RACVIAC Receives Award for Contribution to Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

New Deputy Director Assumes Office at RACVIAC - Brigadier General Gordana Garašić

Gender Training of the Trainers Course Held
35th MAG Meeting held in Tirana, Republic of Albania

On April 12th, 2016 the 35th Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) meeting was held in Tirana, Republic of Albania, under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Nazmi Cahani, Land Force Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. The Meeting gathered 32 MAG delegates, including the three representatives of RCC, SEESAC and SEDM Secretariat, as well as 11 RACVIAC participants.

During the meeting the delegates were provided with the latest information on the Centre's work, including an update about the RACVIAC Programme, the Financial report and the current situation regarding the vacancies in the Centre. At the beginning Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, and the MAG Chairperson, welcomed the participants and all other delegates. All present noted the statement of Greece on the concluding of the ratification process and renewed participation in the framework of RACVIAC as a Member, upon submitting the instrument of ratification to the Depository of the Agreement. The Director thanked all MAG countries, international organizations, other participants and partners for outstanding support during the year 2015 and invited them all to continue to support RACVIAC in the ongoing year and the years to come. He particularly emphasised the need to strengthen the ownership of the organization.

The autumn MAG Meeting will take place in RACVIAC facilities on 12-13 October 2016, where the new MAG Chairperson, a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, should be approved by MAG.

MAG delegates complimented the RACVIAC Director and his staff on their efforts and expressed their further support for the Centre's work.
Visits to/outside RACVIAC

Director of German Verification Centre (BwVC) Visits RACVIAC

Upon the invitation of RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, Brigadier General Peter Braunstein, the Director of the German Bundeswehr Verification Centre visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Tuesday April 19th, 2016.

During the visit, Brigadier General Peter Braunstein was briefed on the activities of RACVIAC. The visiting Delegation provided their own presentation regarding the work of the Bundeswehr Verification Centre. Also, various aspects of work by the two centres were discussed along with the potential for further expanding the existing excellent cooperation.

The Federal Republic of Germany has been an unique partner of RACVIAC with substantial contribution since the Centre’s inception.

Slovenian Ambassador Visits RACVIAC

H.E. Mrs Smiljana Knez, Ambassador of Slovenia, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on Monday April 25th, 2016. She was accompanied by Mr Primož Koštrica, Minister Plenipotentiary.

Ambassador Knez began her visit with an office call to RACVIAC Director H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk. Following the office call she met with members of the RACVIAC staff during which she was given a briefing regarding the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

During discussions the personnel structure and development process for the RACVIAC programme were discussed.

Ambassador Knez noted that the existence of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation is important for building confidence in the region. She added that challenges are different today than they were in 2000 however the significance of RACVIAC remains the same.
Visits to/outside RACVIAC

RACVIAC Director Visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

On May 17th, 2016, the Director of the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Ambassador Haydar Berk paid a courtesy visits to H.E. Mr. Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to H.E. Ms. Marina Pendeš Minister of Defence in Sarajevo. He was accompanied by Lt.Col. Josip Mlakić, Activity Manager of the RACVIAC IRC Pillar.

During his visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Igor Crnadak, informed Ambassador Berk of Bosnia and Herzegovina's path toward the European Union (EU) and NATO membership, noting that he expects the country to receive EU candidate status in 2017. The foreign minister also noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina is prepared to continue cooperation with NATO.

Minister Crnadak underlined that Bosnia and Herzegovina wishes to further strengthen cooperation with RACVIAC and is open to ideas regarding activities and projects to be implemented at the Centre. Ambassador Berk informed the minister regarding future projects to be implemented at RACVIAC and thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for its continued strong support.

During his visit to the Ministry of Defence, H.E. Ms. Marina Pendeš informed Ambassador Berk that Bosnia and Herzegovina sees Euro-Atlantic integrations as one of their main foreign policy goals and said that for her country activation of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) for NATO is of utmost importance. She expressed support of the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, thanking Ambassador Berk for the Centre's cooperation. Assistant Minister for International Cooperation Zoran Šajinović was also present at the meeting.

Ambassador Berk also thanked the Minister for their strong support and presence at RACVIAC. He briefly presented the RACVIAC program emphasizing the focus of seminars and workshops planned for this year as well as their significance. Ambassador Berk said that he supports improved cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and NATO adding that he considers it significant for activation of the MAP for Bosnia and Herzegovina as soon as possible.

