



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



Republic Agency for the  
Development of Small  
and Medium Enterprises  
Republika Srpska  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Annex A

## 11<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Military Base Conversion

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<b>Dates</b>	14 - 16 October 2009
<b>Venue</b>	RACVIAC Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia, and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Background</b>	The joint Ministerial meeting on defence conversion held in Bucharest on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2005 acknowledged that most SEE countries are facing similar challenges in the context of ongoing armed forces reforms resulting in base closures, relocation of military units, separation of redundant military personnel, destruction or sale of military surpluses, and restructuring of military industries. In this perspective, they agreed to use existing RACVIAC capacities to develop corresponding regional support networks, incorporate the <i>know-how</i> on defence conversion and promote an integrated donors approach. Therefore, they requested the establishment of three respective Working Groups (WGs). One of them is the WG2 on military base conversion (MBC).
<b>Purpose &amp; Objectives</b>	<p>The purpose of the WG2 workshops is to bring together representatives from different ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, financial institutions and businesses, to discuss all aspects of military base conversion. Objectives supporting this purpose are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To strengthen networking and assist regional countries in capacity building.</li><li>• To develop national MBC pilot projects and liaise with stakeholders, thus securing synergy between MBC projects, and encouraging cooperation on both national and international level.</li><li>• To support the economic revival of regions through conversion of military bases into a compound of effective, sustainable businesses and social structures, thus reducing the negative socio-economic effects, and supporting regional economy.</li><li>• To coordinate governmental, municipal, business and community efforts in order to facilitate achievement of the conversion goals.</li><li>• To search for possibilities to connect redundancy of military personnel to military bases conversion within the context of working places.</li></ul>
<b>Participants</b>	Approximately 30 participants: up to two participants from the permanent member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia, and representatives of other interested countries, relevant international organizations and partners.
<b>Methodology</b>	The workshop will comprise main topic lectures, individual presentations, field study trip to Banja Luka and open discussions (exchange of knowledge and experience - lessons learned). Field study trip will provide participants with the real-life examples and practical knowledge on the applied military base conversion.
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\* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.