



A Quick Guide to the Norwegian-Swedish ISI project

A cross-border development scheme



Facilitating cross-border collaboration

Nor-Swe ISI is ongoing over a period of three years and places the focus on command and collaboration methodology together with training. The main purpose is to ensure effective cross-border communication, including when providing inputs, and undertaking tasks, in each other's respective country. Those affected by emergencies and accidents must always receive the best possible attention and care. In the case of actions and responses where life is at stake, national borders must be erased – for example, in connection with major incidents and accidents, fires, policing measures and medical transport (ambulance journeys).

Simplicity and practicality

Success for ISI is based on creating good preconditions for simple, practical use. The work takes place therefore mainly in three working groups, with both Norwegian and Swedish representatives from the ambulance services, the rescue service, the SOS Alarm and the police. In parallel with the project's working groups, a technology development group is also now at work.

The Norwegian-Swedish ISI project will conclude with a major joint exercise in the spring of 2016; here the joint methods developed for command and collaboration, as well as procedures for the work by all involved actors, shall be applied in practice.

First concrete project in Europe

Nor-Swe ISI is run by the Norwegian and Swedish government agencies responsible for the development and operation of systems for emergency communication in the respective nations. Collaborative partners are Motorola Systems and Airbus which are responsible for the necessary development of technology.

Rakel was rolled out for all of Sweden in 2010 and nowadays has more than 55 000 users. In Norway, Nødnett was developed in stages and shall cover the entire country during 2015. Initially about 40 000 connected users are expected.



The Norwegian-Swedish ISI project (Nor-Swe ISI) is a development scheme between Norway and Sweden. Opportunities are created for seamless command and collaboration, now that communication in each other's national systems for digital radio communication – Nødnett and Rakel – becomes possible.



ISI meets the needs of users in everyday use and in crises

ISI establishes the basis for enabling communication between Nødnett och Rakel.

One success factor is to involve the system users in the development work right from the start. This means that instead of focusing on technology, we start from the communication requirements that the different user categories - on behalf of the stakeholders - perceive in their everyday work in our border districts. There is, therefore, a great value in Norwegian and Swedish representatives from the health/ ambulance service, rescue service, police and SOS Alarm having formed the respective working groups.

With practical requirements as the starting point, the project shall result in:

- Proposal (draft) for legally based agreement.
- Methodology for command and collaboration.
- Structure for communication in talk groups.
- Common terminology.
- Guidelines for use of technical equipment.
- Training for users and decision-makers.
- A concluding major exercise where ISI in its entirety is tested in a real situation.

Functionality in ISI

- Terminals can be registered and function in both Nødnett and Rakel.
- Group calls with participants from both countries.
- International talk groups can be created.
- One-to-one talk across national borders.
- SDS (text messages) – individual and group across national borders.
- Emergency calls across national borders.
- Complete authentication and encryption.
- Outgoing calls to the telephone network, irrespective of country.



Vital deliveries to the EU project ISITEP

Norway and Sweden have advanced further than most other European countries in the work of facilitating communication between national networks for digital radio communication. Seamless collaboration is a key factor in this context. The project is, therefore, both a model for, and an integral part of, the EU's corresponding scheme ISITEP (Inter System Interoperability for Tetra and TetraPol Networks).

Responsibility for work package methodology and exercise

Norway and Sweden together have received about 1.7 million Euros from the EU for the work carried out within ISITEP. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the Directorate for Emergency Communication (DNK) participate in many of ISITEP's 42 work packages but have joint main responsibility for four of them. Three packages focus on methodology – dealing with e.g. work processes, framework, distribution of responsibilities, talk group structures, guidelines and transnational legal agreement. A cross-border exercise in Norway/Sweden concludes the project during the spring of 2016.

Concrete deliveries to ISITEP are:

- Legal aspects and templates for agreements.
- Preparation of performance requirements linked to scenario and collaboration.
- Talk group structure and numbering.
- Analysis and preparation of methods for collaboration.
- Training/instruction for the methods functions.
- Planning and implementation of exercise.
- Handbook/guidelines for cross-border collaboration.



**Mikael Abbemo,
Sweden's National Board
of Health and Welfare:**

– ISI is expected to contribute to better collaboration and communication where different actors need to be involved in a cross-border response. We want to act both more rapidly and more effectively.



**Øyvind Hansen,
Norwegian Directorate
for Civil Protection, DSB:**

– We have the possibility of cross-border communication in Nødnett and Rakel, and may use specific talk groups to obtain the correct information.



**Teith Kyrre Dalsrud, Norwegian
National Police Directorate:**

– We look forward to use our own technical equipment in one another's network. This will significantly facilitate collaboration.



**Marianne Storrøsten, DNK,
Norwegian project manager:**

– We have understood that from a European perspective our working method is unique. Instead of focusing on the technology, we identify the real communication needs that the actors on behalf of the stakeholders perceive in their day-to-day work in our border districts.



**Anita Galin, Rakel unit MSB,
Swedish project manager:**

– The purpose of the project is to ensure an effective and user-friendly communication between stakeholders essential to society in Sweden and Norway, between Rakel and Nødnett. We prepare voice groups for collaboration and methods and procedures that will ensure that communication between the different countries in the event of an accident or crisis becomes as effective as possible.

Our focus: Stakeholder needs and practical application

The Norwegian-Swedish ISI project (Inter System Interface) is a development scheme between Norway and Sweden. The purpose is to facilitate cross-border command and collaboration through creating possibilities for stakeholders in both these countries to utilise their own equipment within the framework of Nødnett (Norwegian Public Safety Network) and Rakel (Swedish Emergency Communication Network). The project is carried out during the period 2013-2016 and involves Norwegian and Swedish representatives from the ambulance service, the rescue service, the police and health/ambulance service.

The responsible authorities are the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) in Sweden and the Directorate for Emergency Communication (DNK) in Norway.

Do you wish to know more? Please contact:

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The land border between Norway and Sweden is 1619 km long.



partners

