Conference Overview

“Conference on Security Challenges for Europe”
SSR-F2-CF-18

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Republic of Croatia
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Dates 22-23 November 2018

Venue “The Westin Zagreb” Hotel, Izidora Kršnjavog 1, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

Background This event presents a continuation of an established series of activities aimed toward enabling open and comprehensive discussions on emerging security challenges for Europe and South East European countries in particular. It is the sixth Conference so far conducted as a result of organizational cooperation between RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Croatia. This joint initiative is aimed toward maintaining the regional platform for addressing transformation processes in South East European (SEE) countries in view of the EU and NATO membership responsibilities and institutional readiness, primarily considering the required security sector reform activities within the context of contemporary security challenges. Hence, looking from a geopolitical point of view, SEE should define a common political and security outlook vis-à-vis the new security challenges and threats that are already arising or will possibly arise in the near future. Following last years’ experience the intention is to increase the level of participation and the quality of the content by strengthening the event's scientific dimension and enhancing the involvement of the academic community from RACVIAC Members primarily. The main academic partner is the Institute for Development and International Relations based in Zagreb.

Purpose and Objectives The purpose of this event is to continue to enable open security policy and academic expert debates on the contemporary security challenges in the context of ongoing security sector reforms and integration processes of the EU and NATO aspirants. The main Conference objectives are:

- To identify the developing security challenges for Europe in general and SEE in particular;
- To provide a common platform for reviewing the newest geopolitical shifts and resulting national security issues in view of the existing Euro-Atlantic integration processes;
- To provide participants with the opportunity to share national considerations on the current risks and challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism, and irregular and uncontrolled migration;
- To support an academic approach in identifying common interests and suggesting the possible solutions in national security policy development.
Participation The Conference is aimed at bringing together representatives primarily from SEE countries. Approximately a total of 50 participants - senior level national security policy makers and subject matter experts - preferably from the ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of interior, ministries of defence, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and members of the academic community involved in addressing the contemporary security challenges and policy development processes. Detailed terms of participation and financial arrangements will be specified in the corresponding Conference Invitation Letter and Administrative Information.

Methodology The event is designed as an expert forum and it will be conducted in the form of Conference panel discussions. The Conference working language is English.

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