STARLINK Introductory Training Course on Security System Reform

Dates  
16 - 20 November 2009

Venue  
Zagreb (Croatia), RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

Background  
The countries of South East Europe are presently going through different stages of a dynamic transformation process and have already made a significant progress. Reforming the security system into a democratic and professional service for the citizens is of great importance to the SEE region’s long-term stability and economic development. Moreover, it is a precondition for Euro-Atlantic integration. Therefore, from 2007 RACVIAC has been establishing closer relations with EU, NATO and other partners in order to support the accession processes of the countries from South Eastern Europe. In line with the mentioned strategic objective, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, together with the Centre for European Security Studies from the Netherlands, conducts an Introductory Course on Security System Reform in order to provide the countries of the region with the opportunity to share experience and lessons learned in democratic governance in the field of Security System Reform, as well as to acquire further knowledge in that field.

Purpose & Objectives  
The purpose of the Introductory Course on Security System Reform is to bring together respective representatives from relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations and NGOs, with a view to providing access to new knowledge on democratic governance in the security system. The objectives supporting this purpose are as follows:

- To promote better understanding of democratic governance in the security sector and Security System Reform, as advocated by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC);
- To develop, adapt, test and provide training material on Security System Reform and democratic governance in the security sector, to be used by the countries of South Eastern Europe;
- To help and encourage the countries of South Eastern Europe in developing their own capacity for providing Security System Reform training.

Participants  
Approximately 30 participants, up to two participants from the permanent member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey; as well as representatives of other interested countries, relevant international organizations and NGOs. The targeted audience for the course is parliamentary staff, military and civilian officials working in the field of defense, and NGO representatives. The official course language will be English.

Methodology  
The course comprises interactive training sessions, a full-day simulation exercise and open discussions (exchange of knowledge and experience - lessons learned). All academic materials presented or produced during the course will be distributed in the form of a CD.

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