



## Public Media and Security in SEE

- Date** 22-24 Nov 2011
- Venue** RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia
- Background** The EU's commitment to the enlargement process reflects the Member States' conviction that enlargement is in the mutual interest of the Union and the aspirant countries. The EU's enlargement process contributes to stability in Europe and to the security and well being of its citizens. It also provides a unique incentive for a political and economic reform and harmonization of standards across Europe.
- The media and security are mutually dependent and their relationship is a very specific issue. In a large, consumer-driven society, electronic media (such as television) and print media (such as newspapers) are important for distributing information on many different topics, including security issues. Public dissemination of information on security matters should have a preventive function and contribute to the general safety of citizens. Public media services have an important role in this process as their active engagement ensures that all the necessary information is quickly transferred to the public.
- The idea for realization of a conference on this subject matter arose out of the need to promote the EU media and security related standards and to draw attention to the importance of the interconnection between public media services and security issues. This relation will be explored through dialogue and exchanges of information, views and ideas, with the aim of disseminating EU standards related to the media and security and building a more open, transparent and stable environment in the Region.
- Purpose & Objectives** The purpose of this conference is to serve as a platform for open dialogue and constructive discussion on the role of public media services and the implications of their scope of activities for the overall security of citizens.
- The objectives are:
- To analyze the relationship between the media and security sector transparency and the role of the media in scrutinizing the security sector work;
  - To explain the role of the media in crisis management operations and in the event of natural disasters;
  - To promote the necessity of building standards and capacity in the field of the media;
  - To foster media pluralism and to support regional cooperation between public media services and state institutions;
  - To share information, views, and experience from the past as well as the latest information on the ongoing activities in the region;
  - To increase regional and international cooperation;
  - To propose the way ahead for future cooperation.
- Participants** Approximately 30 participants, from each of the signatory countries of the new RACVIAC Agreement. The target participants should be Spokespersons for SEE countries' Ministries of Defence and representatives of SEE public media services. Representatives of MAG countries and relevant international organizations, NGOs and the media are also to be invited.
- Methodology** The event will last two working days and the official working language is English. The conference will be conducted as a combination of presentations, speeches and open discussions. All materials presented or produced during the event will be distributed in electronic form on a CD.
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