



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

NEWSLETTER



Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees

Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop

39th MAG Meeting

Fifth GToT Course

Energy Security Seminar held in Romania

Contents:

MAG

02 - 39th MAG Meeting

NEWS

- 04 - Financial Agreement with Germany signed
- 04 - Visit to the Austrian Land Forces Command
- 05 - General Director for Defence Policy of MoD of Montenegro visits RACVIAC
- 06 - RACVIAC Director attends Ministerial Conference on Good Governance
- 06 - UNODC Steering Committee Meeting

ACTIVITY REPORTS

- 07 - Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop
- 08 - WMD Cyber Crimes Investigation Course
- 10 - Regional Workshop on Integrity and Control Measures
- 12 - Gender Training of the Trainers Course
- 15 - Energy Security Seminar
- 17 - Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments

NEWCOMERS & FAREWELLS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Newsletter editorial staff:

Maj Marija Čičak, PA Officer
Ms. Sanja Romić, Language Specialist

Rakitje, Stari hrast 53
10437 Bestovje, Croatia
Tel: +385 (0)1 3330 803
Fax: +385 (0)1 3330 809
info@racviac.org
www.racviac.org

39th MAG



The 39th MAG Meeting, the semi-annual meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), RACVIAC steering body, took place in Rakitje on 19 April 2018. The meeting, which gathered the member countries of the MAG, was organized by the MAG Chairmanship of the Republic of Croatia.

The Meeting was officially opened by the MAG Chairperson Ambassador Amir Muharemi, Croatian Assistant Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.

The meeting started with a brief presentation of the Director's Annual Report by the Director of RACVIAC, Ambassador Haydar Berk, who highlighted the most significant achievements gained in the reporting period. He informed the audience that the Centre successfully conducted 28 activities in 2017. Ambassador Berk said that all of the conducted activities, related to a wide spectrum of security issues, supported dialogue, cooperation, networking, capacity and confidence building in SEE region. He also underlined that RACVIAC has further intensified cooperation and partnership with international and regional organizations and initiatives such as NATO, OSCE, IAEA, UNODC, etc. Ambassador also emphasized that RACVIAC is a part of both the Western Balkan Border Security Initiative and the Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism Initiative which represent two of the three prominent pillars of the Internal Integrative Security Governance, an initiative endorsed by the EU and led by DCAF Ljubljana.

Ambassador Berk pointed out that RACVIAC will continue developing projects that are contributing to regional stability, transparency and security abiding by RACVIAC main areas of interest: arms control, C-WMD Network project, countering terrorism and violent extremism, foreign terrorist fighters, border and security management, democratic oversight and

Meeting HELD IN RACVIAC

accountability, human rights and gender equality, cyber security, building integrity and fighting corruption and energy security.

Furthermore, Director took the opportunity to thank all Members, Associate Members, Observers, international organizations and partners for their continuous support and contribution to the Centre. He expressed his appreciation to the active Associate Members, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Norway for their support for RACVIAC Programme, as well as to the United States of America and the Croatia for their invaluable contribution and cooperation in the C-WMD Network Initiative implementation and Cyber Security Course.

Director's presentation was followed by the presentations by RACVIAC Programme Managers and Leaders, LtCol Servet Aya, Ms Ivana Barbara Blažević, Ms Ana Ezhova Krzhaloska, and Mr Boško Rotim, with regard to the respective Programme achievements and activities conducted in 2017, current status of 2018 Programme and projections for 2019.

In addition, MAG participants were briefed on the RACVIAC Budget realization for 2017, all relevant issues regarding the Budget for 2018, as well as projections for the next four years.



Pursuant to the Agenda Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, RACVIAC Deputy Director, informed the MAG representatives about the current personnel structure in the Centre encouraging once more RACVIAC Members and Associate Members to second personnel to the positions of Programme and Activity Managers.

At the end of the meeting the MAG adopted the nomination of the Major General Major General (R) Jeronim Bazo from the Republic of Albania as the new Director of RACVIAC for the period 1st November 2018 - 1st November 2021. ●



Financial Agreement for 2018 signed with the Federal Republic of Germany

On 13 April 2018 H.E. Mr Thomas E. Schultze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Croatia, and H.E. Mr Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, signed the Financial Agreement between RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Federal Republic of Germany for the year 2018.

