



Minutes of the 1st NISHA workshop

Lisbon, Portugal

30 January, 2013

Background of the project

The 2009 Communication from the European Commission on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection¹ pointed out the importance of CIIs for the economy and the societal growth of Europe. For this reason, Member States should have a mechanism to provide information sharing, early warning and alerting capabilities for all stakeholders. The FISHA project laid down the foundations of a common European information sharing and alerting system in the form of a prototype system, based on findings of the EISAS Feasibility Study done by ENISA.

The follow-up project, NISHA builds on the results of the predecessor project, developing it into a pilot system, where the functionalities of the IT system and the usability of the outreach concept can be tested in real environment.

The NISHA project is a collaboration between the Theodore Puskas Foundation, NASK, FCCN, and the University of Gelsenkirchen. The project is implemented under the special European Commission Programme „Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security Related Risks” (CIPS) as a part of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP).



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¹ COM(2009)149 – “Protecting Europe from large scale cyber-attacks and disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience”

Minutes of the workshop

Agenda of the workshop

- 10.00 welcome, introductions, aim of the workshop (Bence Birkas)
- 10.15 look-back on the concept, FISHA proof-of-concept vs NISHA pilot (Bence Birkas, Katarzyna Gorzelak)
- 10.50 ENISA presentation on the EISAS study (Romain Bourgue, ENISA)
- 11.30 break
- 11.45 NISHA components: portal, network, CouchBD (Bence Birkas, Przemek Jaroszewski)
- 12.20 NISHA demo (Bence Birkas, Katarzyna Gorzelak, Mauro Silva)
- 13.00 lunch in workshop room
- 14.00 NISHA policy aspects: 1. cooperation strategy: CERTs and info producers (Przemek Jaroszewski), 2. information dissemination strategy: outreach at local level, information brokers and target groups (Lino Santos), 3. network sustainability, membership (Bence Birkas), 4. legal issues (Michael Sparenberg)
- 15.10 break
- 15.20 next steps for the project (Bence Birkas)
- 15.30 closing, how to reach NISHA

Attendance

see Annex 1

The first NISHA workshop was organized along the following main objectives:

- to provide an overview of the NISHA concept,
- to place NISHA in the wider EU context
- to present the NISHA system, demonstrate the NISHA workflow and present some general scenarios
- to describe the policy aspects of the NISHA concept
- to ask for feedback from participants regarding the usability of NISHA

The workshop was collocated with the TF-CSIRT symposium, where the relevant European CSIRTs were present. The workshop intended to address the European CSIRT community, who should play a main role in the deployment of NISHA.

The meeting started out by a brief welcome speech by Bence Birkas on behalf of the NISHA consortium, highlighting the main objectives of the workshop. The next two presentations by Bence Birkas and Katarzyna Gorzelak described the background of the project with reference to the FISHA project results and the main differences between FISHA and NISHA.

The next presentation was delivered by Bence Birkas, describing the concept of NISHA, the initial idea with the results of the FISHA project, and the main milestones of the current project. The concept included details of the complete framework proposal, from technical implementation to the communication and cooperation aspects of NISHA. The main terms used by the NISHA concept were introduced. Partly building on this presentation, the next presentation was covering the differences between the FISHA and the NISHA project, delivered by Katarzyna Gorzelak. The presentation

highlighted the shift from a proof-of-concept to a pilot network, where components of the NISHA concept are to be tested in a real environment. She also laid emphasis on the action plan that will be carried out until the end of the project, from software development through policy work to operating the system at each local node.

The following presentation was on behalf of ENISA. Romain Bourgue presented the work of ENISA in the field of implementing the European Information Sharing and Alerting System (EISAS). Both the EISAS and NISHA have a lot of points in common, share similar objectives, address the same target groups, so the FISHA/NISHA consortium and ENISA have already discussed point of engagement in the past years. The current reason of the ENISA presentation was the recent large scale pilot of the EISAS pilot. This project, running in the summer of 2012, not only included two of the NISHA partners as participants, but identified some conclusion in its final report that will be of use for the NISHA project as well. The outcome of the EISAS pilot was summarized with the following points to learn:

- 6 different entities in 4 MS collaborating in a joint awareness raising campaign
- Reach: 1700+ citizen
- Coordination and Information brokering between pilot actors is crucial for success
- Good materials are hard to find but helps collaboration
- Public/Private partnerships are to be encouraged