During his stay in Sarajevo Ambassador Berk also visited the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) where he met with Secretary General Goran Svilanović with whom he took up possible areas of future cooperation between RCC and RACVIAC.
Visits to/outside RACVIAC

Croatian Assistant Ministers of Foreign and European Affairs and Defence Visit RACVIAC

On Tuesday August 30th, 2016, Mr Amir Muharemi the Assistant Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in the Republic of Croatia and Mr Nikola Brzica the Assistant Minister of Defence in the Republic of Croatia, visited the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The two assistant ministers began their visit with an office call in the office of RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk.

The second part of the visit consisted of a meeting with RACVIAC staff members at which the assistant ministers were informed of the state of affairs at RACVIAC in terms of programme implementation and development as well as budget realization. The project oriented approach to RACVIAC programme activities was reflected in the presentation where the assistant ministers gained information on several of RACVIAC’s main projects that include: Energy Security, Cyber Security, Defence Resources Management and Integration of Gender Perspectives in Security Sector Reform.

It was also noted that RACVIAC continues to fulfill its original arms control implementation assistance role with several training courses and education activities that include: a “Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar”, a “Vienna Document 2011 Compliance and Verification Course”, and an “Orientation Course on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Dayton Article IV)”.

Commenting on the development of RACVIAC’s programme, Ambassador Berk noted that RACVIAC takes into account the desires and requests of its member countries as well as contemporary challenges when planning its programme.

Both of the assistant ministers expressed strong support for the role of RACVIAC and its mission to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe.

The meeting ended with a tour of the RACVIAC facilities.
RACVIAC Director Attends 11th Annual Ministerial Review Conference on Border Security in SEE

RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk attended the 11th Annual Ministerial Review Conference on Cooperation in the Field of Border Security in SEE held in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 31st of May and the 1st of June 2016. The conference was organized jointly by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

The Conference was opened by the address of the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Dragan Mektić, followed by the representative of the European Union. The event consisted of three panels: DCAF Border Security Programme: Results and Achievements, Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Security: Lessons Learned and Facing Newly Occurring Challenges and Remaining Needs and Future Strategic Direction.

Ambassador Berk, during his intervention, briefly introduced RACVIAC and gave information regarding those RACVIAC activities focusing on cooperation in the fields of border security; Foreign Terrorist Fighters-implementation of the UNSCR 2178; Nuclear Security Detection Architecture Awareness; C-WMD project; Chemical Weapons and Cyber Security. He underlined that RACVIAC is prepared to play an active role in the implementation of an integrated action plan on border security.

The respected Ministers of DCAF beneficiaries used the opportunity to sign multi-lateral agreements developed by their experts under the auspices of the BPS, related to the use of the Border Sentry application for statistical data and early warning messages and to Joint Return Flights to extra-territorial countries of origin. At the end of the Conference, the Ministers signed the Jahorina Declaration.

Over the course of the Conference, Ambassador Berk realized contacts with the present delegations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Albania, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro as well as representatives from DCAF, EU, WBCTI, and informed them about the mission and the programmed activities of the Centre, which are covering various security challenges affecting the SEE region, and of cooperation possibilities.

RACVIAC Receives Award for Contribution to Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

A delegation from the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation lead by Director Ambassador Haydar Berk attended a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control which was held in Vienna, Austria on June 16th, 2016.

At the ceremony the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation was presented with an award for its valuable contribution to the Agreement. RACVIAC has been organizing a Dayton Article IV - Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control Orientation Course since 2001. Awards were presented to individuals, organizations and countries that have supported the Agreement from its inception.

---

1 Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
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 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 and to establish a common understanding of the Agreement in order to foster mutual trust, confidence and transparency during the performance of inspections.

- 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 the Republic of Albania (2), the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (6), the Republic of Croatia (5), the Federal Republic of Germany (1), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1), Montenegro (8), the Republic of Serbia (3), the Kingdom of Spain (1), the Republic of Slovenia (1), the Republic of Turkey (2), Kosovo** (3) and the 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, Mr Vlatko Naumovski of ReSPA, and representatives of the signatory countries of the Dayton Article IV Agreement. The Course was conducted with the assistance of five lecturers, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (2), Montenegro (1), Serbia (1) and Germany (1).

The Course lasted 4 days and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part, with a debriefing at the end of the practical part. Participants from Kosovo** took part in the theoretical part of the Course.

The practical part was conducted in two parts.

