



Activity Overview

"Border Security and Management Seminar" SSR-J1-S-17

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Dates 28 February - 02 March 2017

Venue Skopje, MK

Background

While the unprecedented flow of migrants in 2015 has greatly affected Europe, in 2016 the challenges to the law enforcement authorities caused by the developing dynamics of migration not only continued, but are becoming increasingly diversified. Therefore, the countries along the so-called Balkan Migration Route were forced to adopt additional measures and established cooperation and complementary actions in combating terrorism and violent extremism in SEE. Such an approach is based on the increased synergy between the international stakeholders, both the EU and other strategic partners, and was agreed in close cooperation with the SEE countries. Last year we have witnessed a decrease in the number of arriving migrants, which is a result of the EU – Turkey agreement on the Joint Action Plan for Migration Management Cooperation. The terrorist attacks in Europe have highlighted another very important aspect, i.e. security. Hence, additional pressure is building up in the workload for the police forces in controlling and balancing the migration stream through the affected countries.

The Seminar will focus on strengthening the capacity-building in the context of the EU Integration Processes in South East Europe, while the topics will cover a wide array of expertise in the field of border security and management (information interchange, new technologies, terrorism, drug trafficking and arms smuggling, counterfeiting and identity management).

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this joint event is to continue addressing the challenges in border security and management, to identify current and future challenges and to support the implementation of the Border Security and Management Concept of the OSCE Participating States in South East Europe, and other international and regional initiatives. The aim is to raise efficiency of the border management authorities in SEE and foster mutual cooperation in mitigating current and potential security treats.

Participation

Approximately 30 representatives - police force officers and civilian officials responsible for border security from the ministries of interior, ministries of finance, representatives of the customs, drug control and border guard/border police national services and other relevant ministries from the SEE region.

Methodology

The event is designed as a Seminar and it will be conducted as a series of individual presentations, expert consultations while a study field trip to the refugee camp "Vinojug" is foreseen for the second day. The Seminar working language is English.

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