2nd workshop on Early Warning Messages and Regional Risk Analysis
9-10 April 2013,
Rakitje, Zagreb, Croatia

Activity Background
The DCAF Border Security Programme, implemented at DCAF Ljubljana, offers assistance to the border police and services of the ministries of the interior/security of the beneficiary countries of the Western Balkans with the aim to implement the Integrated Border Management concept in the region and contribute to an efficient tackling of modern threats to regional and wider European border integrity. 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, and provides strategic and goal-oriented guidance to the endeavours by the beneficiaries and DCAF, in cooperation with the participating donor countries and partner organisations, such as the EU agencies.

The DCAF Border Security Programme focuses on 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", underlining a regional and result-oriented approach, which is based on European standards and good practices.

Activity Facilitators

The above event was executed in cooperation between DCAF Ljubljana and RACVIAC, pursuant to the Exchange of Letters between RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and DCAF Ljubljana, signed on 18th December 2012 in Rakitje, Croatia. According to the Exchange of Letters, DCAF Ljubljana supported the Seminar financially and programme-wise, while RACVIAC hosted it.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation

The Workshop contributed to the objective of the Programme to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current border related security developments in the region, to contribute to the development of regional capacities aimed at anticipating emerging security developments and risks to border integrity, such as the tools of an Early Warning System and Risk Analysis, and to facilitate the establishment of the intelligence-led policing concept in the region. This will contribute to the capabilities of competent regional services in the area of law enforcement and a greater efficiency in the common planning, in strategic and operational decision-making, as well as to a threat-based and coordinated execution of region-wide operational measures. The participants tested the application BORDER SENTRY, a common web-based technical platform developed within the Programme, and proceeded to discuss possible changes, relevant technical issues, and defined the starting date for the real-life use of the system.

The Workshop was held in the period of 9-10 April 2013 in RACVIAC facilities and gathered 19 participants (Albania – 3, Bosnia and Herzegovina – 3, Croatia – 3, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* – 3, Montenegro – 2, Turkey – 2, and Serbia – 3.

Activity Description and Content

In the opening session, the first to welcome the audience was Ambassador Branimir Mandić, the Director of RACVIAC. He stressed the importance of the cooperation between RACVIAC and DCAF Ljubljana and their commonly held principle to support South East European countries on their way to the EU and Schengen integration.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
conclusions adopted at the 1st meeting on Early Warning Messages and Regional Risk Analysis, held in Ohrid in September 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the EWS and the RA). Mr Rupnik outlined the state of play regarding the exchange of alerts among the beneficiary states. He introduced BORDER SENTRY, a newly developed web-based application for data management, enabling on-line data and information input from security protected access points. Data input and queries on stored data are user-friendly in order to minimise the time needed for use and data search.

The participants proceeded to test the application. Mr Darjo Cizel, senior police inspector, an expert on risk analysis, and Mr Miran Kondrič, Senior police inspector, expert on fake and forged documents, (both of the Border Police Division of the General Police Directorate, Ministry of the Interior and Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia), provided several real-life cases of illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of drugs and cigarettes, stolen vehicles, etc. They outlined the most interesting cases of detected criminal activities at border crossing points in Slovenia, and demonstrated how to conduct sufficient and useful entries into the BORDER SENTRY.

Participants were able to test the application “hands-on”, and got to know the possibilities it provides for the establishment of a long-term sustainable system for the exchange of early warning messages. They exchanged their opinions and discussed the existing problems of technical nature that will need to be dealt with in the last stage of software development, and tried to find adequate solutions to possibly up-grade the application. It was agreed that the upgrades of the application would be done in two weeks. Afterwards, the last version of BORDER SENTRY will be ready to continue its use in the testing environment.

A discussion followed on the existing practices of conducting risk analysis, which are in some of the beneficiary states still performed by manual data collection and processing. The new risk analysis system will be used in the same web environment as BORDER SENTRY, to be readily accessible to every police station and to allow both data input and access on the spot. This will result in prompt and updated reports that will be developed in a manner that can be used for three main reporting purposes: for automatized on-line tabular and graphic indicators, for downloading, to enable country-specific analyses, and for uploading to other systems (for example Frontex spreadsheets).
Regional Risk Analysis would continue, in cooperation with the beneficiary states, with the good practice of exchanging early warning messages and alerts on criminal activities at the border crossing points, but at the same time prepare for the full implementation of BORDER SENTRY. It was suggested that an additional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be prepared in order to provide a legal basis, as well as to provide for the issues such as data ownership, data administration, location of the server, procedures, etc. The proposed solution of the MoU will be presented at the Meeting of Chiefs of Border Police Services and Heads of Cabinets of Ministries of the Interior/Security taking place in May 2013.

Compiled by:
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