In the first part all lecturers assumed the roles of escorts/inspectors and demonstrated what 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, the 14th of March with the opening remarks of Col Muharrem Gülcan,

---

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

** 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
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, the Head of the Croatian Verification Centre, Ambassador Milorad Šešpanović, 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 Serbia.

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 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 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, henceforth, 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.

Compiled by the CSE Pillar
RACVIAC
Conference on “Gender Perspectives and Security in South Eastern Europe”

06-08 April 2016, Rakitje, Croatia

Summary

On 06th - 08th April 2016 RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation together with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Office in the Republic of Croatia co-organized in Rakitje, the Republic of Croatia, the Conference on “Gender Perspectives and Security in South Eastern Europe”. The Conference panel topics were selected around previously established conclusions from the RACVIAC 2014 Gender Conference when the requirement for periodical events of this particular nature was clearly established. In this way, RACVIAC and KAS as a traditional SSR Programme partner decided to join resources and continue to enable Gender National Focal Points’ networking process in SEE, ultimately supporting the existing gender equality efforts, this time primarily within the context of the contemporary security challenges for Europe and beyond.

The Conference objectives were as follows: to address the progress made to implement UNSCR 1325 and corresponding resolutions in the countries participating in RACVIAC; to convene a relevant subject matter expert forum; to support professional development for the two key subject matter professional groups directly or indirectly involved in the National Action Plan implementation (national focal points and gender instructors), and to suggest some specific tools to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1325 NAPs - as one of the identified critical common requirements in SEE. Additionally, this year’s event managed to increase the visibility of this highly specific and important field of interest by being able to host some high level guest speakers and distinguished members of the diplomatic core accredited in the Republic of Croatia. Namely, Ms Maja Čavlović, MSc, Envoy of the President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and President’s Advisor for Defence and National Security; H.E. Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and H.E. Ambassador Astrid Versto, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in the Republic of Croatia addressed the audience during the Conference opening session.

Activity Background

After the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, it took more than a decade for its instruments to be translated into national policy agendas, including the countries of South Eastern Europe. Over the time, the SEE countries have either adopted, started developing or chose not to adopt a dedicated document. No evidence exists as to which extent these polices have contributed to UNSCR 1325 expected results since design, implementation and monitoring differs from country to country.

Thus, RACVIAC and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) as a traditional SSR Programme partner decided to join resources and enable Gender National Focal Points’ networking process in SEE, ultimately supporting the existing gender equality efforts, this time specially within the context of the contemporary security challenges for Europe and beyond.

The 2016 Conference initiative followed the 2014 Gender Conference Conclusions when the requirement for periodical events of this particular nature was clearly established. The Conference purpose was primarily to address the gender equality topics regarding the current progress made to implement UNSCRs 1325 and corresponding resolutions in the countries participating in RACVIAC, to convene a relevant subject matter expert forum, to support professional development for the two key subject matter professional groups directly or indirectly involved in the National Action Plan implementation (national focal points and gender trainers), and to suggest some specific tools to monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1325 NAPs - as one of the identified critical common requirements in SEE. This was the third event of this kind established as the part of RACVIAC’s initiative to support the Gender National Focal Points’ networking process in SEE.

Activity Facilitators

Provision of expertise and overall organization were respectfully divided between RACVIAC as the Conference proponent and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Office in Croatia. Both parties were at certain point included in organizational support, development of the agenda and speakers’ invitations.

RACVIAC developed and presented an initial activity concept and corresponding programme, which was then additionally improved through direct consultations.
Conference Opening - Welcome Addresses
(starting from left)
H.E. Haydar BERK, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation
(speaking)
H.E. Astrid VERSTO, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in the Republic of
Croatia
H.E. Semina BOROVAC, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia
and Herzegovina
Ms Maja ČAVLOVIĆ, MSc, President’s Advisor for Defence and National
Security, Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia
Dr. Michael A. LANGE, Head of the KAS Office in Croatia
Lt Col Janus KASCHTA, Military Attaché, Embassy of the Federal Republic of
Germany in the Republic of Croatia

It is required to state here that initially, and regardless of the
obvious need for this kind of activity, the required funds were not
available and RACVIAC skipped the organization of similar
conference in 2015. In 2016 this obstacle was overcome in
cooperation with KAS, which recognized the importance of
RACVIAC efforts in the programme area of human rights, and
decided to join this important undertaking.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation
This was the third SSR 2016 Programme activity at the time of its
execution. In total 48 participants from the Republic of Albania,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Japan, the
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, the
Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of
Turkey, and Kosovo**, including subject matter experts,
members of RACVIAC and partner organizations’ staff took part
in the Conference.
The event itself lasted for three working days, from 06th to 08th
April 2016, with 06th April designated as the arrival day.

