



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



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## Activity Overview

### “Search and Rescue - On Scene Coordination Course” IRC-M6-CF-17

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Croatia  
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**Dates** 25-28 September 2017

**Venue** Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Croatia

**Background** The SAR on Scene Coordination (OSC) Course is being organized as part of the wider Search and Rescue Programme that encompasses a set of tailor-made activities designed for experts involved in the subject of search and rescue. This activity will be organized by RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation (hereinafter RACVIAC) and in partnership with National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter NPRD). This Course will be delivered by internationally acknowledged specialists from the Joint Aviation Authorities Training Organization (JAATO). The Course is intended as a capacity building endeavour for a new generation of experts involved in the subject of search and rescue and is based on best practices in promoting the implementation of the International Conventions related to SAR, in particular International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual for SAR Coordinators.

RACVIAC has recognized the importance of efficient SAR structures, national and regional alike, as types of security issues that should be further discussed and explored. In that regard, this Course is the second in a row of activities that should cover broader issues related to SAR.

The IAMSAR Manual defines the OSC as “a person designated to coordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area”, especially under circumstances when two or more SAR units are working together on the same mission. Usually, the OSC may have to assume all the duties and actually plan the search and/or rescue in an actual situation of distress and communicate with all parties involved. The wide scope of responsibilities includes: provision of operational coordination of all SAR facilities on scene, development of an SAR action plan, modification of the action plan based on the prevailing environmental conditions and keeping the mission coordination centre advised, providing relevant information to other SAR facilities. The IAMSAR guidance on on-scene coordination

is rather comprehensive, and may seem daunting to anyone asked to become an OSC. Therefore, the aim of this Course is to provide knowledge and additional skills for trainees to administer, supervise and monitor SAR on scene coordination, in accordance with their professional competence.

**Purpose and Objectives** The purpose of the Course is to encourage the further development of regional cooperation on Search and Rescue issues and to promote the enhancement of the existing national SAR structures through the exchange of information and sharing of available training opportunities and relevant SAR exercises.

The objective of the Course is to deliver additional knowledge to the personnel from Rescue Coordination Centres and other related institutions in order to strengthen the total SAR capacity in the SEE region and increase the cooperation between relevant public institutions in civil emergency response pursuant to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue.

More specifically, the activity will focus on the ways how to explore the concrete needs of each participating SAR institution related to the general role of the On Scene Coordinator (OSC), the OSC's role in a mass rescue operation (including communications with the casualty), the Search Mission Coordination, and SAR facilities on scene. In addition, this activity will also focus on identifying and listing the potential needs of the countries (e.g., education, exercise, coordination) and encourage and develop possible regional and cross-border cooperation through SAR operations.

**Participation** The Course will include mid-level representatives (civilian or military) of the relevant institutions from South East Europe dealing with Search and Rescue activities: defence/armed forces, national RCC authorities, national directorates for protection and search, civil aviation authorities, ministries of the interior, civil emergency management authorities, etc. In addition, attendees from invited Associate Members, Observers and Participants may participate in the activity.

The respective national authorities are invited to nominate only participants with the necessary professional background and official responsibilities as SAR service personnel.

**Methodology** The event will last three working days and will comprise lectures, presentations, discussions and the practical part - an exercise. The working language will be English.

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