The following session was dealing with the technical aspects of the project. The first part provided an overview of the developments that have taken place since the beginning of the project. This included the reasoning behind the change of database concept in NISHA. The introduction of CouchDB involved a change in the network architecture, as well as in the portal functionality. Following this, a live demonstration of some typical scenarios was described by Bence Birkas, with the use of two screens, where a the NISHA workflow could be visualized simultaneously. The scenarios included:

- Creating an article on "Portal A" and pushing it into the network also in English
- Creating a native translation of this article on the same portal (Portal "A")
- Publishing the "Demo Article in English on Portal A" on "Portal B" without changes
- Publishing a native translation of the "Demo Article in English on Portal A" on the "Portal C"

A step-by-step walk-through of the process was given with a prepared article that existed in 3 languages (EN, PL, HU) to demonstrate the translation and publication process. The result of the demo can be checked on the portals under the following links:

- <http://halozatbiztonsag.hu/hu/node/19387>
- <http://nisha.cert.pl/node/30>

The afternoon session was dedicated to describing the policy aspects of the NISHA concept in 4 main areas, as follows:

- cooperation strategy by Przemek Jaroszewski that focused on the main contributors of the NISHA network: the information producers that feed the network with valuable information from trusted sources, and the CERTs/security teams that build up the network of nodes (and can be information producers themselves).
- information dissemination strategy by Lino Santos that focused on the involvement of information distributors that have better ability of reaching the target groups than the 'single' portal or the node. The strategy will lay emphasis on identifying the most widely used communication channels of the target groups, so the information brokers can be addressed based on these survey results.

- network sustainability and membership aspects by Bence Birkas that focused on the possible evolution of the network. Considering a steady growth, membership, maintenance, and funding problems shall arise that need to be solved. Alternatives were proposed on how to maintain the system as well as managing membership. The idea of having a secretariat was introduced, also having some supervisory body (steering committee) of the NISHA network.
- licensing policy by Michael Sparenberg that dealt with 2 separate licensing issues. On one hand the licensing of the NISHA IT system, where the most suitable license mode is the EUPL license. On the other hand, the content on the portal need to have license attributes, and the best fitting licensing solution seems to be the Open Data Commons License. The portals will be prepared to illustrate the appropriate licensing conditions.

The policy aspects provided an opportunity for discussion on the ideas the NISHA concept plans to cover some of its activities.

- The question of joint publication was raised, how the concept can handle collaborative work. The concept was not designed for collaborative work, which will be included in the terms of reference of NISHA. However, there were comments that evaluation/commenting should be available for operators for existing articles within the network.
- The question of metrics/evaluation was also raised. The project will work out methods of measuring the usability of information. This should happen in various forms. Regular indicators will be available that provide overview on respective site statistics, the information brokers should be able to evaluate the information, average users should be able to rate the information disseminated on the portal. The validity and quality of the information sources should also be evaluated on a regular basis.
- For the supervision of the network, the project partners proposed the composition of a steering committee and a secretariat. The objective is to maintain the EU influence over the network, so it was proposed to ENISA to have a role running a secretariat. As ENISA does not have a mandate for operational issues in this field, it is not in favor of having any roles in maintaining the network. The current direction of the EISAS follow-ups is also to find a suitable partner in providing a feasible way to run an EISAS that has enough incentives for any PPPs.

The workshop wrap-up included a proposed list of deliverables, especially in the field of dissemination. The NISHA project needs to do local dissemination activities, where each partner will conduct workshops to local entities that have good outreach capacity to the target groups. In parallel to this, another international workshop will be conducted to the proposed information producers, with the intent of convincing them of using the NISHA network as one of their information sharing channels. In the meantime, the NISHA IT system software will be made available with the intent of network extension. There were expressions of interest to test the software. The participants also showed interest in receiving updates on the status of the project.

Annex 1.

List of participants

1.Andrea Kropacova	CESNET	Czech Republic
2.Romain Bourgue	ENISA	EU
3.Stephan Richter	CERT.at	Austria
4.Michael Sparenberg	UniGE/ifis	Germany
5.Mauro Silva	FCCN	Portugal
6.Lino Santos	FCCN	Portugal
7.Jorge de Carvalho	FCCN	Portugal
8.Jan Vykopal	CSIRT-MU.	Czech Republic
9.Martin Jurcik	CSIRT.SK	Slovakia
10.Masato Terada	HIRT	Japan
11.Bence Birkas	CERT-Hungary	Hungary
12.Przemek Jaroszewski	CERT Polska	Poland
13.Katarzyna Gorzelak	CERT Polska	Poland
14.Luis Sousa	CSIRTPT	Portugal