Activity Description and Content
This particular event for the first time introduced a specific
conference concept that included subject-related workshops
targeting both major groups of participants (national focal points
and gender trainers). The concept was a success and the SSR
Pillar will continue to further develop and utilize this
organizational model. Another important achievement to be
underlined here is the introduction of new security aspects to
the subject of gender perspectives and security in SEE in the
light of contemporary security challenges - primarily negative
gender aspects of uncontrolled migrations (this was the first
time we went a step forward in view of the UNSCR 1325). The
standard conference format was used during the first day, while
the second day was solely dedicated to respective workshops.

Conference Welcome Addresses
Dr Michael A. LANGE
Head of the KAS Office in the Republic of Croatia (speaking)

The Conference was initiated by welcome addresses of the
partner organizations’ executives: H.E. Ambassador Haydar
Berk, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation,
and Dr. Michael A. Lange, Head of the KAS Office in Croatia, and
the representative of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of
Germany in the Republic of Croatia, Lt Col Janus Kaschta, Military
Attaché.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name
** This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence
(In accordance with Arrangements regarding representation and cooperation)
The first conference opening speech was provided by H.E. Astrid Versto, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in the Republic of Croatia.

In her exposé, H.E. Astrid Versto stressed that the UNSCR 1325 is one of the greatest accomplishments in this particular and important subject area and that women are, and must be considered one of the key resources for achieving peace and stability. Unfortunately, women are still in position to suffer from forced marriages, sex crime, unavailability of education, exclusion from public life, and similar gender related difficulties. In her conclusion, Ambassador Versto invited RACVIAC to continue to support this initiative and make it stronger.

H.E. Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina underlined that results on implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina are more and more visible especially through the increased number of women entering security sector.

At the same time, some of the obstacles still can be found, such as traditional stereotypes and insufficient availability of required funds. At the end, H.E. Semih Borovac concluded that one of the areas that requires special attention and action is the issue of victims of conflict related sexual violence, one of the most difficult post-conflict burdens in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Last, but not least to give the conference opening speech was Ms Maja Čavlović, MSc, a personal envoy of the President of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, and the President’s Advisor for Defence and National Security. Ms Čavlović emphasized the fact that "there is no development without security". In this context, women are a powerful asset of peace and should be more involved in the process of prevention of conflicts, while all related policies should reflect this.

The first day of the event had a standard conference structure and included two main panels: Panel I on "Gender and Security in SEE - Implementation of UNSCR 1325", and Panel II on "Contemporary Security Challenges for Europe and Gender Perspectives".

Panel I started with the eminent subject matter experts' presentations provided by BG Gordana Garašić, MSc, Head of the Military Office in the Cabinet of Defence and National Security, Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia; Ms Ankica
Tomić, MSc, Deputy Chairperson of the Coordination Board of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ms Zorana Antonijević, Doctoral Candidate, University of Orebro, Sweden/University of Novi Sad, the Republic of Serbia; and Lt Col Strašo Stojčevski from the Ministry of Defence of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

The final part of Panel I included individual previews on UNSCR 1325 implementation provided by the participating national delegations, after which all participants had an opportunity for discussion on the given topic.

Panel II had the same structure and it was covered by the subject matter experts: Ms Nermina Komarić, Coordinator, European Migration Network (EMNI), International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Ms Sabine Freizer from UNWOMEN, who respectively covered topics on "Gender and Migration", and "Violence Against Women Refugees" in the context of current security challenges for Europe in general and SEE in particular.

In accordance with the event's concept, the first day was concluded with the conference closing session in which final remarks were provided by Ms Samra Hadžiabić-Filipović, Chairperson of the Coordination Board of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for monitoring implementation of UNSCR 1325, and Head of the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina; BG Gordana Garašić, MSc, Head of the Military Office in the Cabinet of Defence and National Security, Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia; and H.E. Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

As already underlined, the second day of the conference was solely dedicated to the workshops designed to support professional development requirements of the individuals who are involved in the implementation effort of the UNSCR 1325 - primarily national focal points and gender trainers. Thus, RACVIAC managed to establish a specific subject matter support mechanism that is currently unavailable at the regional level, but as previously pointed out presents one of the major requirements for this particular group of professionals. Two workshops were planned for each group of participants respectively, but one of them had to be abandoned at the very last moment due to cancellation from the engaged expert lecturer. In this way, the subject event was not able to deliver all established outcomes. Nevertheless, and thanks to the level of expertise and skills that were provided by Ms Zorana Antonijević, the conducted workshop was a success. The workshop itself was designed to present participants with "Analytical Tools in Gender and Security Situation Analysis" which was primarily targeted for gender trainers, but also included national focal points who appreciate it equally.