With this Agreement Germany allocated funds which will be used to support RACVIAC activities, covering the costs of seminars, courses and workshops, focusing on Cooperative Security Environment and Security Sector Reform Pillars. The identified spectrum of regional needs in the said domains ranges from training of inspectors while providing a chance for practical demonstrations of the knowledge gained on the one hand, to identifying possible contributions of the most relevant, well-functioning Arms Control regimes to regional stabilization on the other hand. The main activities include the "Dayton Article IV Course", "Vienna Document 11' Course", "Open Skies Course", and "Arms Control Symposium".

On the other hand, the "Border Security and Management Seminar" and the "Gender Training of the Trainers Course" also received Germany's support in order to enhance regional cooperation and efficiency of border management authorities and implementation of gender perspective in the security sector in South East Europe.

Germany as an Associate Member of RACVIAC has been a constant, invaluable supporter of the Organization since its inception not only financially but also politically as well as in terms of expertise, thus significantly contributing to enhancing trust and confidence in the region and beyond. ●



VISIT TO THE AUSTRIAN LAND FORCES COMMAND

On 16 May 2018 Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Haydar Berk, together with BG Gordana Garašić, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, and Col Āgidius Daniel Muhr visited the Austrian Land Forces Command in Graz.

RACVIAC delegation was welcomed by Lieutenant General Franz Reißner, Commanding Officer of AT Land Forces. An office call was followed by a briefing about AT Land Forces in general as well as missions abroad and current domestic operations.

Ambassador Berk informed LtGen Reißner about the current RACVIAC Programme of activities and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the strong support that Austria is providing to RACVIAC. Furthermore, current security affairs were discussed.

LtGen Reißner thanked for this working visit and announced that Austria will continue to support RACVIAC work. ●



GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR DEFENCE POLICY OF MoD of MONTENEGRO VISITS RACVIAC

Upon invitation of Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, Mr Ivica Ivanović, MSc, General Director for Defence Policy of the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, accompanied by Colonel Zoran Bošković, Advisor for Military Issues to the Minister of Defence, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 29 May 2018.

The Montenegrin delegation was welcomed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Berk, and RACVIAC staff members.

After a presentation on RACVIAC history, mission and accomplishments Ambassador Berk provided further explanation related to the RACVIAC Members' role and development of the Programme of activities. He also provided additional information related to some of the flagship activities such as Cyber Security, C-WMD Network, and Building Integrity and Preventing Corruption, which are contributing to dialogue and cooperation in the region. Ambassador Berk emphasized that activities of the Centre reflect primarily the Members' needs and requirements, keeping at the same time track of the contemporary security agenda of the EU and NATO.

Mr Ivanović expressed thanks for the information provided and his appreciation for RACVIAC contribution to the security of the SEE region. He emphasized that Montenegro will continue to provide strong support to the Organization and confirmed that the first Montenegrin secondee to RACVIAC will arrive by the end of this year. ●

RACVIAC Director attends Ministerial Conference on Good Governance



Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA), in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized the Ministerial Conference “Good Governance in the *Western Balkans*” on 12-13 June 2018 in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The two-day Ministerial conference addressed the strategic framework for the public administration reform (PAR), its financial sustainability, quality of policy planning and coordination, and monitoring and reporting on implementation of PAR strategies, as well as the adequate EU financial assistance for supporting reforms.

Good governance at all levels of public administration is a necessary pre-requisite also for security and stability.

The Mostar Ministerial Conference brought together ministers, deputy ministers, and assistant ministers responsible for public administration, justice and finance in the Western Balkans, as well as other high level representatives of the state administrations dealing with PAR, public finance management and European integration, representatives of the European Commission (DG NEAR and DG BUDGET), OECD/SIGMA, International organisations, civil society, and others. ●

The UNODC Seventh Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

The UNODC Seventh Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries started on 28 June 2018 in RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. RACVIAC hosted the activity as a result of cooperation and partnership with UNODC. The UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries is UNODC's key mechanism to support the countries of West and Central Asia to develop regional and international joint responses to counter the harmful impact of illicit narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime on security, governance and social and economic development.

Cooperation of RACVIAC and UNODC goes back for a few years and share some common priorities and themes: cooperation and coordination in addressing contemporary security threats, prevention of terrorism and violent extremism, illegal migration, cyber security.

