

# CBRN CoE NEWSLETTER

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Smartphone users can install  
an application with a QR-code  
scanner to read the code



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## COE PROJECTS

The third round-table meeting of the African Atlantic Façade, held on March 19th-20th 2013 in Rabat Morocco, was the opportunity for the already nominated national focal points and experts from Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal, along with representatives from Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia and Togo to discuss their needs together with the National Focal Point and an expert from Tunisia.

On the first day, Equatorial Guinea showed its interest in chemical waste management issues as the country is a large producer of chemical waste. This topic, together with biological waste management was also of particular interest for Togo. The needs and capabilities of each country in this area were further debated the next day between national experts.

Following the discussions, several AAF partner countries communicated the will to participate in a common project. Further Feedback regarding EU experts' presentations gave the necessary material to the formulation of the proposal for project 35. This 42-month project includes a regulatory and technical inventory phase followed by a training phase in order to enhance (or initiate) best practices in hazardous chemical and biological waste management. Aspects related to sampling, detection, measurement, protection, decontamination, mitigation, transport, containment, site remediation and disposal should be tailored to each country, while keeping as much a regionally consistent approach as possible. This will include the elaboration of comprehensive standard procedures and technology solutions for Chemical and Biological. Furthermore, the NFPs who confirmed their interest were involved in the preparation of the project's terms of reference and the AAF Head of Secretariat took part in the evaluation of implementers' offers. The implementation of project 35 has been awarded to a con-

sortium led by the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIAPP), Spain.

This is the first CoE project, for which a Head of Secretariat is a member of the Project Managing board. Partner Countries will not only be involved in the decision-making process and the selection of the priorities to be pursued, but they will also instil into the project the preferences that will enable them to achieve their objectives and define, if needed, a tailored methodology. Local stakeholders will be involved in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the area, and guarantee improved communication between Consortium and Partner Countries. Their participation in the project should encompass the whole implementation process and all work packages to ensure that activities are tailored to the country's needs. These steps are essential in order to achieve sustainability of the actions pursued under this project.

### Public Health impact mitigation projects

A series of public health related projects are being implemented since January 2014 in the Middle East, North Africa and South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine Regions:

#### PROJECT 36



Further development and consolidation of the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

This is a follow-up to a project aiming at enhancing health security in the Mediterranean region by supporting capacity building for the prevention and control of natural or man-made threats to health posed by communicable diseases through the establishment of a long-term Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). This new project will help to consolidate a competent public health workforce in field epidemiology capable of facing national and cross-border emergencies posed by communicable diseases. Its activities will be implemented over 48 months by the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIAPP), Spain, and they include the following:

1. Training of national trainers in field epidemiology and promoting the creation of a regional network of trainers;
2. Training field epidemiologists for prevention and control of communicable diseases.
3. Establishing a network of MediPIET training centres for long-term, or shorter modules, training.

#### PROJECT 37



MEDILABSECURE - Establishment of networks of human and animal virology laboratories and of medical entomology

This project is based on the Epi-South-Plus project which aimed at creating a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve

As part of the communication and knowledge sharing elements, the consortium has developed a website: <http://www.cbrncoe35.eu/>



## COE PROJECTS

communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans. MEDILABSECURE objective is to create a framework for collaboration on reference laboratories issues to improve communicable diseases surveillance and communication and provide training for public health experts in the participating countries. Over 48 months, a consortium led by the Institut Pasteur, France, will implement the following activities:

- Developing a first cluster of laboratories for awareness, risk assessment, monitoring and control of emerging or re-emerging viruses with vector transmission.
- Launching a second cluster for awareness, monitoring and control of emerging respiratory viruses comprising several work packages for human health, animal health and public health.
- Capacity building of national laboratories in preparedness and response to emerging zoonotic (transmitted from animal to human) viruses and respiratory viruses.

### PROJECT 38



#### Export control outreach for dual use items.

This project will target the Central Asia and Middle East regions. The German Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) is in charge of its implementation since July 2013. It aims at enhancing the effectiveness of export control systems of dual-use items in the partner countries with a specific attention to the regional dimension, with a view to contribute to the fight against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and related materials, equipment and technologies.

To achieve its goal this 24-month

project will associate information sharing on applicable areas relevant to export control, training needs assessments for participating countries, information providing to EU policy makers on export control standards in partner countries and on regional developments; combining efforts and improving synergies and resources with other technical assistance providers, recommendations and support on legislation, legal provisions for prosecution and knowledge transfer on interagency cooperation, awareness raising about the importance of export control measures with regard to export control and non-proliferation.

### PROJECT 39



#### Strengthening health security at ports, airports and ground crossings

Today's high volume traffic at airports, ports and ground crossings - points of entry, can play an important role in the natural or intentional spread of diseases. If countries are unprepared and appropriate measures are not in place to control potential risks, the impact to public health would be adverse. This represents the basis for this 24-month project implemented by the recognised experts concerned with international public health of the WHO. Benefitting the Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa, and South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine regions, it aims to increase health security within travel and transport, in a multi-sectorial approach, in order to minimize risks in association with natural or deliberate released hazards.

This goal will be achieved mainly through activities such as fostering collaboration, information and knowledge

sharing, developing technical guidance for points of entry activities, managing public health and public health emergency preparedness and response at points of entry.

### PROJECT 40



#### Strengthening health laboratories to minimize potential biological risks

Under International Health Regulations (IHR) 2012, countries are required to develop and maintain the capacity to detect, investigate and report to the international community through WHO, public health events of potential international concern. In this context project 34's overall objective is to minimize potential biological risks through the enhancement of laboratory biosafety, biosecurity, quality management and diagnostic capacity. This project implemented by WHO will benefit the Central Asia, Middle East, South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine regions. Over a 36-month period the project will support the development of nationally-owned laboratory policies, strategies norms and regulations; engage institutional and individual capacity building efforts through the implementation of appropriate tools, methodologies and training activities. It will also enhance the ability of Partner countries to safely and rapidly detect and respond to natural or deliberate events of national and international concern according to the IHR through support to laboratory networks, and support national, regional and global laboratory networks aiming at detecting potential biological or other threats, such as emerging and dangerous pathogens.