“STARLINK” Training of Trainers Course on Security System Reform for South East Europe

Co-funded by the Kingdom of Norway and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dates 16 – 18 June 2010
Venue Zagreb (Croatia), RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation

Background
The countries of South East Europe are presently going through different stages in the dynamic transformation process of reforming the security system and have already made significant progress.

SSR, as a process of improving the security sector and making it a strong democratic and professional service for the citizens, is of great importance to the SEE region’s long-term stability and economic development. In addition, it was widely accepted as a prerequisite for Euro-Atlantic Integration. In that regard, from 2007 RACVIAC has been establishing closer relations with EU, NATO and other partners in order to support the accession 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 (CESS) from the Netherlands, conducts a Training of Trainers Course on Security System Reform (SSR) in order to prepare potential local trainers to teach SSR issues in their own countries, as well as to provide them with the opportunity to share experience and lessons learned in this field.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of the Training of Trainers Course on Security System Reform is to bring together potential trainers from relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations and NGOs, with a view to obtaining methodical and didactical skills necessary for teaching the principles of Security System Reform. The objectives supporting this purpose are as follows:

- to assess the acquired knowledge on SSR of the potential trainers;
- to apply this knowledge and to test-drive the teaching skills of the potential trainers by means of small teaching exercises;
- to identify opportunities given by institutional capacities in the home countries of the potential trainers – will they have opportunities to use the knowledge they acquired and will their organisations benefit from their skills and use them to train on SSR?

Participants
Approximately 20 participants, up to two participants from permanent member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey; as well as representatives of other interested countries, relevant IOs and NGOs. Participants should possess advanced knowledge on SSR, so they should be graduates of the introductory and/or advanced courses on SSR. Trainers will be selected on the basis of two criteria: first, their individual qualifications (training skills, knowledge of SSR, proficiency in English) and second, the likelihood that they will actually be used as SSR trainers. There is room for up to 20 participants, coming from the core member countries of RACVIAC but also from former Soviet Union countries where the “STARLINK” Programme was conducted in previous years (Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan). CESS will select and invite members of the latter group. The official course language will be English.

Methodology
The course comprises training exercises, a case study 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.