



**CENTRE for SECURITY COOPERATION**

MAG.DEC 01/2011

## **RACVIAC STRATEGY 2012- 2015**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

RACVIAC was established in 2000 as a **Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre** with an aim to provide arms control training, promote confidence and security building measures and expand cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEE). With a view to enhancing regional stability, the Center later broadened its scope of interest to include a wider range of security issues, including security sector reform and international and regional cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic integration.

With the signing<sup>1</sup> of the Agreement on RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, RACVIAC Members have decided to establish an independent, international, non-profit, regionally owned, academic organization on a new legal basis. Therefore, it became necessary to develop a new Strategy. The aim of this document is to provide a basic framework, vision and guidance for RACVIAC activities for the coming four-year period up to and including 2015, while at the same time steering the organization toward the future and fully regional ownership, and facilitating new tasks.

### **2. MISSION AND VALUES**

The mission of RACVIAC is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in SEE through a partnership between the Members and their international partners.

RACVIAC shall accomplish its mission by primarily promoting:

- a) Security dialogue and security sector reform, arms control, European and Euro-Atlantic integration as well as confidence and security building measures;
- b) Synergy with other international organizations and institutions such as UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, as well as bilateral partners on all issues of mutual interest and concern;

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<sup>1</sup> Nine Countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey) have signed the Agreement

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

- c) Cooperation with the RCC and other regional initiatives and arrangements;
- d) Dialogue with civil society, academia and opinion makers.

In order to fulfilling its mission RACVIAC will be guided by the following values:

- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Impartiality and credibility
- Mutual respect and trust
- Responsibility and accountability
- Adaptability and integrity
- Openness to new challenges and improvement.

### **3. VISION**

In order to foster mutual trust and security in the SEE region, RACVIAC, being an international organization and having a well-justified reputation as the premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation in the Region, will continue to promote openness, transparency and consistency by bringing together all SEECP Member States. Capitalizing on its achievements and experiences, RACVIAC will advocate the Region as a facilitator of security beyond its borders, setting thus an example for security cooperation and dialogue in the global community.

### **4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

RACVIAC's strategic objectives are:

1. To further contribute to the established overall stability and security in the Region;
2. To build on the experience attained through arms control mechanisms and other confidence and security building measures for the benefit of the Region and beyond;
3. To promote Security Sector Reform and encourage regional cooperation in the area of Defence Conversion;
4. To support European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes;
5. To communicate and to support the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy and its relation to NATO's Strategic Concept;
6. To continue cooperation with organizations, institutions and initiatives of the Region having similar objectives, while at the same time expanding RACVIAC's cooperation network internationally;
7. To encourage regional and international security cooperation to effectively counter transnational security threats, including terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organised crime, all forms of illicit trafficking, illegal migration, and climate change, while particular attention will be paid to all aspects of cyber security and threats deriving there from;
8. To use the previously gained experience to establish RACVIAC as the partner of choice for fostering security cooperation and dialogue beyond the Region.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to implement its strategic objectives, RACVIAC will initially maintain its current structure with three pillars:

- Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control
- Security Sector Reform
- International and Regional Cooperation with focus on European and Euro Atlantic Integration

In the forthcoming period RACVIAC will evaluate its structure in order to reflect on and accomplish its vision for 2012 – 2015. Particular attention will be paid to the progress towards EU and NATO integration of countries of the Region, which will result in a shift of their demands to RACVIAC. This could then eventually lead to the modification of the current structure, based on a thorough assessment of priorities and needs.

To achieve the strategic objectives, RACVIAC will implement a four-year planning cycle approved by MAG. This cycle will include a flexible and evolving program and budget, derived from the strategy. Every year the Programme and budget will be adopted for the coming year, proposed for the following year and projected for the following two.

RACVIAC will base its planning of the Annual Programme on the results of a comprehensive questionnaire that will be sent to Member States one month prior to the MAG fall Meeting. With respect to the execution of the Programme and budget, additional flexibility will be guaranteed by assessing initiatives put forward by Members and partners.

MAG will monitor the implementation of this strategy and adopt a new strategy one year before its expiration.

MAG will carefully exploit all avenues to ensure that RACVIAC receives all the necessary means needed to accomplish its mission in the spirit of full regional ownership.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

The RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015 reflects a genuine desire by the Members to pursue the accomplishment of common goals and agreed strategic objectives by harnessing the valuable experience gained in the past decade.

It manifests the ability and the capacity of the Centre to adapt to the ever-changing environment, which gives scope for both new opportunities and new challenges.

In view of that, this Strategy paper mirrors RACVIAC's readiness to take advantage of the opportunities deriving there from as well as its will and capacity to adequately address the emerging challenges and threats in all areas of common interest of the Member States.

The RACVIAC Strategy 2012-2015 is a clear sign of the Members' commitment to identifying and implementing projects that promote regional cooperation with security and economic benefits for the whole Region, as well as the sign of their willingness to share positive experiences and insights with regions beyond SEE. At the same time, it reveals the Centre's ambition to expand the content and the scope of the existing dialogue formats and to explore new fields and ways of regional cooperation.

In addition, the Strategy initiates the mid-term planning and provides a common vision for the forthcoming four-year period.

This document, while reflecting RACVIAC's present identity, gives the guidance to the organization itself and paves the way for the fulfilment of a larger role in the future.