As a regionally owned organization, naturally RACVIAC interest lies with the South East Europe. However, hosting such activity broadens the scope of expertise and complements each other and brings added value. ●



RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation C-WMD Network project entered its 3. phase - the national validation and testing phase - of the Programme.

As a continuation of the initial C-WMD Network project idea that stemmed from the PSI TTX organized in Zagreb, Croatia in 2013 the “Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop, Split 2018” was organized in order to enhance the ability to counter WMD proliferation through the arrangements of the Proliferation Security Initiative and to support the ongoing process of developing C-WMD national strategies of SEE countries.



PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

10-12 April 2018, Split, Croatia

The “*Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop, Split 2018*” organized by the Republic of Croatia and the United States of America, with the support of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, was conducted on 10-12 April 2018 in Split, Croatia.

The Workshop was a continuation of the initial C-WMD Network project idea that stemmed from the PSI TTX organized by the Governments of the Republic of Croatia and the United States of America in Zagreb, Croatia in November 2013.

The purpose of the “*Proliferation Security Initiative Workshop, Split 2018*” was to enhance awareness of the WMD threat, identify existing gaps, and advance multi-agency capabilities to prevent the proliferation of material, components and technologies from crossing borders. The main objectives of this event were to

RACVIAC C-WMD Network project was developed in 2014 in order to respond to a pressing security challenge for the SEE countries: proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. C-WMD Network project is specifically aimed to support the SEE countries in the development or refinement of national strategies and action plans against the proliferation of WMDs.

The goal is that by the end of the project all participating countries will have adopted national strategies thus having integrated and harmonized all international obligations regarding WMDs in a single document. This should also enhance interagency cooperation and the emergency reaction response system in place.

increase the ability to counter WMD proliferation through the arrangements of the Proliferation Security Initiative and to support the ongoing process of developing C-WMD national strategies.

As the C-WMD Network project was entering the national validation and testing phase of the programme all C-WMD Network participating nations were taking an active part in the abovementioned event.

The Workshop presented participants with a three-phased facilitated proliferation scenario focusing on key policy, customs, legal, and operational issues. The scenario was geared towards providing a forum for sharing of experience and identifying how the Proliferation Security Initiative can best contribute to effective national and regional WMD counterproliferation efforts. ●



WMD Cyber Crimes Investigations Course

23-27 April 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

Based on the conclusions of a series of events organized within the C-WMD Network where cyber issues were identified as a common modern threat to our security, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the International Counterproliferation Program, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from the USA, organized the Cyber Security Course related to WMD Cyber Crimes Investigations.

“Cyber Security: Training on WMD Cyber Crimes Investigations Course”, organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation with the support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) from the USA, was conducted on 23-27 April 2018 on RACVIAC premises.

The Course was the second event related to WMD Cyber crimes investigations organized by RACVIAC and DTRA based on the conclusions from a series of events conducted within the C-WMD Network project where cyber issues were identified as a common modern threat to security.

The aim of the WMD Cyber Crimes Investigations Course was to instruct nontechnical investigators in the fundamental skills needed to exploit digital technology to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and misuse of dual-use materials and technologies. Furthermore, the goal was to improve the ties between the representatives of the relevant institutions from the SEE

region, and to exchange information, transfer knowledge, views and ideas.

Moreover, the aim was to expose the Course participants to the experiences of experts from various U.S. government agencies who have the legal authority and the technical knowledge concerning cyber threats.

Opening the Course RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk said that *“cyber space is commonly recognized as the battlefield of the future, and that it perhaps already is just that. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to develop the capabilities in our region, to be well prepared to protect our countries' critical infrastructure, to detect and to take the necessary measures against illegal, criminal cyber activity, against terrorism or other forms of destabilizing attacks.”* He added that *“the idea is to create a long-term project with the aim to establish a self-sustainable regional team of instructors who will be able to deliver the trainings in the countries of the SEE region in the future“.*



“Cyber space is commonly recognized as the battlefield of the future.”

Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer LT Russell A. Dallas said: *“understanding the urgency of talking about cyber threats is very important.”* He added that *“partnerships, exchange of experience and lessons learned are just as valuable as the training and exercises.”*

The aim of the Course was to instruct nontechnical investigators in the fundamental skills needed to exploit digital technology to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and misuse of dual-use materials and technologies.



This five-day Course gathered officers, analysts, and investigators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo**.