The second day finished with the corresponding Round Table, including Conference/Workshop evaluation process, which produced specific conclusions and recommendations to be included in the design process for the Gender Conference event in 2017.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The enhancement of cooperation on the part of the KAS Office in Croatia was of crucial importance for RACVIAC to be able to continue enabling SEE national gender focal points networking, and initiate a specific set of support activities dedicated to their professional development - the goal that the SSR Pillar has set for itself based on the analysis of the 2014 Gender Conference discussions. Now, this activity has the potential to become a long-term joint project. In this way, RACVIAC should be able to establish itself as the leading regional facilitator for the national gender focal points networking process, while at the same time being able to directly support subject matter professionals' development.

To be able to achieve this, and in the course of the applied 2016 Programme activities' structure and design, the SSR Pillar for the first time in RACVIAC introduced a conference concept that incorporated corresponding subject matter workshops as already described. By doing this, we successfully introduced the new multidimensional Programme event concept, and thus brought some newly added value to our events. Our intention is to continue to apply this model which enables us to do more within the same framework and organizational constraints (accomplish a broader scope of objectives within a single Programme activity and with the same level of available resources).

The event itself was rated as excellent in all of its elements, except in regard to time that was available for discussions, which should be considered as a positive indicator, and suggests that the Conference should last one day longer. In conclusion, and similar to those of the 2014 Conference proposals, the majority of participants once again recognized the importance of this type of event and suggested having another one in 2017 in the form of a "Key Leadership Conference". The is the result of the valuable fact that the event had a relevant participation structure - expert forum that is perfectly capable of recognizing common subject matter interests and requirements.

It can be concluded that the Conference succeeded in its mission as already described. Unfortunately, and due to force majeure, not all of the outcomes were achieved, and they will be re-incorporated in the future event.

Compiled by the SSR Pillar
RACVIAC

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name
Workshop on C-WMD National Strategies

18 - 20 April 2016, Rakitje, Croatia

The second activity of the year under the C-WMD Network was held at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from April 18th to April 20th, 2016.

The event was organized as a workshop titled „C-WMD National Strategies - Premises and Inter-agency Cooperation“, and a Proliferation Security Initiative Table Top Exercise (PSI TTX) that was intended to reinforce efforts to develop national strategies to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The workshop and PSI TTX objectives were: to discuss in depth the premises of a national strategy in terms of goals and international requirements; to introduce the importance of inter-agency cooperation; to demonstrate alternative models of inter-agency cooperation; to peer review existing national forms of inter-agency cooperation and discuss the key stakeholders' roles in the process; to deepen contacts among representatives of national organizations and agencies engaged in the accomplishment of counter proliferation and of response to WMD.

The event began with an overview of the progress made so far under the C-WMD network followed by national presentations from the respective representatives present.

Over the course of the event participants heard a series of lectures and took part in 3 exercises.

The workshop „Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE“ was held on 27 April 2016 in the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" - Skopje, the workshop was supported by the SBA Research Center for Information Security representative, Prof. Dr. Edgar Weippl (Republic of Austria).

In their opening remarks RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk and the Dean of the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" - Skopje, Dr Orce Popovski, Col, welcomed all distinguished experts from the countries of the South East European region which supported the event by taking part in it.

The workshop participants worked in two groups and had an opportunity to discuss topics and objectives for the Advanced Training Course which are in line with their institutions' needs and best practices.

