Introduction

On 14 - 18 March 2016 The Dayton Article IV Course was held in Montenegro in accordance with the RACVIAC 2016 Programme. The Course was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany and logistic support of the MoD of Montenegro. The theoretical part was held in ReSPA- Regional School of Public Administration premises while the practical part of the Course was held in two military barracks: the ‘Milovan Šaranović’ barracks in Danilovgrad and ‘Golubovci’ airbase in Podgorica. The Course was carried out in the “local” language. Simultaneous translation into English was provided for the participants who don’t know the “local” language.

The purpose of this Course was to instruct participants on how to successfully perform their duties as inspectors and/or escorts pursuant to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections.
The Course objectives were:

- To inform and educate the participants about the General Framework Agreement for Peace In Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords), with a particular focus on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Protocol on Inspection.
- To train the participants in the roles of inspectors and escorts in the framework of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

The Course was attended by thirty five participants, lecturers and speakers from Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), Republic of Croatia (5), the Federal Republic of Germany (1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\(^1\) (1), Montenegro (8), Republic of Serbia (3), Spain (1), Slovenia (1), Republic of Turkey (2), Kosovo\(^2\) (3) and OSCE (2). They represented the relevant Ministries and Agencies, as well as regional Verification Centres involved in the Arms Control Regime of Dayton Article IV.

The Course was opened by the CSE Programme Manager, Col Muharrem Gülcan, Programme Manager in RACVIAC CSE Pillar. He highlighted the importance of this Course as it has helped in educating a great number of arms control inspectors thus promoting confidence and security in the SEE region.

The welcome address was followed by speeches given by the representatives of the signatory countries: Mr Momir Brajić, Head of Department for NATO and PfP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Col Bosiljko Mijatović, Head of Croatian Verification Centre, Ambassador Milorad Šćepanović, Director General for Multilateral Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the MFA of Montenegro, Ambassador Branka Latinović, Head of Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Serbia.

1) *Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

2) **This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

In the first part all lecturers assumed the roles of escorts/inspectors and demonstrated how an inspection looks like. The second part was reserved for participants who showed what they have learned during the Course. Participants were divided into two teams, to practice performing the roles of inspectors, escorts and ‘OSCE guest observers’.

**The Execution**

The first working day of the Course started on Monday, 14th of March with the opening remarks of Col Muharrem Gülcan, Programme Manager in RACVIAC CSE Pillar. He highlighted the importance of this Course as it has helped in educating a great number of arms control inspectors thus promoting confidence and security in the SEE region.

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They gave national views on the Agreement and outlined the path each country has taken in the process.
Also, they underlined the success the parties have achieved during the past years, including a transfer to regional ownership in the final stage. All speakers underlined the importance of this Agreement, and explained that the road to getting this far and seeing real confidence among the nations involved was a long and hard process. Though it may seem easy now and maybe even obsolete to the newcomers’ point of view, they all agreed that it is very important to keep sharing the spirit of the Agreement with the future generations and that this Course is a perfect platform for that.

Mr Robin Mossinkoff, Head of the FSC Support Section, OSCE addressed the participants as well. Given that the Agreement is a regionally owned document the OSCE will keep supporting the countries in its current mandate but also stands ready for cooperation and support in other matters of interest.

The participants were presented with the following topics:

- Presentation on the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Accords) and a detailed analysis of Article IV of the Agreement, Protocols on Reduction and Inspection as well as the POET.
- Preparation of a training inspection on a declared site and practical advice about inspection and/or escort duties.

During the first part the lecturers were divided into two teams. Each team conducted a training inspection - one acting in the role of an inspection team and the other in the role of an escort team. The teams carried out the whole process of inspection (preparation of the inspection, execution of the inspection and debriefing) in such a way as to allow participants to observe and ask questions at all points of the exercise. During the exercise all were invited to see the military police training for special operations courtesy of the MoD of Montenegro.

After the first practical day the participants were then divided into two groups and were tasked to demonstrate what they have learned during the theoretical part and by observing the lecturers. After the wrap up of the exercise and upon returning to ReSPA’s premises participants were given certificates of successful completion of the Course. They were highly motivated during the whole Course thus contributing to its overall success.

Conclusion

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the topics chosen and considered the Course overall to be valuable for their future work. They all agreed on the necessity to conduct such Courses in the future as well with the aim of contributing to the security and confidence building measures in the region.

The lecturers covered the theoretical part of the Agreement in an excellent way. Their professionalism and experience were highly appreciated by the participants and RACVIAC staff with whom they have had excellent cooperation in organizing these Courses throughout the years.

During the practical part the participants showed exceptional professionalism in conducting missions both as inspectors and escorts, thus demonstrating a spirit of cooperation and meeting the standards of a real Inspection.
Experienced lecturers expressed very positive comments concerning the progress the participants made during the Course.

The Course was very well organized due to great cooperation between RACVIAC and the Verification centre of Montenegro, especially the excellent preparation with regard to the declared site, local transportation and overall support for the Course.

As has been announced, henceforward, each year, the practical part of the Course will be conducted in another signatory state. In 2017 the Course will be organized in the Republic of Croatia.

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