This Course supports the development of C-WMD national strategies.

The Course consisted of theoretical and practical computer exercises.

The participants learned about the current cyber environment and the technologies presently employed by cyber experts to further criminal investigations. In doing so the participants were introduced to and gained limited competency in cutting-edge, open-source software and tools that help investigators analyse the data from devices, digital media, or social networks. The participants were also introduced to the technology of the future including the use of the Darknet, botnets/malware, and cryptocurrencies.

During the Course the participants had an opportunity to analyse the methods and tools for preventing, deterring, detecting, and countering the threat of WMD proliferation by securely utilizing digital technology in support of WMD-related investigations.

The participants also learned how to use open-source tools and technologies that can be used to support ongoing investigations across a range of criminal activities. Throughout the practical part of the Course the participants learned how to gather intelligence using the web-based open sources tools, to collect and analyse seized digital evidence, and how cyber investigative

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

** This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

techniques can be integrated with the “traditional” investigative techniques through case studies and exercises.

In addition to this the participants learned about digital forensics in order for investigators to locate potential evidence.

The Course proved to be worthwhile, as it provided an opportunity to the participants to exchange knowledge, discuss topics and generate ideas about cyber security with lecturers and individually. ●

During the Course the participants analyzed case studies relating to WMD and terrorism investigations using the learned skills to successfully mitigate threats and investigate attacks. Participants also conducted a series of practical exercises utilizing the introduced methods and technologies. The Course culminated in a capstone exercise where participants analyzed a suspect computer and found hidden information on the device.



Regional Workshop on Inte

08-10 May 2018, Podgorica, Montenegro

Due to their specificities the fields of defence and internal affairs have been identified as areas with high risks for misconducts and corruption. Public procurement, conflict of interest, financial control and data protection have been acknowledged as particularly vulnerable processes. In this respect, further actions and support to the respective authorities in South East Europe in strengthening their institutional integrity and resilience is needed.

The Regional Workshop “Integrity and Control Measures in Defence and Law Enforcement Institutions”, jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, was conducted in Podgorica, Montenegro on 08-10 May 2018.

Being aware of the fact that integrity and the fight against corruption in defence and security areas presents one of the common challenges in the region, and considering that this specific topic needs to be treated in a multi-disciplinary fashion, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro have been implementing joint activities in the last couple of years.



Integration Pillar, said that “due to their specificities the fields of defence and internal affairs have been identified as areas with high risks for misconducts and corruption. Public procurement, conflict of interest, financial control and data protection have been acknowledged as particularly vulnerable processes. In this respect, further actions and support to the respective authorities in South East Europe in strengthening their institutional integrity and resilience are needed”. She continued by saying that “the close regional and wider cooperation among the SEE countries through dialogue and various forms of coordination is a strong response to today’s challenges to defence

The countries of South East Europe are committed to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) which underlines the need to address the risks of corruption by adopting effective and coordinated policies against corruption, a fair and transparent system of public procurement, strengthening of integrity of the public sector, as well as strengthening transparency and public reporting.

A review of the implementation of the UNCAC requirements is underway in South East European countries within the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of

policy, leading to building of confidence and security among the countries and development of synergy.” At the end Ms Ezhova Krzhaloska stressed that “this activity is in line with the identified needs and actions addressed within the Integrative Internal Security Governance, a new approach to internal security governance capacity-building and reform introduced in the Integrative Plan of Action 2018-2020 of the Western Balkan Border Security Initiative.”

The Head of the International Cooperation Section in the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, Mr Andrej Lakić said in

Integrity and Control Measures

Implementation of the UNCAC. Moreover, preventing corruption and promoting integrity in law enforcement agencies is one of the topics covered by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) Fifth Evaluation Round launched on 20 March 2017.

The objective of the 2018 Workshop was to increase the capacity of ministries of defence and ministries of internal affairs, particularly border police, in the field of integrity and corruption prevention by learning about best practices in application of control measures related to conflict of interest, asset declarations and protection of classified data.

Greeting the participants on behalf of the RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, Ms Ana Ezhova Krzhaloska, Programme Manager for International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro Atlantic

his Opening remarks that “the topic of Building Integrity and Fighting Corruption requires the attention of all of us who are focused on developing the global partnership and



active exchange of information with the aim to properly implement integrity and control measures in defence and law enforcement institutions.”