The workshop was concluded with a joint discussion and agreement on the following:

**Topics and Objectives for the Advanced Training Course**

**Topic:** Information Warfare: Defending Against Information Warfare

**Objectives:**
- Definition/ understanding Information Warfare
- Implications and protection measures (state/strategic level)
- Unconventional Information Warfare
**ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**Topic: Resilient Wireless Protocols for Transmission of Critical Messages**
Objectives:
- Describing Wireless protocols
- Wireless protocols standards
- Protection of transmission of critical messages

**Topic: Security Threats from Non-state Actors in Cyber Space**
Objectives:
- Defining non-state actors (cyber crime, hacktivism and terrorism)
- Targets, motivations
- Modus operandi
- Case studies (tbc)

**Topic: Security Threats from State Actors in Cyber Space**
Objectives:
- Defining state actors (state aggression, cyber espionage)
- Targets, motivations
- Modus operandi
- Case studies

**Topic: Critical Information Infrastructure Protection**
Objectives:
- Defining Critical Infrastructure
- SCADA and ICS systems
- Resilient mechanism for defense
- Protection procedures
- Case studies

**Topic: New Generation of Cryptographic Security**
Objectives:
- Improving security via cryptographic products
- Symmetric and asymmetric cryptography
- Basics of cryptoanalysis
- Best practices and misuses
- Next generation cryptographic devices

**Topic: Post-quantum Security**
Objectives:
- Future challenges
- Quantum computing
- Quantum cryptography
- Traditional vs quantum

**Topic: Access Control**
Objectives:
- Types and categories of access control
- Authentication methods
- Password management
- Audit and log analysis of access control

**Topic: Cloud Computing and Security Challenges**
Objectives:
- Defining cloud computing
- Advantages and disadvantages of cloud computing
- Achieving security in cloud computing

**Topic: Cyber Warfare and Cyber Weapons**
Objectives:
- Defining cyber warfare and cyber weapons
- Legal aspects of using of cyber weapons
- International regulation on cyber weapons

**Topic: National/International Cyber Security Regulations**
Objectives:
- Necessity of cyber security regulation
- Existing regulations, best practices, case studies
- Ways and levels of cooperation between nations/institutions

**Topic: New Dimension of NATO Cyber Defense Policy**
Objectives:
- Evolution of NATO cyber defense policies
- Decisions, NATO summits
- Smart defense policy

**Topic: Cyber Security, Cyber Defense and Cyber Operations**
Objectives:
- Definition
- Different approaches
- National and international level
- National authorities with responsibilities in cyber security/defense

**Topic: Information Obfuscation**
Objectives:
- Definition of obfuscation
- Methods used by attackers to obfuscate (traditional and current methods)
- Mechanism against attacks related to obfuscation

**Topic: Pen - Testing**
Objectives:
- Introduction (what is pen-testing; crucial elements before, during and after; benefits)
- Pen-test methodologies
- Vulnerability discovering (reports, measures, etc.)
- Exercise with open source tool for pen-testing

**Topic: Cyber Special Operations**
Objectives:
- Defensive and offensive operations
- Exploitations
- Hacking back, counter-cyber attack
- Cyber espionage

**Topic: Applying International Law of Armed Conflict Principles to Cyber Defense**
Objectives:
- Applicability of international Law of Armed Conflict related to cyber space
- Possible solutions for attribution issues
- NATO Article 5
- UN Charter
- Tallinn manual
ACTIVITY REPORTS

Topic: **Introduction on Digital Forensics**
Objectives:
- Preserving data and evidence
- Benefits of digital forensics
- Legal use (authorities responsible for forensics)
- Mobile Device Investigative Techniques
- Case studies

Topic: **Advances of Using Risk Analysis in Pursuing Systems Security**
Objectives:
- Why and when we need risk analysis
- Identifying weak points and potential targets for attacks
- Methods and objectives of risk analysis
- Risk analysis approaches

Topic: **Cyber Risks & Threats, State of the Art & Future Trends**
Objectives:
- Perspective (dark web, IoT)
- Raising awareness of cyber threats and risks
- Converged networks, assessment/evaluation
- Possible future actors, assessment/evaluation

Topic: **Cyber Incident Handling**
Objectives:
- Defining cyber incident
- Defining procedures to respond
- Reporting cyber incident
- Responsibilities of CERT, CIRT, SOC
- Best practices

Topic: **Organizational Aspects of Information Security**
Objectives:
- Information security management standards
- Responsible authorities
- Resilience mechanisms
- Data Disaster recovery and business continuity

Topic: **Online Digital Evidence**
Objectives:
- Introduction to online digital evidence
- Methods and instruments for searching and collecting online digital evidence
- Managing digital evidence
- Case studies

Topic: **Protection of Privacy in Cyberspace**
Objectives:
- Legal aspects
- Cyber insurance
- Responsibilities of service providers, national authorities...
- Techniques and technology for privacy protection

