

Interview on ENISA's first pan-European CIIP exercise
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First of all, what does CIIP stand for?

It stands for Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.

What is the background to this first pan-European CIIP exercise?

The idea for the first pan-European exercise was proposed by the European Commission in their CIIP Action Plan in 2009. The Tallinn Ministerial conference confirmed the importance of the first pan-European exercise and asked the Commission, the Member States and of course ENISA to work together for the implementation of this idea by the end of 2011. After that the Member States started to mobilise resources accordingly.

You have now had four preparatory workshops for the first pan-European CIIP exercise. What have you been focusing on in these workshops?

The first workshop was in the beginning of January. We then started to plan the exercise and position it among the Member States to get their views and agree upon the exercise.

We also created a team of planners from different Member States and started working together on the tasks, planning, the scenario, policies, etc.

During the second workshop, ENISA and the planners submitted the planning and asked the Member States if they agree with the tasks, deadlines etc.

During the third workshop, held in Tallinn in May, ENISA and the planners discussed with all Member States the ideas for different scenarios, and during the fourth workshop in June, we finalised the scenario details, policies for the observers, media policies, infrastructure logistics etc.

In addition to these preparatory workshops we will also have a training seminar in September. We will also test the infrastructure before the exercise in November.

Who is participating in these planning workshops?

First of all, there was a significant interest for these planning workshops and a lot of the Member States are taking part in these discussions. Some of the Member States are extremely active and have also volunteered to help organise and plan the exercise. The team of planners involved staff from DK, FI, FR, HU, IT, PT, SE, UK, and the contribution of staff from ENISA and the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

There are also other Member States that are interested in participating, or have an interest in how the exercise develops and many of them will participate as observers.

At the moment all Member States have expressed interest in taking part in the exercise either as players or observers.

What organisations do the participants come from?

There are different profiles for the participating countries, which varies between the Member States. It depends on where the competences and experiences in each Member State lie. For example, in the Netherlands, the Ministry of Economic Affairs is responsible for this topic. In Sweden it is The Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS), who is the regulator. However, during the exercise itself the countries will also include other players from other relevant organisations.

What are the main objectives of the pan-European CIIP exercise?

The main objective of the exercise is to bring the Member States together and enhance the Member States' coordination efforts during a crisis. We also want to test the Member States' abilities to find the right contacts and assess the competences in the other Member States during a crisis. This is the first time we have a pan-European CIIP exercise, i.e. the first time that the Member States come together and work on a NIS related topic. We are all very much looking forward to this and we have been spending a lot of time analysing what the best approach for this kind of exercise is. Several Member States have already had national exercises.

You can, of course, not reveal the scenario for the exercise, but could you give us a general idea of what the scenario will look like?

The general idea is that the Internet will become gradually unavailable, and as a result citizens, businesses and public institutions could not access critical online services. As the phenomenon will continue one Member State after the other will increasingly suffer from this problem.

In that case, all Member States have to co-operate to jointly respond to such crisis.

What is ENISA's role in the pan-European exercise?

The Member States are the drivers of this exercise. ENISA and EU Commission's JRC facilitate, organise and manage the exercise.

Where will the pan-European exercise take place?

The exercise will be distributed to the participating Member States, but the head quarter of the exercise will be in Athens, at ENISA's office in Athens. The head quarter will control the exercise and have the infrastructure. The participants will be in their respective premises in their Member States and will be contacted online and through phone calls.

Will all the Member States take part in the CIIP exercise?

Some of the Member States will participate in the exercise and others will participate as observers. One of the advantages of experienced Member States is that we can learn from the experiences gained from the Member States that have already carried out national exercises. These Member States are part of the planners, who give advice for the pan-European exercise.

What is the private sector's role in these exercises?

The Member States decided from the very beginning that it is already a very ambitious exercise. Having the private sector taking part in this first pan-European exercise would add an additional complexity factor, which is the reason for including only the public sector in this exercise.

What do you think the main challenges will be?

First of all, this is only a theoretical scenario, and there might be different reasons for the Internet becoming unavailable. It is important that the Member States understand the reasons for the problems. This is the reason that they have to communicate with each other, and share knowledge and information and help each other during such crisis.

The main challenge is hard to say, but will of course be evaluated after the exercise. But one of the challenges is the coordination aspect, i.e. bringing the Member States together during a crisis. It is important that the Member States are proactive and creative in the event of a crisis like this.

What are your recommendations in general when it comes to CIIP?

One of the recommendations that we give to the Member States is to run national exercises. They have to test their measures and they have to take action. If every Member State runs national exercises there will be a readiness, and the Member States will be able to collaborate better at a pan-European level.

Does ENISA have any tools for the Member States' national exercises?

Yes, since this is such an important issue, ENISA has developed a good practice guide¹ that can be used for national exercises. We also host seminars in the Member States and we try to communicate the importance of these national exercises.

¹ <http://www.enisa.europa.eu/act/res/policies/good-practices-1/exercises>

What are the next steps, following this first pan-European exercise?

We will of course evaluate the exercise, and hopefully we will deliver a public report about the exercise at the end of the year or in the beginning of next year. Then we will have a consultation workshop to collect experiences and opinions from the participating Member States. We will also have a dialogue with the Member States on topics for future exercises, create future scenarios based on their input and create a roadmap for more complex exercises. We will also collaborate very closely with EuroCybex, a European project that will deliver an exercise next year. Next year we will also start planning for the second pan-European exercise.

For further information about ENISA's Resilience and CIIP Program, see:

<http://www.enisa.europa.eu/media/news-items/enisa-teams-up-with-member-states-on-pan-european-exercise>

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