Speaking on behalf of the Regional Anticorruption Initiative the Acting Chairperson, Mr Davor Dubravica, expressed the commitment of RAI to support national institutions in the SEE region both by strengthening their capacities and enhancing regional cooperation in the field of conflict of interest and asset declaration. *“In this respect, the draft International Treaty on Data Exchange for the Verification of Asset Declaration will be presented during the Workshop”, Mr Dubravica stressed.*

The Workshop gathered more than 30 participants, mid-level representatives of the ministries of interior and defence from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Turkey and Kosovo* as well as the representatives of the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) and some nongovernmental organizations.

The Workshop aimed to increase awareness about innovative anti-corruption mechanisms and tools, but also the needed legal solutions and regulatory measures, by addressing the prevention and detection of conflict of interest, asset declaration systems and data protection within the law enforcement and defence sector.

Participants gained a better understanding of the specific elements related to institutional integrity measures, prevention and resolution of conflict of interest, declaration of assets, income, liabilities and interests, and identification and mitigation of corruption risks related to protection of classified data. The Workshop also aimed to support national law enforcement bodies in preparing for the GRECO Fifth Evaluation round.

The present action is in line with the identified needs and actions addressed within the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), a new approach to internal security governance capacity-building and reform introduced in the Western Balkan region (2.5.1.3. Integrative Plan of Action 2018-2020, Western Balkan Border Security Initiative). ●



Gender Training of the Trainers Course

13-26 May 2018, RACVIAC, Croatia

The “Gender Training of the Trainers Course” is a NATO-certified course that has been conducted in RACVIAC since 2014 as a result of five years of successful cooperation with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia.

In the period from 13th to 25th May 2018 RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation together with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) and the Personnel Department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia co-organized the “Gender Training of the Trainers Course (GToT)”.

The importance of integrating gender perspective in military operations in order to increase operational effectiveness had prompted NATO, as well as other national and multinational defence organisations to address, regulate and implement the integration of gender perspective, both on the duty level and on the level of participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

This two-week Course prepares instructors and trainers to successfully plan, conduct and evaluate education,

* This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



training and exercises on how to integrate gender perspective within their own respective functional area.

Its content provides the participants with the knowledge on frameworks and guidelines regulating gender in military operations as well as skills and competencies required to effectively plan, conduct and evaluate training on security sector personnel in both the national and international context.

The subject Course was a direct result of five years of successful cooperation between the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Provisions of corresponding expertise and overall organization were respectfully divided between RACVIAC, the Personnel Department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, with NCGM's support as the main Course facilitator. All parties were at a certain point included in the Course preparation and organization, as well as the development of the Course Agenda and experts' engagement.

Opening the Course Brigadier General Garašić reminded the participants about the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted in 2000 saying that

“its historical value and weight is in the fact that it recognizes the disproportional impact that war and conflict have on women and children. Furthermore, it highlights the fact that historically women have been left out of the peace processes and stabilization efforts. To have gender perspective means to be able to detect if and when men and women are being affected differently by a situation due to their gender. In terms of a military operation our activities can affect men, women, boys and girls differently. That's why it is important to recognize the possible different consequences when planning and conducting our operations, and by addressing and recognising that through the whole population we are increasing the operational effectiveness of our mission and tasks”, BG Garašić went on to explain.

In total 25 participants, military officers and NCOs as well as civilian equivalents from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Finland, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom, took part in the Course. The Course directing staff, Subject Matter Experts and instructors came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Sweden and RACVIAC.

The 2018 Course continued to grow in terms of the regionally-owned aspect: the Course Director was LTC Fahir Žilić from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and most of the syndicate leaders and instructors came from the SEE region: LTC Sandra Jonjić



(Deputy Course Director/Syndicate Leader, Croatian Armed Forces), WO Katja Vljaj Golež (Slovenian Armed Forces), 1LT Robert Karaman (Croatian Armed Forces) while only one syndicate leader was a representative of the Swedish Armed Forces (LT(N) Matz Palm). All other instructors as well as supporting staff came from the Croatian Armed Forces.

The Course curricula was built based on the NCGM template certified by NATO with some improvements and



adjustments in accordance with the lessons learned from previous similar training events held from 2014 onwards.

