



The National Liaison Officers' Network

Relations with EU bodies and Member States

One of ENISA's key objectives is to act as a Centre of Excellence and to advise and assist the institutions and Member States of the European Union (EU) on all matters relating to Network and Information Security (NIS). Therefore relations with EU institutions – in particular with the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission – and, at the same level, with Member States are vital for ENISA.

Through membership of the Management Board of ENISA, the Member States are in an excellent position to formulate their needs and to task ENISA with assignments in the Agency's annual work programmes.

Relations with EU bodies are established and maintained through the many projects that ENISA carries out in collaboration with its stakeholders and by way of the ENISA liaison units that have been established at these institutions.

How does ENISA work for the stakeholders?

ENISA can be viewed as a 'switchboard' that fosters information exchange and cooperation between all stakeholders (EU bodies, EU Member States, industry, the academic world and consumer interest organisations) in the field of NIS. In this way, ENISA enhances the capability to prevent, address and respond to NIS problems.

Establishing and managing the network of National Liaison Officers (NLO)

In addition to having the EU Member States on its Management Board, ENISA's informal network of National Liaison Officers serves as the primary contact point between ENISA and the Member States. The NLO network provides an arena for the exchange of information between Member States, relevant stakeholders and ENISA itself. At the same time, ENISA reinforces its activities in the Member States through this network. The network meets annually in an EU capital.

Responding to requests

One of ENISA's tasks is to respond to requests from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the National Regulatory Authorities (as defined by Directive 2002/21/EC) and other competent bodies in Member States.

Since it began operations in September 2005, ENISA has acted on a number of requests, of which the following are examples:

- The Austrian Federal Chancellery asked ENISA for advice on a risk management and analysis questionnaire, which was subsequently provided by the Agency in the form of a report.
- The Greek Ministry of Justice requested advice on the use of voice telephony encryption systems for mobile and fixed networks in EU Member States, for which ENISA provided a detailed answer.
- ENISA carried out a feasibility study on a European Information Sharing and Alert System (EISAS) as a result of a request from the European Commission.
- In response to another call for advice on the collection of data on security incidents, ENISA organised a workshop and produced a report on 'Partnership for Information Security Data Exchange'.
- At the request of the European Commission, ENISA produces an annual anti-spam report, which outlines the technical and organisational measures electronic communication service providers are taking concerning IT security in the context of protection against spam.

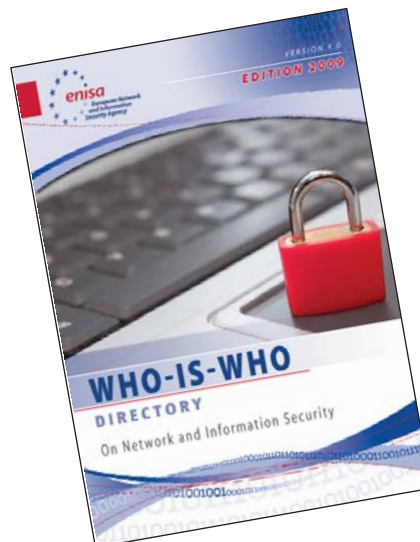
The European NIS good practice brokerage

ENISA facilitates a European NIS 'market place' by acting as a broker to enhance the exchange of good practices between Member States. This brokerage is essential in order to increase the level of NIS on a pan-European scale.

Several Member States are already sharing experiences in NIS but, to further develop EU-wide NIS capabilities, it is important that more Member States become involved in this

process. It is also essential that additional NIS areas are covered and that a more structured basis is given to the exchange of good practices. ENISA, with the support of the NLOs and other representatives from Member States, identifies supply and demand and how countries can co-operate.

Furthermore, the Agency injects its technical expertise into joint initiatives, encourages dialogue between various stakeholders and supports the dissemination of the results of initiatives in co-ordination. ENISA's NIS brokerage has actively contributed so far, for example, to co-operation and the exchange of knowledge between Hungary and Bulgaria, Finland and Slovenia, and the Netherlands and Hungary.



Who-is-Who Directory on NIS

In order to facilitate information exchange and co-operation within the EU, the Agency has created the Who-is-Who Directory on NIS. This annually-published directory contains contacts and other relevant information about authorities, bodies, companies and academic organisations in the EU Member States and at the EU level which are active in the field of NIS.

I want to know more...

Please visit our website regularly (<http://www.enisa.europa.eu>), or email us at info@enisa.europa.eu.