Activity Overview

Regional Workshop
“Integrity and Control Measures in Defence and Law Enforcement Institutions”

IRC-L4-W-18

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Venue Podgorica, Montenegro

Background Due to their specificities the fields of defence and internal affairs have been identified as areas with high risks for misconducts and corruption. Public procurement, conflict of interest, financial control and data protection have been acknowledged as particularly vulnerable processes. In this respect, further actions and support to the respective authorities in South East Europe in strengthening their institutional integrity and resilience is needed.

Countries of South East Europe are committed to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) which underlines the need to address the risks of corruption by adopting effective and coordinated policies against corruption, a fair and transparent system of public procurement, strengthening of integrity of the public sector, as well as strengthening transparency and public reporting.

A review of the implementation of the UNCAC requirements is underway in South East European countries within the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the UNCAC. Moreover, preventing corruption and promoting integrity in law enforcement agencies is one of the topics covered by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) fifth Evaluation Round launched on 20 March 2017.

Being aware of the fact that integrity and the fight against corruption in defence and security areas presents one of the common challenges in the region, and considering that this specific topic needs to be treated in a multi-disciplinary fashion, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro have been implementing joint activities in the last couple of years.
The key topics of the joint activity in 2018 will be the prevention and detection of conflict of interest, asset declaration systems and data protection within the law enforcement and defence sector.

The present action is in line with the identified needs and actions addressed within the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), a new approach to internal security governance capacity-building and reform introduced in the Western Balkan region (2.5.1.3. Integrative Plan of Action 2018-2020, Western Balkan Border Security Initiative).

Purpose and Objectives The objective of the Workshop is to increase the capacity of ministries of defence and ministries of internal affairs (particularly border police) in the field of integrity and corruption prevention by learning about best practices in application of control measures related to conflict of interest, asset declarations and protection of
classified data. The Workshop aims to increase awareness about innovative anti-corruption mechanisms and tools, but also the needed legal solutions and regulatory measures. It is anticipated that the participants will gain a better understanding of the specific elements related to institutional integrity measures, prevention and resolution of conflict of interest, declaration of assets, income, liabilities and interests, and identification and mitigation of corruption risks related to protection of classified data. It will also aim to support national law enforcement bodies in preparing for the GRECO Fifth Evaluation round.

The participants will:
- acquire additional knowledge on the relevant international standards and useful tools;
- get an overview of the main regional stakeholders and actors, competent bodies and institutions;
- elaborate relevant case studies and address common challenges and problems;
- exchange good practices and lessons learned;
- develop mutual contacts and a network among participants from South East Europe;
- outline the most demanding common challenges in South East Europe and future actions in this field.

**Participation** The target audience of the Workshop are mid-level representatives of the ministries of interior and defence (border police, officials dealing with integrity measures, prevention and detection of conflict of interest, classified data protection). The participants are also expected to take an active part in delivering and deliberating on case studies.

**Methodology** The Workshop is envisaged as an active and vibrant environment that will enable all participants to share their knowledge and experience and to learn about the topics from peers in the region. The event will last two days and will comprise lectures, presentations and discussions. The working language will be English.

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