

Dear Madam/Sir,

The European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERNICIP) is a project run by the Institute for the Security and the Protection of the Citizen, part of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. ERNICIP's mission is to foster the emergence of innovative, qualified, efficient and competitive security solutions, through the networking of European experimental capabilities.

One of the ERNICIP Thematic Groups focuses on chemical and biological risks to the water sector. The purpose of this group is to identify the requirements for harmonisation/standardisation activities for real-time monitoring systems related to chemical and biological threats to drinking water. Primarily, our focus is water security in terms of responding to deliberate chemical and/or biological acts of contamination of drinking water (as per definition of security), although it would also protect against the effects of natural disasters or accidents.

The group is proposing to develop a guidance document enabling water utility operators to prepare a specific water security plan which would complement an already existing Water Safety Plan. The guidance aims to focus, initially, on the application of sensors and online monitoring for the detection of chemical and biological contaminants within the overall security framework. A chapter of the guidance document will be devoted to the availability and performance of sensors and monitors which can be part of early warning systems to safeguard the chemical and biological water quality of distributed drinking water.

To facilitate this work, we are canvassing drinking water utilities in Europe concerning the use of early warning systems in the drinking water supply in the EU. We would be grateful if you could please complete this short questionnaire for [water utilities](#) and provide us with the requested information about the in use devices /systems and their capabilities.

At the same time, we are canvassing sensor manufacturers worldwide concerning their products or services providing early warning systems in the drinking water supply in the EU. We would be grateful if you could please complete this short questionnaire for [sensor manufacturers](#) and provide us with the requested information about your device /systems and its capabilities.

The request for case studies will help the authors of the guidance document to provide relevant information for setting up an early warning system.

Your response will be treated anonymously. The request for case studies will help the authors of the guidance document to provide relevant information for setting up an early warning system.

This letter is an open invitation for every water utility to contribute. Thus we kindly request you to forward this invitation to any of your relevant contacts who can contribute to this survey. This would be of great help to collect as many responses to the survey as possible.

If you need any support, please do not hesitate to make use of the email link under "Contact" on the top right side of the survey.

The survey is open for your contribution from July 1, 2016 until September 30, 2016.

We thank you in advance for your contribution,

Philipp Hohenblum, Austrian Environment Agency, Coordinator of the ERNCIP Thematic Group on chemical and biological risks to drinking water.