Seminar on the Facilitation of Common and Coordinated Measures in the Western Balkan Region under the DCAF Border Security Programme
SSR-02-C
Overview

Dates
04 – 07 February 2013

Venue
Conference Room in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in SEE, Rakitje, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Background
In 2012, the DCAF Border Security Programme has been transferred from Geneva to the permanent DCAF office in Ljubljana, Slovenia. In addition to some structural and organisational changes, the Programme has been transformed to make it more efficient and result-oriented. As of 2012, DCAF Ljubljana is mandated to implement the DCAF Border Security Programme in the Western Balkan Region. The Regional Action Plan 2012–2015 for Capacity Building and Increasing Common and Coordinated Measures in the Area of Border Security in the Western Balkan Region has been endorsed by the beneficiary countries from the Western Balkan region. It provides strategic and goal-oriented guidance to the endeavours by the beneficiaries, participating donor countries, DCAF and partner organisations, such as EU agencies. It consists of three main components – (1) “EU/Schengen Integration”, (2) “Education and Training”, and (3) “Common and Coordinated Measures in Crime Prevention, Fight against Organised Crime falling within the responsibility of Border Police Forces, and the Fight against Illegal Migration”. The Programme is organized and financed by DCAF. In accordance with the Exchange of Letters between RACVIAC – Centre for Security cooperation and DCAF Ljubljana, signed on 18th December 2012 in Rakitje, Croatia, four events within the DCAF Programme will be executed in cooperation with RACVIAC, which will be hosting the events. In 2013, a total of four events will be jointly organised and held in the premises of RACVIAC in Zagreb, Croatia.

The first event – Seminar on the Facilitation of Common and Coordinated Measures in the Western Balkan Region under the DCAF Border Security Programme – will take place at RACVIAC in the period of 4–7 February 2013. As part of the Common and Coordinated Measures Pillar, it will aim to facilitate and upgrade further practical cooperation between the Western Balkan countries. An analysis will be conducted and further activities will be discussed and planned in the area of Common and Coordinated Measures, taking into consideration any new developments in the regional state-of-play, the lessons learned during the first two Common Operations conducted under this pillar in 2012, and the findings of the regional risk analysis. The event will bring together regional police experts, police practitioners as well as Slovenian, DCAF and EU experts in the area of border security and cross-border police cooperation. They will also discuss further measures to improve operational results, future needs and developments in the related education and training, and building mutual trust among the practitioners in the regional security sphere.
### Purpose & Objectives

The main objectives of the Programme are:

- To provide specific assistance to the border police and MoI experts in the Western Balkan region during the process of preparation and undertaking of responsibilities arising from the EU membership status and consequently the Schengen integration status;
- To support the development, promotion, harmonization and implementation of relevant concepts, norms, standards, strategies and polices in border guarding in the Western Balkan Region according to EU policies;
- To increase the level of competences, knowledge and range of police skills, along with the development of a clear vision in the field of education and training, bridging the gap between educational and practical domains;
- To increase common and coordinated measures, utilising the existing legal basis, and applying the developed national capabilities, professional attitudes, mutual trust and know-how between the Western Balkan countries.

### Participants

Up to three representatives of the competent national services of the ministry of the interior/police are invited from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as one participant from Frontex.

### Methodology

The events will be executed in the course form. The working languages will be local, Albanian and (if required) English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided by DCAF Ljubljana.

### POC

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<th>RACVIAC</th>
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*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.*