



CENTRE for SECURITY COOPERATION

MAG.DEC.03/2007

STRATEGY

1. INTRODUCTION

RACVIAC was established (founded) in 2000 as the **R**egional **A**rms **C**ontrol **V**erification and **I**mplementation **A**ssistance **C**entre with the aim providing arms control training, promoting confidence and security building measures as well as broaden cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEE). Later on it shifted emphasis onto a wide range of politico-military issues, including security sector reform with a focus on defence conversion with a view to enhancing regional stability.

The current situation, developments and changes in the security environment in SEE, necessitated a review RACVIAC's mission, objectives and structure, in order to respond to future security challenges.

The new name of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre is now RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The aim of this document is to provide a basic framework for RACVIAC activities and for the continuous improvement of the effectiveness of the organization in all dimensions.

2. RACVIAC's ROLE

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation is a diplomatic, international, independent, non-profit, regionally owned, academic organization, accountable to its political decision making body, the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

The MAG acts as the steering committee to RACVIAC and is composed of representatives from Core Countries (SEECF members), Associate Countries (countries taking interest in the region) and Observers. It provides consensual guidance to ensure the operations and development of RACVIAC.

RACVIAC's legal basis is the bilateral agreement originally signed by Croatia and Germany, later on acceded to by Italy and Turkey. The Multinational Advisory Group's Terms of References (MAG TOR), adopted by all MAG member countries, specify the composition, tasks, responsibilities and procedures of the MAG. Legal issue related to RACVIAC's future status will continue to be discussed.

3. RACVIAC's MISSION AND GOAL

3.1. MISSION

The mission of RACVIAC is to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe through a partnership between the countries of the region and their international partners.

RACVIAC accomplishes this mission by:

- Transforming thinking on national, regional and international security cooperation issues,
- Exposing participants to the benefit of cooperative approaches to security issues, primarily through conferences, courses, seminars and meetings at RACVIAC, as well as through language training and other applicable supportive programmes,
- Reaching key members of national, regional, and international security cooperation communities.

3.2. GOAL

The goal of RACVIAC, as a professionally competent, motivated and respected international organization with an innovated, integrated and collaborative internal organization, is to be highly valued as the premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation.

The Centre will contribute to openness, transparency and predictability in the region by encouraging exchanges of information, views and ideas.

RACVIAC is guided by the following principles:

- Participative work environment
- Flexibility and responsiveness
- Impartiality and credibility
- Respect and trust
- Responsibility and accountability
- Adaptability and integrity
- Openness to improvement.

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

RACVIAC focuses on three overarching themes:

- International Relations and Cooperation, with a special focus on Euro-Atlantic integration
- Security Sector Reform
- Cooperative Security Environment, with the focus on Arms Control

RACVIAC's strategic objectives are:

1. To strengthen the SEE region's overall stability and security
2. To improve the momentum achieved thru all arms control mechanisms and confidence and security building measures
3. To promote Security Sector Reform and encourage regional cooperation in the area of Defence Conversion
4. To encourage regional cooperation to effectively counter terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organised crime, and all kinds of illicit trafficking
5. To support European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes
6. To be at the ready to assist the Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) activities
7. To seek for synergy with organizations and institutions having similar objectives, such as EU, NATO, OSCE
8. To communicate and to support European Security and Defence Policy

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF RACVIAC ACTIVITIES

In terms of participation and contribution, RACVIAC activities are open to all MAG Countries (Core countries, Associate countries, Observers), other countries, and international organizations and institutions pursuing similar strategic objectives as RACVIAC such as UN, NATO, EU, OSCE.

RACVIAC will not compete with or duplicate the work of other security organisations but will seek for close cooperation. If extensive cooperation is required, the signing of additional MoU will be proposed to MAG for approval.

Close cooperation between MAG and Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), strengthens regional stability and accelerates Euro-Atlantic integration efforts.

The procedure of the programme development will remain sufficiently flexible to adapt to changing circumstances in the region. In case of urgent needs, the Director of RACVIAC, in coordination with MAG Chairperson, is authorised to make changes to the programme, immediately informing the MAG nations.

6. RACVIAC's ORGANIZATION

RACVIAC's organization is structured and approved by MAG to provide the most efficient, effective and flexible response to the needs of MAG Countries. Its organization will provide a structure, regionally led, capable of program creation/analysis/evaluation and administratively and logistically self-sufficient.

RACVIAC is manned primarily by secondment of personnel from Core Countries who are open to coordination and cooperation, competent at finding multilateral solutions and have sufficient education, experience and background to meet their job descriptions.

Associate Countries, Observers and International Organizations and institutions too may second personnel and provide support, pending on MAG decision.

All MAG countries, organizations and institutions may to assign personnel for specific projects on a temporarily basis, pending on MAG decision.

7. UPDATE PROCEDURE OF RACVIAC's STRATEGY PAPER

The MAG Member Countries, MAG Chairperson, and Director of RACVIAC have authorization to request changes or amendments to the Strategy and it is subject to consensus of MAG.

This Strategy, dated 04th October 2007, supersedes the RACVIAC Strategy Paper, dated 03rd April 2006.