The Regional Commodity Identification Training for Military and Dual-Use Goods was a follow up event to the Regional Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing held on 25-27 October 2011 in RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, Croatia.

The training focused on the commodity identification and promotion of inter-agency and regional co-operation among licensing offices and customs services with a view to fighting the proliferation of illicit weapons and dual-use goods. It contributed to the promotion of the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 and OSCE Document on SALW as well as to the reinforcement of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept that promotes threat mitigation with the least possible restriction posed on trade and transport.

Export licensing offices and customs agencies play key roles in controlling strategic trade and preventing proliferation of dual-use goods as well as illicit weapons. Their mutual cooperation, as well as cooperation amongst countries, is what can prevent the proliferation of illegal and dangerous items. Hence the importance of this training workshop for the cooperation and security issues in the SEE region.

The participants who attended the workshop came from the following countries: Albania (4), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (4), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (4), Montenegro (4) and Serbia (2). They were both licensing officials and front-line customs officers.
It was carried out as a combination of lectures and presentations, followed by hands-on group exercises and in the end a facilitated discussion. The workshop was aimed at sharing expertise, opinions and lessons learned, identifying problems and finding possible solutions, as well as at exploring the way ahead. The workshop also provided a favourable environment and atmosphere for valuable and focused discussions.

**Execution**

The workshop was opened on 16 July with welcome addresses by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir MANDIĆ and Mr Mathew GEERSTEN, Head of the FSC Support Section, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE. Opening remarks were also given by Ms Andrea POKERZNIK, Project Analyst, EU Outreach Export Control of Dual-Use Goods and Ms Debika PAL, Regional Project Manager, Europe International Non-proliferation and Export Control Program, US Department of Energy. They all underlined the importance of this workshop for promoting the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 and OSCE Document on SALW as well as for the inter-agency and regional cooperation.

During the first working day, the following topics were presented:
- **Proliferation Procurement Tactics and Case Study, Overview of WMD Programmes and Dual-Use Materials and Equipment Needed for their Development and Chemicals and Chem/Bio Processing Equipment**, outlined and demonstrated by the experts from the U.S. Department of Energy;
- **International Non-proliferation Regime – Mandates, Guidelines, Control Lists and Catch-All, National Implementation of Export Control Norms – Elements of Effective Export Control**, presented by the lecturers of the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual Use Goods.

During the second day, the following topics were presented:
- **Commodity Set 2: Industrial Equipment Related to Nuclear and Missile Program Development, Commodity Set 3: Materials, Overview of Risk Indicators**, demonstrated by the experts from the U.S. Department of Energy;
- **Case Study (interagency cooperation and risk assessment from the customs perspective)** outlined by Mr Matjaz MUROVEC, Deputy Head of Investigation Section, General Customs Directorate, Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.

The participants were then split into two groups. One group, consisting of licensing officials, discussed the topic of **Methodology for Assessing Proliferation Risk in the Licensing Process including technical assessment (how and where)** and was moderated by the EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual Use Goods. The second group, comprising customs officers, covered the topic of **Methodology for Assessing Proliferation Risk in the Targeting Process**, simulating selection of a shipment for inspection, identifying the commodities and requesting control determinations. This group was moderated by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Afterwards both groups were united once more in order to discuss mutual cooperation between the customs and licensing offices.

The third day was dedicated to the topics on:
- **Commodity Set 4: Electronics, eCIT and other tools and resources**, presented by the representatives of the U.S. Department of Energy;
- **Concealment Techniques used for Trafficking of SALW**, outlined by Mr James BEVAN, Director of the London-based Conflict Armament Research.
The participants were again split into two groups performing an exercise on commodity identification.

The final part of the workshop was devoted to the evaluation and the Closing Ceremony.

**Conclusion**

Thanks to the cooperation between RACVIAC, OSCE, U.S. Department of Energy, EU Outreach Export Controls for Dual Use Goods the presence of high-level lecturers was ensured. Their presentations, coupled with their professionalism and experience, were highly appreciated by the participants. According to the participants’ evaluation provided at the end of the event, the workshop was successful, very interesting and well organized. The participants considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated and they showed deep interest in the subject matter. They expressed various ideas regarding the topics for possible future activities, which may prove to be a valuable source of needs assessment. In particular, they reiterated the need to focus on the practical part and shorten the theoretical part with technical details. The following topics were singled out as interesting for future events:

- Practical exercises and presentations on real cases of interagency cooperation and risk assessment;
- Elaborate examples of commodity identification;
- Risk assessment and concealment techniques;
- Elaborate examples of methods and ways of detecting misuse of dual-use goods.

These recommendations will certainly be taken into consideration by the co-organizers in the course of preparations for the next year’s activity.

Once more, RACVIAC has, in cooperation with the OSCE and other partners, carried out a successful event for the SEE region and we hope that in the future this type of events will become a permanent platform which would provide a knowledge base on the best practices in use within the region and raise awareness of the types of movements that can be expected in transit to and from neighbouring countries.

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