



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Chemical Weapons Convention Workshop

Co-organized with
The Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

OVERVIEW

Dates 31 January - 03 February 2017

Venue RACVIAC, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Republic of Croatia

Background Workshops focusing on the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) have been organized annually since 2004 thanks to RACVIAC cooperation with the OPCW. Workshops on the topic of the CWC serve as a forum for enhancing regional capacity building in the fight against CW. They also provide an opportunity to discuss practical challenges in building a response system to be employed in a scenario of CW use or a threat of CW use.

The 2017 Workshop is a continuation of fruitful cooperation between RACVIAC and the OPCW in promoting the implementation of the CWC in South-Eastern Europe, which directly helps enhance regional stability, transparency and trust. This year the main focus will be put on the "Inter-Agency Coordination in Chemical Response." There are numerous challenges to be managed during any complex emergency, and an incident involving the intentional misuse of chemicals is particularly complex. In such incidents, there will likely be multiple agencies, military and civilian, working and communicating with each other under confusing and stressful conditions.

The Workshop will explore the ways in which different agencies may come together and work effectively in a chemical emergency setting.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this Workshop is to discuss relevant issues related to the CWC and provide a broad overview of the CWC implementation procedures with specific focus on different aspects, and measures in implementing the Convention. OPCW seeks to gain a clear understanding of the measures that are currently in place in the different countries in the region and of the mechanisms deployed by them.

The specific Workshop objectives are:

- To provide an overview of the CWC, major achievements and challenges included;
- To inform the participants about the implementation of the Convention and the roles and capabilities of the OPCW;
- To clarify any uncertainties regarding the challenges to be managed during any complex emergency;
- To give all necessary information about the CWC, if needed;
- To examine the ways of cooperation among the different agencies in case of incidents, involving the intentional misuse of chemicals, and;
- The ways of inter-agency coordination;

- To collect information on the adoption, implementation and enforcement measures deployed by the States Parties in the sub-region.

The Workshop expected outcomes:

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding by the States Parties in the region regarding a) the CWC, its provisions and requirements, roles and responsibilities, as well as b) the tasks of the multiple agencies in case of an incident of such kind.
- Compilation of information about the topic of cooperation and coordination in the participating countries.

Participants Approximately 30 participants, namely three (3) from each of the following countries: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia and one (1) from the Hellenic Republic, Romania and Republic of Turkey (each). In addition, attendees from invited Associate members, Observers and participants may participate in the activity. They should be either senior/junior military or civilian recommendation-makers dealing with CWC issues and responsible for escorting inspections in the Secretariat of the OPCW. The content of this Workshop will be of particular interest to the members of National Authorities of States Parties. Therefore, the participation of National Authorities' representatives is a fundamental requirement. **Participants are kindly asked to deliver a short presentation about how (or if) various military, civil and industrial agencies interact in their home countries, and discuss the challenges and strategies related to that coordination.**

Methodology The duration of the Workshop is two days. It will comprise presentations and discussions. The Workshop will provide an appropriate setting and atmosphere to encourage focused discussions. The Workshop's working language will be English (STANAG 3232).

Member States are kindly informed that RACVIAC encourages all lecturers to submit written essays on their area of expertise to be referred to during their presentation at the RACVIAC activity. Most prominent and current essays will then be published in the "RACVIAC Compendium – Assortment of RACVIAC Prominent Lecturers' Insights" that will be issued at least once a year, preferably at the beginning of the year for the year preceding, but with an option and aim to become semi-annual if input and interest of the targeted audience is satisfactory.

Understanding that additional effort and time are needed to be put into the writing of this essay, RACVIAC will stimulate it with an amount of 100 euros per essay.

The essays should comprise at least 1500 words and should be submitted electronically and in the hard copy version to RACVIAC before the actual lecture or presentation is given. The author of the submitted essay should give his/her written permission to RACVIAC to publish the essay in the "RACVIAC Compendium" waiving future claims or compensations towards RACVIAC.

PoC Mr Pál BÓDOGH-SZABÓ, Tel: +385 1 333 0 827, Fax: +385 1 333 0 829,
E-mail: pbszabo@racviac.org , Web: www.racviac.org.

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