

## Another way of creating CBRN Defence related Centres of Excellence CoE: The European Union (EU) CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative

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### First: A brief introduction of the European Union (EU) CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative

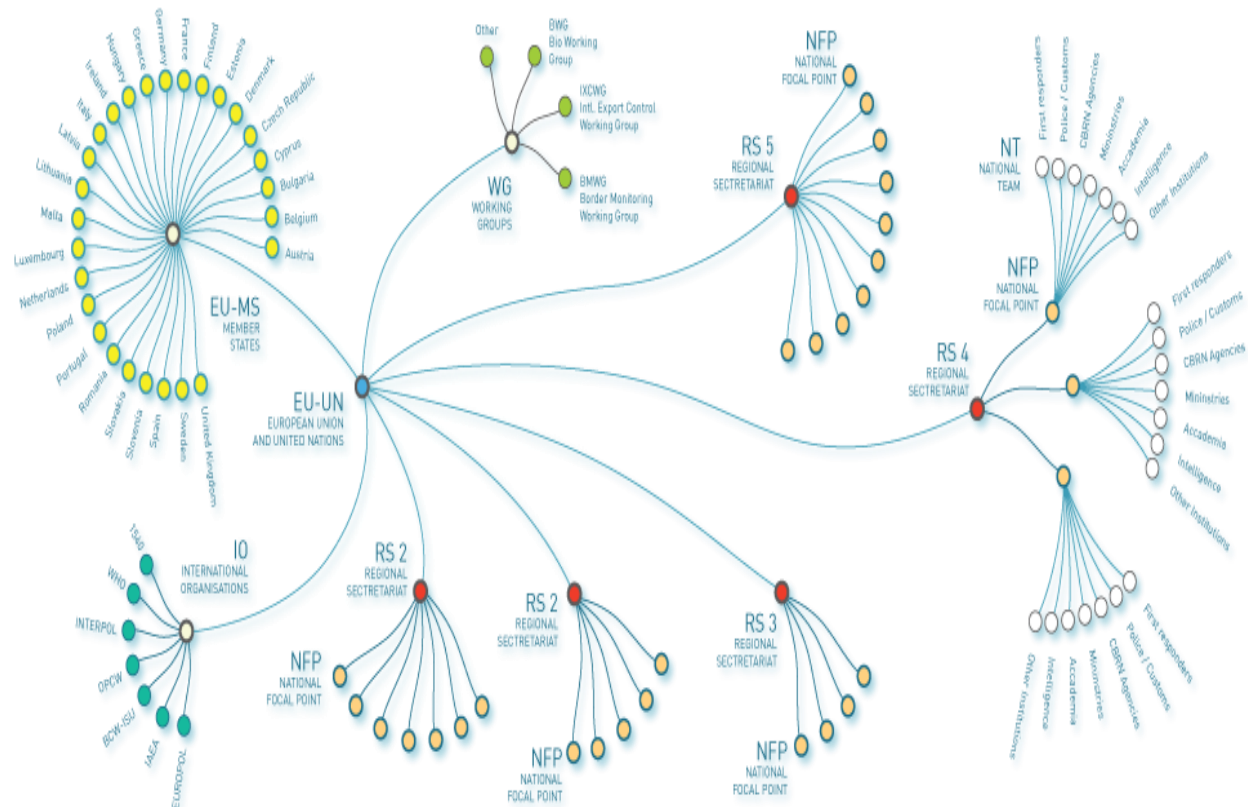


*in a nutshell*

As we all know how NATO's Centres of Excellence (COEs) are in general organized as NATO military bodies and multi-nationally sponsored organizations which offer recognized expertise and experience to the benefit of the Alliance and other partners, the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE initiative is something totally different.