Topic: **Human Factor in Cyber Space**
Objectives:
- Social engineering/insiders
- Awareness
- Staff Training

Topic: **Misusing Cyber Space for Inciting Violent Extremism**
Objectives:
- Definition of Cyber Space
- Identifying the platforms for misuse
- Suppressing the incitement of calling and recruiting for violent extremism
- Case study/examples

The selected topics will be included in the training agenda Advanced Training Course which will be organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Compiled by IRC Pillar
RACVIAC

---

**Workshop on Corruption Reporting and Whistleblower Protection**

10-11 May 2016, Rakitje, Croatia

A workshop on Corruption Reporting and Whistleblower Protection was organized by the RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the RAI-Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, the ReSPA-Regional School for Public Administration and RCC- Regional Cooperation Council. The event took place on 10-11 May 2016 in Rakitje, Croatia.

The objective of this Workshop was to increase the capacity of relevant public institutions about protection of whistleblowers, as well as to increase awareness about needed legal solutions in South East Europe. The event was attended by representatives of institutions from South Eastern Europe, in charge of implementation of whistleblowing policies at respective national

---
levels. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the most relevant aspects of whistleblowing and to gain a better understanding of the specific elements in corruption reporting and whistleblower protection, such as reporting channels, identity protection, confidentiality, protection mechanisms as well as to share experiences and practices of cases and enable better understanding of existing mechanisms on the national level.

Implementation of international instruments and standards in this field was also in the focus of discussion among participants.

The workshop resulted in outlining the most demanding common challenges in the field of whistleblower protection, but also in identifying the future steps in addressing those challenges and needs from a regional perspective.

The workshop was opened by His Excellency Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, who welcomed all participants and expressed appreciation to RAI, RCC and ReSPA for cooperation in organizing the event, as well as to other organizations which contributed to the event, particularly to UNODC, OECD and Blueprint for Free Speech. He also emphasized the importance of whistleblowing as a strong tool and mechanism in the fight against corruption and highlighted objectives of the workshop. Regional cooperation and development of synergies have been identified as significantly important in this respect.

Mr. Davor Dubravica, RAI Chairperson, expressed gratitude to RACVIAC, ReSPA and RCC for collaboration in organizing the workshop. He pointed out the importance of whistleblower protection, and expressed RAI commitment to support national authorities in capacity building and further work in this field. Implementation of laws on whistleblower protection is crucial in the overall anti-corruption efforts.

Mr. Dragan Djurić, Programme Manager from ReSPA expressed pleasure to cooperate with partners in organizing the workshop. He underlined that the workshop is a good opportunity to share experiences and best practices, which would lead to progress in the anti-corruption field.

The first panel of the workshop was about key legal principles for corruption reporting, and it was led by Mr. John Devitt, Anti-Corruption Expert from Transparency International Ireland, who stressed that challenges are universal and not only regional and pointed out that whistleblowing plays an important role in anti-corruption efforts. He also emphasized the importance of whistleblowing promotion and advocacy. Several important aspects of corruption whistleblowing were touched upon, such as the “good faith” principle, potential risks for whistleblowers, unreliable whistleblowers, opportunities and challenges in corruption reporting. Mr. Devitt denoted that focus should be on information received by whistleblowers, rather than on the person. He also emphasized the role of the CSOs in whistleblower protection.

Ms. Constanze Von Soehnen, UNODC expert, led the presentation and discussion on UNCAC Requirements and Key Review findings. She indicated how legislation is important to understand the difference on whistleblower protection and protection of formal witnesses in the criminal proceeding. Ms. Von Soehnen underlined that countries of the region finalized the 1st cycle of UNCAC review. Almost all countries were recommended to strengthen whistleblower protection systems, while only one country requested technical assistance. She informed participants about the UNODC Resource Guide on Good practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons.

During the next session, led by Mr. Tomislav Ćurić, Anti-corruption Expert from RAI, national representatives shared their experiences, best practices and lessons learned. They also informed on the most recent developments on the national level and presented practical cases on whistleblower protection. It was concluded that all countries have made a progress in the field of whistleblower protection. However, there is still a lot of potential for improvement and work to be done, particularly in terms of implementation of national legislation.