The GTot Course was a 10-day training event designed as a combination of lectures, corresponding individual and syndicate work, followed by a practical exercise and the final exam.

Since 2014 RACVIAC has conducted five GTot Courses and trained 109 military officers and NCOs as well as civilian equivalents from SEE region and beyond.

During the Course the students were introduced to the gender terms and definitions, the interlink between culture, religion and gender, the requirements, learning objective and target audience analysis, international humanitarian law and human rights, framework and United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Students also learned how to apply gender perspective in Security Sector Reform and Military Operations, how to prepare the lesson plan/training module, how to plan gender training at different levels, and how to identify the training requirements and learning objectives for different target audiences. One part of the Course was dedicated to essential required teaching skills like conducting the learning assessment, making a good presentation, instructional strategies and methods and handling resistance in training situations. The key event was the practical outdoor exercise on how to use role playing in gender integrated training, which was held during day six and was an opportunity for the students to

apply the knowledge gained in combination with their own professional experience.

At the end all students successfully passed their final exam thus confirming their own instructional qualities, professionalism, and gender related knowledge.

The Graduation ceremony was attended by LTC Lars Berglund, NCGM Commanding Officer, and BG Gordana Garašić, RACVIAC Deputy Director.

This particular RACVIAC training activity is an excellent example of the highest possible level of cooperation and synergy achieved among the three main organizational partners in utilizing mutual resources and support. ●



Energy Security Seminar

13-15 June 2018, Mediaș, Romania

Since the biggest share of energy consumption in SEE is dependent on imports and heavily reliant on a single supplier the 2018 Seminar focused on the exchange of information regarding the best practices in developing strategic natural gas storage capabilities.

Taking into account the conclusions of the previous events organised in 2015, 2016 and 2017, a natural evolution towards cooperation formats between EU's neighbouring

RACVIAC has initiated an Energy Security project that is being carried out since 2015 when Romania assumed the role of the leading nation in the area of energy security in RACVIAC context.



The Seminar "Strengthening the Energy Security in the EU's Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries", organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in co-operation with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Energy, and the Romanian National Company of Natural Gas-ROMGAZ, was conducted on 12-15 June 2018 in Mediaș, Romania.

The purpose of this event was to continue with open expert debates on common energy security challenges in the context of the Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework.

South-Eastern countries (e.g., Energy Community and CESEC) and concrete solutions and measures to minimize the threats in energy supply, have been borne in mind. Since the biggest share of the energy consumption in SEE is dependent on imports and heavily reliant on a single supplier the 2018 Seminar focused on the exchange of information regarding the best practices in developing strategic natural gas storage capabilities.

Opening the Seminar on behalf of RACVIAC Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, RACVIAC Deputy Director, said: „this event is a good opportunity to recall some of the long-term priorities and trends concerning the topic of our activity: increasing energy efficiency and reaching the proposed 2030 energy and climate goals, increasing energy production and diversifying supplier countries and routes, completing the internal energy market and building missing infrastructure links to respond quickly to supply disruptions, speaking with one voice, strengthening emergency and solidarity mechanisms and protecting critical infrastructure. This includes more coordination and cooperation”.

Mr Andrei-Petrișor Maioreanu, Secretary of State from the Ministry of Energy of Romania, welcomed the participants on behalf of the host country. “Increasing the energy system means capitalizing our resources and strengthening the regional and European energy system. The



Increasing energy efficiency and energy production, diversifying supplier countries and routes, completing the internal energy market and building missing infrastructure, strengthening emergency and solidarity mechanisms and protecting critical infrastructure are some of the long-term priorities regarding the energy security, said BG Garašić.

harmonization of the national interest with the obligations assumed at the European and international level is important. In this regard we support constant efforts to diversify the energy supply by identifying new suppliers and new routes of energy transport meant to increase energy security as well as develop gas infrastructure projects of great relevance to the Central and South-Eastern region in Europe“ he said. Mr Maioreanu further underlined that Romania identifies as a priority the need to decrease the vulnerabilities and to alleviate the risks that the region of Central and Eastern Europe is facing regarding the security of energy supply in the current geopolitical context.

The Seminar brought together senior level officials and experts from the governmental institutions and agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, and selected experts in the field of energy security, including the experts from the Romanian National Company of Natural Gas-ROMGAZ.