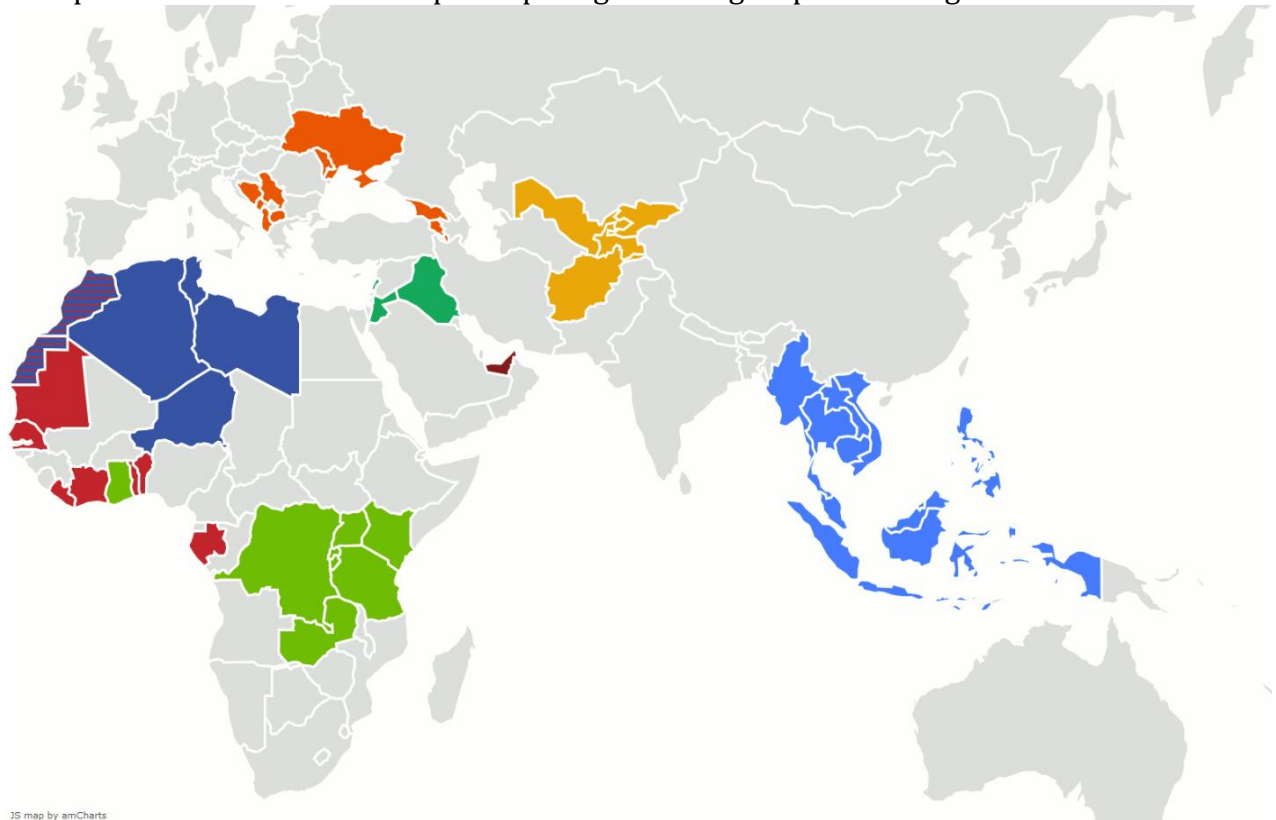
This 9-year-old or should I better say young EU initiative aims to strengthen regional security by increasing local ownership, local expertise and long-term sustainability. It is centred around a worldwide network of local experts and collaborating partners. In addition, it avoids a traditional top-down approach and works in partnership with countries to encourage local ownership of CBRN action plans, policies and project proposals.

This figure shows the complexity, the partners, the outreach and methodology of the initiative:



The idea is, together with the United Nation and other international organizations building up a system of countries put together in a regional approach with regional secretariats, national focal points and national teams in order strengthening and promoting security in the area of CBRN.

This picture shows the various participating Nations grouped in 8 Regions:



Up to now 66 countries are grouped in 8 regions around the globe and each country is encouraged to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) which is based on a National threat assessment reflecting the specific local circumstances. As a next step Regional Action Plans (RAP) are already in development.

But this is by far not enough. In total 82 CBRN Defence related projects, focused on each country needs are providing real support, e.g. CBRN-Waste-Management, CBRN Forensics, Mobile CBRN Laboratories, Dual-use-goods, etc.). 60 % of these concrete projects are related to Training, 24 % are focused on Inter-institutional network activities, 12 % are Table-Top-Exercises and 7 % serving Awareness-rising.

Another smart idea by the EU EC DG DEVCO, who runs this initiative, is to motivate the various countries and regions creating a sort of competition by vaunting awards in various categories like the best regional success story, the best regional CBRN innovative / creative proposals or the best CBRN Defence related PhD studies.

### **Second: The role of the JCBRN Defence COE – how we might support and interact**

The JCBRN Defence COE is taking part in the EU CBRN CoE Initiative events already on a regular base and there are some relations and outputs of this cooperation and coordination. E.g. participating in the Centre's Life Agents training in Vyskov is used by a quite a number of students affiliated to the EU CBRN CoE Initiative, covered by the Project-No. 68: Support to training for CBRN Centres of Excellence partners countries. 11 students from 2 regional Secretariats, Central Asia – Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia) and South East and Eastern Europe – Georgia, Azerbaijan, North Macedonia took part in the course in October 2019.

This picture shows the possible ways of cooperation:



Another direct linked support was the support of the evaluation of the United Arab Emirates CBRN capabilities, conducted in Abu Dhabi also in October 2019.

This picture shows the participants of the Abu Dhabi visit:



For 2020 there is planned to conduct a JCBRND Defence COE Mobile Training Solution supporting Morocco, either in Rabat or Casa Blanca.

A bunch of supporting possibilities, future ways of even closer cooperation and coordination was introduced by the Deputy Director in close coordination with the coordinators of the EU HORIZON 2020 eNOTICE project (Prof. Jean-Luc Gala and Dr. Olga Vyborno) <https://www.h2020-enotice.eu/> in a kind of triloggy session in November 2019 in Brussels when the Heads of Regional Secretariats had their annual meeting. According to our mandate and within our capacities we might support our sister-CoE by offering residential courses, mobile training solutions, e-learning but also to some extend reachback and modelling & simulation capabilities. And regarding the eNOTICE

project, some EU CBRN CoE Initiative related training centres could also be part of and visible in the eNOTICE Training Centres Catalogue.

In summary, the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative is a completely different idea of creating CoEs and in my point of view a very successful one because it strengthens security and stability in many sensitive areas around the globe and one might state:

*Their security is our security.*