



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



## REGIONAL SEMINAR

### on Armed Violence Prevention: Review of National Projects and Identification of Areas for Assistance

22 - 24 September 2009,  
Zagreb (Croatia)

*In cooperation with South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)*

*Sponsored by UNDP and the Kingdom of Norway*

From 22nd to 24th September 2009 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation conducted the Regional Seminar on Armed Violence Prevention in cooperation with SEESAC. The seminar comprised a combination of presentations, thematic working groups and open discussions with the aim to help the participating countries in developing and implementing their national armed violence prevention policies, strategies and programmes.



It was also focused on the implementation of the commitments contained within the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in the aftermath of the regional conference on Armed Violence and Development held in Sarajevo in December 2008.

The seminar gathered 12 participants from the following Southeast European (SEE) countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia. The participants represented relevant ministries, agencies and institutions, which are directly involved in armed violence prevention. In addition, 7 experts and special guests from UNDP and Small Arms Survey (SAS) were also present and significantly contributed to the seminar's overall success.

\* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

## Seminar Opening



*Opening of the Seminar*

On 23rd September 2009, the seminar was officially opened with the speeches of Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Director of RACVIAC and Mr. Diman DIMOV, SEESAC Team Leader.

## Plenary Session

During the seminar the speakers from SAS and UNDP provided the participants with comprehensive presentations on the Geneva and Sarajevo Declarations on Armed Violence and Development as well as on Armed Violence Prevention Programmes.

Ms. Elisabeth GILGEN, an associate researcher from SAS, held the first presentation, during which she presented a global overview of the human and economic costs of armed violence, making a specific focus on homicide rates in the countries of South Eastern Europe. Ms. E. GILGEN also presented the Geneva Declaration including its implementation on a diplomatic, academic and programming level.



*Ms. Elisabeth GILGEN, an associate researcher from Small Arms Survey*

Mr. Hans RISSER, Senior Advisor and Programme Manager for Justice and Security with the UNDP in Croatia, provided a presentation on Key Elements of Armed Violence

Prevention Programmes, highlighting best practice and lessons learned. The elements of Armed Violence Prevention Programmes covered in his presentation included assessments, data management, monitoring and evaluation as well as national policies and strategies on armed violence prevention and the development of armed violence prevention programmes at the local community level.

### **Countries Presentations**



***Mr. Dusko IVANOV, State Counselor, National SALW focal point, Ministry of Interior of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\****

During the same working day, the representatives from participating countries also gave the presentations on national policies/strategies on armed violence prevention and the implementation of armed violence prevention projects/activities:

- Mr. Aleksandar ARNAUT, Senior Inspector, Ministry of Interior, Bosnia and Herzegovina presented measures undertaken by BIH authorities for the control over SALW, destruction of SALW exempted from illegal possession, improvement of laws for combating illegal possession of arms and reducing family violence etc.;

- Professor Dean AJDUKOVIC, President of the Society for Psychological Assistance, Republic of Croatia made a presentation on the project aimed at capacity building for multi level community response to gender based violence in Croatia;

- Mr. Damir BOGDANOVIC, Chief Inspector, Lawyer at Ministry of Interior, Republic of Croatia talked about engaging communities in fighting crime in support of the Ministry of Interior's community-based policing strategy;

- Mr. Dusko IVANOV, State Counselor, National SALW focal point, Ministry of Interior, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* gave a presentation titled: "Armed violence reduction and prevention: The case of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*";

- Lieutenant Alexei BELOUS, Senior Inspector at the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Moldova presented the situation in Moldova regarding crime control, arms control projects, law on SALW control, national strategy for the control of SALW;

- Ms. Sandra BUGARIN, Senior Police Commissioner, Planning and Development Department, Police Directorate, Montenegro mentioned measures undertaken by the authorities of Montenegro for the prevention of armed violence in the society;

- Mr. Jakov ROGAN, Junior Police Sergeant, Department of Homicide, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia presented measures undertaken by the authorities of Serbia for the prevention of armed violence.

### **Working in groups on thematic issues**

In addition to plenary sessions comprised of individual presentations and open discussions, the participants also worked in groups on the following thematic issues:

- Security perception surveys;
- Data management;
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for armed violence prevention (AVP);
- Development of national policies and strategies for AVP;
- Mainstreaming gender and youth in AVP;
- Establishment of implementation mechanisms for AVP;
- Development of AVP programmes at local level (community security plans);
- Funding requirements for development and implementation of AVP programmes.

The audience was divided into two working groups headed by Mr. D. DIMOV and Mr. H. RISSER.

This methodology worked remarkably well providing the participants with an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of armed violence prevention policies, strategies and programmes.



***Working in groups on thematic issues***

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## CONCLUSIONS

The Seminar was conducted in a cooperative and productive manner. All Seminar learning objectives were fully achieved. The participants showed great interest in sharing best practices and experience on AVP with countries in the region and acknowledged once again the importance of the linkage between armed violence prevention and social and economic development.

The findings and conclusions from the working groups will serve SEESAC as a reference for the identification of countries needs for assistance in the field of armed violence prevention.

The participants have also expressed their interest to include the topic of AVP data management as part of the agenda for the next seminar to be held in 2010.

**Compiled by: LtCol Sergiu RAILEAN, Subject Matter Expert, the Seminar Coordinator, RACVIAC - Centre For Security Cooperation and Mr. Diman DIMOV, the Seminar Coordinator, Team Leader, SEESAC.**