During two days the participants presented and discussed the latest developments and shared their knowledge and experience in the field of security of energy infrastructure, the diversification of energy sources and transport routes as well as the key role of strategic natural gas storage capabilities.

The First session, “The security of energy infrastructure Diversification of energy sources and transport routes”, focused on one of the main problems of the EU's neighboring South-Eastern countries in the area of energy security: the dependency on imports of sources of energy.

Diversification of sources of energy and transport routes is one of the most important priorities in this area. The session emphasized the importance of cooperation between the EU's neighboring South-Eastern countries in finding solutions and measures to minimize the imports, especially those on natural gas. The speakers were Ms Monika Zsigri, Policy Officer, DG Energy, European Commission, and Mr Cornel Zeveleanu, Deputy General Director of the General Directorate Oil and Natural Gas at the Romanian Ministry of Energy.

The Second session, “The key role of strategic natural gas storage capabilities”, highlighted the advantages of gas usage in comparison with other conventional fuels, and put a focus on natural gas storage capacities. It was concluded that gas storage is needed to balance fluctuations in daily and seasonal demand, which vary according to the demand for heating, power generation or industrial use. Storage also plays a major role in securing the gas supply in circumstances of potential disruptions or particularly high demand (during a cold spell). The main advantage of proximity storage of natural gas is represented by availability without delay. The relevant experience of the Romanian National Company of Natural Gas Romgaz in this domain was presented by Mr Bogdan Cătălin Jipa, Head of Unit at the Subsidiary of Natural Gas Storage Depogaz Ploiesti S.R.L., Romgaz Company, and Ms Simona Brad, Director, Depomureş SA. Both Sessions were moderated by Mr Corneliu Bodea, President of the Romanian Energy Center.

Romania identifies as a priority the need to decrease the vulnerabilities and to alleviate the risks that the region of Central and Eastern Europe is facing regarding the security of energy supply in the current geopolitical context.

The next day the Seminar participants paid a working visit to the Romanian energy facility Sărmășel Natural Gas Storage Capacity, located in Mureş County. ●



Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments

25-26 June, Skopje, MK

The purpose of the 2018 Annual Meeting was to discuss parliamentary procedures, challenges and oversight mechanisms in the field of defence and security, focusing specifically on the contemporary security challenges in Southeast Europe, increasing non-traditional missions of military, and good practices of parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector.



The two-day „Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees from South East European Parliaments”, organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Committee on Defence and Security of the MK Assembly, and with the support of the DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the OSCE Mission to Skopje, was conducted in Skopje on 25 - 26 June 2018.

This Meeting was a continuation of a series of Annual Meetings of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees launched in 2013, aimed at supporting cooperation among the Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments by providing the platform for interaction and networking of parliamentarians, security and defence policy experts and state officials.

The purpose of the 2018 Annual Meeting was to give a broad introduction on the mechanism and practices of the

regional parliamentary defence and security committees, enabling the participants to discuss parliamentary procedures, challenges and oversight mechanisms in the field of defence and security.

Opening the meeting Mr Talat Xhaferi, President of the MK Assembly used the opportunity to thank RACVIAC for providing the expertise in a broad variety of current security topics. At the end he emphasized the importance of this two-day meeting where all the aspects of the parliamentary oversight were covered, which is one of the basic values of every democratic society and legal states.

Mr Hari Lokvenec, Chairman of the Committee on Defence and Security, pointed out that MK is dedicated to promoting regional cooperation, understanding, trust and building of good neighbour relations as well as security and stability. Regional cooperation initiatives, especially in the field of security and defence now more than ever represent the fundamentals for strengthening peace and prosperity in SEE, he said.

In his Opening remarks Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, said that *“the current security situation in South East Europe is characterized by complex developments: transition processes in the region, global geo-strategic interests and spill-over effects of the crisis in the European neighbourhood. The region potentially faces the threat of terrorism, violent extremism and risk of irregular migrations.”* Ambassador Berk emphasized that the changing nature of current security trends *“also imposes shifts in the traditional*



Ambassador Berk: “The current security situation in South East Europe is characterized by complex developments: transition processes in the region, global geo-strategic interests and spill-over effects of the crisis in the European neighbourhood. The region potentially faces the threat of terrorism, violent extremism and risk of irregular migrations.”

role of military, which consequently affects the role, mechanisms and practices of Defence and Security Committees. In that regard, this Meeting provides a good opportunity for the Defence and Security Committee Members to exchange views on the current security challenges and discuss the parliamentary oversight activities in the context of the contemporary security environment”, concluded Ambassador Berk.

