



## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WARNING INFORMATION NETWORK

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**Abstract:** *Critical infrastructure protection carries particular informational needs (such as exchanging and sharing information about best practices when implementing critical infrastructure protection). Therefore, an idea of project, which would enable to satisfy not only these informational needs, emerged. We can speak about Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN). This paper's task is to inform its reader about what the CIWIN project brings us, what its goals are now and what they looked like in the past. It analyses its actual state and if and in what form it can be used in the future.*

**Key words:** *CIWIN, critical infrastructure protection, European critical infrastructure, network*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The security and economy of the European Union as well as the well-being of its citizens depend on certain infrastructure and the services they provide. For instance, telecommunication and energy networks, financial services and transport systems, health services, and the provision of safe drinking water and food are all crucial to the EU and its Member States. Any destruction or disruption of infrastructure providing key services, on one hand, and an inappropriate response to this kind of event, on the other, could entail loss of life, loss of property and a collapse of public confidence in the EU. Intricate interdependencies mean that a particular event may have a cascading effect on other sectors and areas of life which are not immediately and obviously interconnected. This kind of interconnectedness has been insufficiently researched, and the result may be insufficient critical infrastructure protection and security for EU citizens. (Council Decision, 2008)

The European Council asked European Commission to prepare a total strategy for protection of critical infrastructure already in June 2004. This strategy was finished by European Commission in December 2006 and it is called the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP). In connection with EPCIP the idea of Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN) was being developed. This was officially confirmed by Council Decision 2008/0200 (CNS) on a Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network in October 2008. This decision is also a legal regulation of CIWIN. In April 2009 European Parliament legislative resolution about CIWIN took place.

The project of Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network was and still is being developed by Belgian company UNISYS. The Unisys company also carried out a study on establishing CIWIN. A part of the study was to realize interviews regarding CIWIN in all 27 Member States. The study was finished in 2008.

### 2. THE REASONS OF FOUNDATION OF CIWIN

- Only a European approach can ensure that Member States that wish to share and receive information are treated

equally, that co-operation does not geographically discriminate against Member States, and that the information really does reach those who wish to receive it. (Council Decision, 2008)

- Critical infrastructure in the European Union is currently subjected to a varying puzzle of protective measures and obligations, with no minimum standards being applied horizontally. (Council Decision, 2008)
- No Member State alone can ensure a pan-European exchange of information or the exchange of rapid alerts. It is therefore clear that working at EU level provides the added value of coordinating items of information that might already be available but are not shared with others. (Council Decision, 2008)
- In the EU exist a number of sectoral rapid alert systems (RAS). The main difference between CIWIN and the existing RAS is the cross-sectoral nature of CIWIN. None of the existing RAS at this moment provide a horizontal and cross-sectoral functionality that would be accessible to a wider range of stakeholders (relevant national CIP agencies and ministries, etc) than just emergency services. (Council Decision, 2008)

CIWIN is part of EPCIP and was planned as an electronic forum engaged with the process of sharing information amongst the Member States of EU and the system of informational technologies for support of protection critical infrastructure. It was supposed to help Member States exchange information about shared threats, vulnerability and relevant measures and strategies to lower the risk connected with CIP. Therefore, CIWIN was supposed to be a compulsory system with two different functions. First of them was a platform for sharing information and exchanging of proven methods. The second function was planned system of rapid alert system. However, in the legislative resolution (from April 2009) is not included function the rapid alert system and Member State participation in the project CIWIN is in the level voluntariness.

### 3. THE FUNDAMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIWIN

- Exchange information in the field of CIP, to strengthen their CIP dialogue, and contribute towards promoting the integration and better coordination of nationally scattered and fragmented CIP research programmes. (Parliament legislative resolution, 2009)
- Improvement of CIP in the EU by providing an information system that could facilitate Member States' cooperation and coordination, and offer an efficient and quick alternative to time-consuming methods of searching for information on critical infrastructures in the Community. It should in particular stimulate the development of appropriate measures aimed at facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information, best practice and experience

between Member States. (Parliament legislative resolution, 2009)

- Avoid duplication and is heedful of the specific characteristics, expertise, arrangements and areas of competence of each of the existing sectoral rapid alert systems. (Parliament legislative resolution, 2009)

The main goal of CIWIN was to enable coordination and cooperation regarding information about protection of critical infrastructure on the EU level. Particularly it was supposed to provide safe and structured exchange of information and therefore enable its users to discover quickly and effectively proven techniques in other Member States. The specific goal of CIWIN was to encourage taking proper measures to make exchange of proven techniques easier. The system was supposed to ensure that “the right people will have the right information at the right time”.

#### 4. FUNCTIONALITY AND STRUCTURE OF CIWIN

As already mentioned, CIWIN shall be designed as an electronic forum for the CIP related to information exchange. The technical platform for CIWIN shall be present in at least one secure location in each Member State. The electronic forum shall be composed of fixed areas and dynamic areas. (Parliament legislative resolution, 2009)

The following figure shows the proposed structure of CIWIN (the current structure is without RAS).



Fig. 1. The CIWIN's Prototype (Council Decision, 2008)

##### 4.1 The fixed areas of CIWIN

Fixed areas shall be included in the system on a permanent basis. While their content may be adjusted, the areas may not be removed and renamed. Annex I contains a list of fixed areas. This does not preclude the inclusion of new areas if the functioning of the system demonstrates that it is necessary. These are the following areas:

- Member State Areas, offering each participating Member State the possibility to create its own area in the CIWIN portal,
- Sector Areas, with 11 separate sectors,
- CIWIN Executive Area, serving as a strategic coordination and cooperation platform,
- EU External Co-operation Area,
- Contact Directory.

##### 4.2 The dynamic areas of CIWIN

Dynamic areas shall be created upon demand, and shall serve a specific purpose. Their existence shall be terminated upon fulfilment of their initial purpose. These are the following areas:

- Expert Working Group Area, to provide support to the work of CIP Expert groups,
- Project Area, containing information on projects financed by the Commission,
- Special Topics Area, to focus on specific topics.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The idea of CIWIN appears to be an interesting solution of how to ensure informational support for the critical infrastructure protection field. Already the warning module released from a conception brought an interesting idea of transferring warning messages amongst Member States of the EU a therefore contribute to increase their security.

Unfortunately, the cardinal problem of CIWIN appears to be the fact that the essential part of the Member States does not identify itself with it. Joining the CIWIN project is optional, which considerably increases the indifference and unwillingness of participation of the Member States. This is only one of the reasons why CIWIN deals with problems. The main problem lies in its future, which is connected with the problem of financing in the times of budget reduction in all Member States. Furthermore, not only CIWIN does not eliminate duplicity (which is one of its main goals), but in actual state it even increases it. Disunity in point of view on CIWIN is reflected by a modification in 2009, when there was left out a part used for transferring of warning information - RAS. Another problem is, what results were reached by UNISYS company in this project and if these results correspond with the investments.

The main strategic goals in short term period for CIWIN should be consistent removal of duplicate systems for exchanging information amongst Member States and EU. Furthermore it should be finding a consensus on clear image of CIWIN and involving all the Member States in this project.

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