

**Geopolitical overview: safety and security in  
Western and Eastern Europe with particular  
reference to new trends**

Highlighting new threats and an innovative approach to the  
necessary regional Knowledge Management Systems

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# The New Threat: terrorist use of WMD

## Three factors that make the prevention of CBRN material an urgent issue:

threat posed by violent non-state actors

technological innovation, non-state entities could build a CBRN device

existing responses or strategies are not suitable to deal with non-state actors



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## Dealing with Non-State Actors

Given the transnational nature of non-state actors they can be invisible entities which cannot be linked to any specific country.

The existing measures which are in place to prevent nation-states from obtaining WMDs might be outdated when dealing with international crime cartels and terrorist groups.

UNSC Resolution 1540: CBRN trafficking 'adds a new dimension to the issue of proliferation and also poses a threat to international peace and security'



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## The UN approach towards the problem of CBRN material

- The international concerns about CBRN material and weapons are not new issues.
- These materials were used in both the first and the second world wars and during the Cold War great amounts were produced.
- This escalation led the international community to make efforts to refrain states from developing capabilities in the area of CBRN weapons.
- The result was a network of interlocking treaties, organisations and multi-lateral inspections that aimed to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).



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# The UN approach towards the problem of CBRN material

- **Resolution 1540 by the UN Security Council**
- **International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**
- **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**
- **Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force**



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## UNICRI Activities

- UNICRI, a UN entity and a part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), contributes to the implementation of international agenda on the topic of WMD.
- UNICRI has developed the worldwide programme **Strengthening International Cooperation to Combat Illicit Trafficking and Criminal Use of CBRN Substances and Weapons**
- The aim of the Programme is to improve states' capabilities to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and criminal use of CBRN material.



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# CBRN Programme

- The aim is to improve States' capabilities to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and criminal use of CBRN material.
- Strengthen the **exchange of information on CBRN** among national authorities and international organisations
- Develop a **CBRN unified analysis** that combines analysis on illicit trafficking and criminal use of CBRN material
- Improve **national expertise and responses especially on illicit trafficking of biological and chemical material.**



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# Information Sharing and Improved Cooperation

- Rapid cross-border information sharing on CBRN incidents is vital in helping to identify illicit routes and deliver a fast and appropriate response.
- It is necessary to establish clear channels of communication and allocation of responsibilities to ensure a rapid and effective flow of information and optimise efforts.
- Failure to collect and share information among these bodies would make analysis more difficult.
- Currently there are several obstacles to effective communication that need to be addressed.



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# Innovative approach towards Regional Knowledge Management Systems

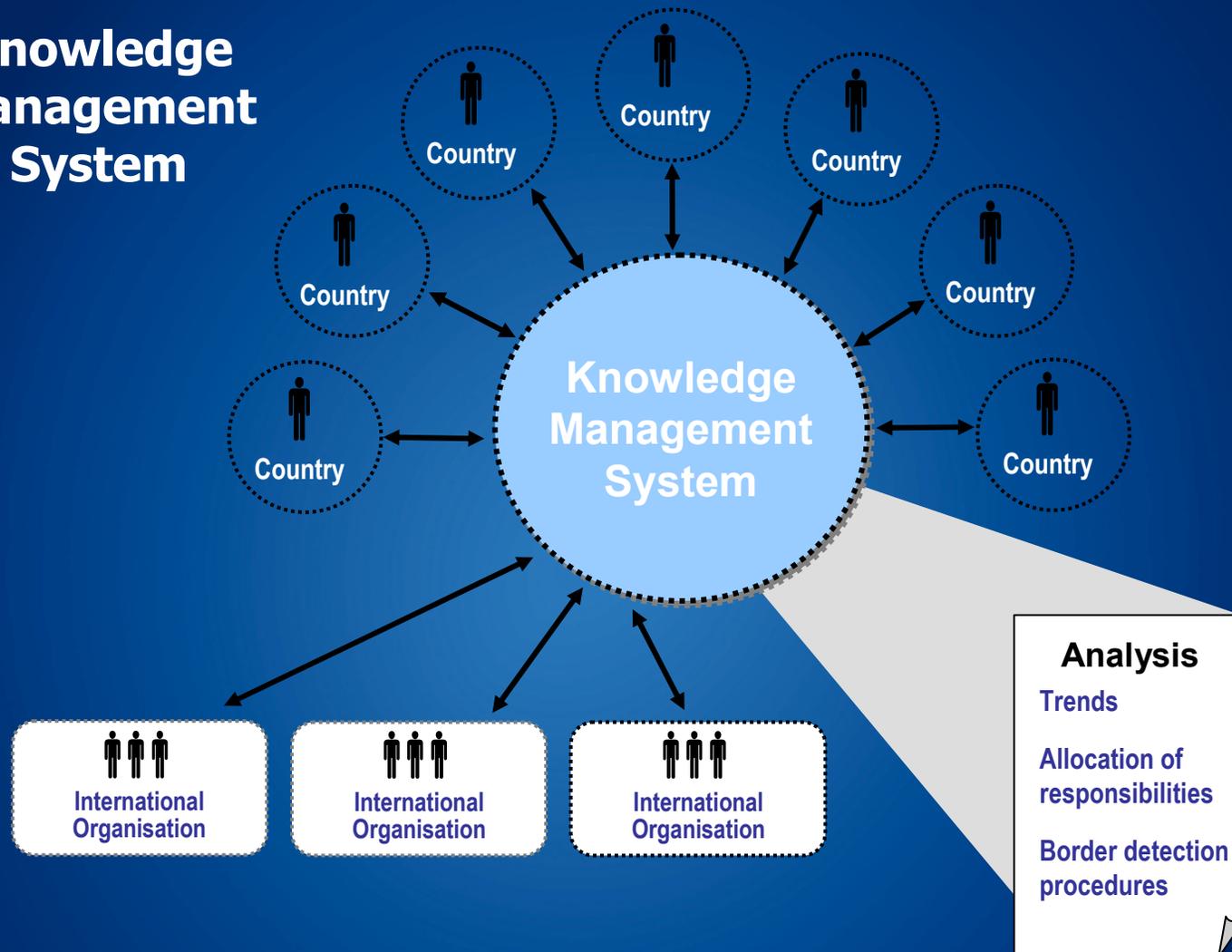
- The European Commission relied on UNICRI to develop regional Knowledge Management Systems, which promote sharing of information, best practices, and lists of national and regional experts.
- The aim of the systems is to promote and improve the exchange of information and knowledge among States, and between States and International/Regional Organisations.
- The KMS Project has been established with the full cooperation of IAEA, OPCW, Europol, WCO and Seci Center.



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# Knowledge Management System



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# Aims of Knowledge Management System

- **Promote and improve the exchange of information and knowledge among countries, and between countries and international organisations.**
- **Elaborate and promote analytical tools to produce regional risks assessments and identify overall national vulnerabilities and needs.**
- **Improve countries expertise in preventing the illicit trafficking of CBRN material by effectively managing the knowledge accumulated.**
- **Harmonise policies and measures to prevent incidents of illicit trafficking of biological and chemical material.**



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## Conclusions on the Role of the Knowledge Management System Project

- The system should, with time, become self-sustainable thus improving the States' capabilities to prevent the illicit trafficking of CBRN materials
- The system will draw from the existing knowledge and expertise
- UNICRI will have the role of facilitator, helping different stakeholders, States and organizations share all the available information and know-how



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# Thank you for your attention



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