Ms Radmila Shekerinska, Deputy Prime Minister and



Minister of Defence stressed that all the countries in the SEE region are faced with non-military, asymmetric, hybrid and cyber defence challenges so they should be treated jointly through effective activities. To cope with such challenges requires the strengthening of the current, and

adoption of new mechanisms of responding, which are often above national capacities and capabilities of the states. Therefore, no country in the region can fully deal alone with security issues so mutual cooperation among the countries of the region is of highest importance, highlighted Ms Shekerinska.

Divided in three panels the event focused on the contemporary security challenges in South East Europe, increasing non-traditional missions of the military, and good practices of parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector.

The first panel, “Increasing Non-Traditional Missions of the Military and the Role of Parliamentary Oversight”, highlighted the role of the military in non-traditional tasks such as assistance to civilian institutions during natural disasters (floods, forest fires), migration management and participation in peace keeping missions. The speakers emphasized the importance of inter-agency and inter-state cooperation in this kind of military engagement, the problem of insufficient equipment and training for non-traditional tasks and the need for adjustment of parliamentary oversight. They underlined the necessity of

better preparation and increasing the capabilities of the military instead of “improvisation” which is more costly and can cause mission failure.

The second panel was titled “Parliamentary Oversight of the Defence and Security Sector - Good Practices”. The panellists pointed out the three pre-requisites for efficient parliamentary oversight: political will, legal framework and expertise. Besides that educated parliamentary staffers as the institutional memory of the Committees are essential for



a proper functioning of parliamentary bodies. They also highlighted the role of parliamentary diplomacy, which this Annual Meeting organized by RACVIAC is a good example of.

In the last panel, “Contemporary Security Challenges in Southeast Europe”, migrations and terrorism were highlighted as the most important current security challenges in SEE. They are also interconnected with organized crime, corruption, human trafficking and violent extremism. The negative demographic trends can also represent a source of security risks. In order to contribute to security and stability of the countries, it was concluded that the SEE parliaments should insist more on the rule of law and transparency of state institutions.

The Meeting gathered more than 80 participants, government representatives, parliamentarians, members of defence and security committees, expert staff of the defence and security committees and relevant ministries from SEE as well as the representatives of DCAF, OSCE Mission to Skopje, and the NATO Liaison Office Skopje. ●





Mr Ciprijan Crljenko joined the RACVIAC team as an intern in Security Sector Reform Pillar in May 2018. He is a third year student at the Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy in Zagreb. He is also a student representative and Vice president of the Croatian Student Council of Universities and University Colleges of Applied Sciences. His professional interests include academic research, foreign and security policy and international cooperation. He is an active member of the Croatian Academic Union. His future educational goals will be in the field of economics and communication studies.



RACVIAC would like to thank **Ms Martina Špoljarić**, an intern who spent two months in Security Sector Reform Pillar. We would like to thank Martina for her commitment and friendship during her work at RACVIAC, and at the same time wish her all the best at the University of Cincinnati, USA, where she will be studying political science with focus on international relations and international security as well as all the best in her future life and career.



After two months of internship **Mr Sergej Dedić** completed his tour of duty in International and Regional Cooperation Pillar in May 2018. We would like to thank Sergej for all the efforts he invested in order to help prepare and organize IRC Pillar's activities and ensure their smooth execution. He was very professional, friendly and devoted in executing all of the tasks that were assigned to him. We sincerely hope that the experience and knowledge he has gained in RACVIAC will help him to continue his Master's degree programme related to international security and risk management in Denmark.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

C-WMD Network

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	CWMD National Strategies – Multilateral Cooperation	RACVIAC	17-19 September

Security Sector Reform

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	Civil-Military Relations: Conference on P(M)SCs: Public-Private Partnership in Providing Security	Zagreb, HR	24-28 September

MAG

No.	Topic / Title	Host / Venue	Date
1.	MAG POC Meeting	RACVIAC	13 September



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

**„...fostering dialogue and cooperation on
security matters in South East Europe...“**

Follow us at:

**www.racviac.org
[twitter: @RACVIAC](https://twitter.com/RACVIAC)
facebook.com/RACVIAC**