next SPN Senior Experts meeting in Berlin in April for group's decision.

AOB

- BALTinnoSEC Forum (panels on crisis and risk communication in war, influx of migrants, natural disaster and CBRNM accident) will take place in Warsaw on January 27th– there are still places for participation – [registration here](#) and contact andriy.martynenko@cbss.org for more info
- [CBSS Project Support Facility](#) will open its next call for seed money projects with focus on climate change on 15 February 2023
- Upcoming BEP in Hamburg will have blocks on children and youth in DRR, energy independency, early warning systems and dumped munitions: date 1-3 March 2023. [Register here](#)