On the second day of the event, the first session was focused on Improving Implementation and Enforcement of Whistleblower Protection, opened and led by Mr. Mark Worth, Blueprint for Free Speech, who drew attention to the case of Tuzla Kvarc in Bosnia and Herzegovina that confirmed the need for stronger legislation to protect whistleblowers in the private sector. He informed the audience about the Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection, its roles and how the Coalition can support governments in their efforts in protection of reporting persons.
Ms. Liz Owen, OECD Expert, underlined two main instruments: Recommendation on Improving Ethical Conduct in the Public Sector and Anti-bribery Recommendation. She emphasized the fact that 59% of OECD countries guarantee anonymity to whistleblowers, and stressed some important points like education and awareness in raising, implementation and tone from the top.

Dr. Stelios Andreadakis, from University of Leicester, shared the results of the study on whistleblower protection in the USA and UK. He elaborated on money rewards for whistleblowers in the private sector in the USA, which ensures anonymity, better encouragement and less retaliation. He also provided some ideas and suggestions on how to improve whistleblower protection in South East Europe.

During the final session of the Workshop, led by Mr. Tilman Hoppe, Anti-corruption Expert, participants had an opportunity to work in groups and discuss the most challenging and practical topics regarding whistleblowing, such as anti-retaliation measures, features of good legislation, working with whistleblowers in practice, and activities that could enhance whistleblower protection in the region. Each group presented its findings and recommendations for the future activities.

In the closing statements, Mr. Dragan Djurić expressed gratitude to everyone and pointed out that the workshop has broadened the picture of further work and it will help to improve system of anti-corruption policies.

Mr. Davor Dubravica expressed appreciation to all participants for attending the workshop and for sharing experiences. He stressed commitment of RAI to work in the field of whistleblower protection and to support the SEE Coalition. He reiterated the importance of joint cooperation with other regional organizations, particularly with RACVIAC, ReSPA and RCC.

At the end of the workshop, Ambassador Haydar Berk pointed out the importance of whistleblower protection, which is one of the biggest challenges in SEE. He also underlined that the workshop was very successful and it will be helpful for participants in terms of how to maximize benefits of whistleblowing. Mr. Berk expressed readiness for further collaboration with regional organizations in this field.

Compiled and adopted by IRC Pillar
RACVIAC

Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminar

16-19 May 2016, Rakitje, Croatia

Introduction

The Physical Security and Stockpile Management Seminar is part of a traditional project activity carried out by the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation that is supported by the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sport of Austria.

Following the workshops of the last couple of years, where the main goal was to evaluate the real needs of the countries in the region regarding PSSM, this year the main objectives were:

- To envisage how to improve the efficiency of work on PSSM-related issues within the national authorities, ministries and agencies;
- To give an overview of the assistance provided and cooperation coordinated by or involving international organisations;
- Among others, to search for further tools to improve the work in the field of capacity building.

The Seminar participants came from the following countries: Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (3), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2), Russia (1), Republic of Serbia (2) and Republic of Slovenia (3). The activity also included the participants from different agencies and organizations dealing with PSSM issues, such as the MoD SI (1), OSCE Mission to BA (1), Small Arms Survey (1), UNDP SEESAC (1), and The HALO Trust (1).

The Seminar was conducted with the assistance of the expert and moderator Mr Blaž Mihelić (MoD SI/SAF).

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name
Execution

The Seminar began on 17 May 2016 with the welcome address of the Programme Manager in the RACVIAC CSE Pillar, Colonel Muharrem Gülcan, followed by the Opening remarks given by the leading expert and representative of the MoD of Slovenia, Mr Blaž Mihelič.

During the first working day (Tuesday, 17 May) the following topics were presented:

- Sustainable Stockpiles: Small Arms Survey’s work with respect to PSSM capacities and capabilities in South-Eastern Europe by Ms Jovana Carapić, Associate Researcher, Small Arms Survey. The lecture delivered by the SAS representative was followed by presentations by the participants from the following countries: AL, BA, HR, MK, RS and SI, describing the present situation regarding PSSM in their countries.

- Challenges in the field of SALW/CA in BA by Col (ret.) Gerhard Faustmann, Arms Control Project Officer, Politico-Military Unit, OSCE Mission to BA. According to Col Faustmann the field of PSSM BA is in a more difficult situation than in any other country in the region. At the same time, he expressed his wish to hear more about “strategy” from the participants representing different nations.

- SEESAC’s work in improving PSSM capacities and capabilities in the region by Mr Iztok Bojović, Project Coordinator, UNDP SEESAC. Mr Bojović gave an overview of the history of SEESAC, providing an update on its plans and what its future could look like.

- PSSM - Security Principles and Systems, Standards, example of poor and best practice by Mr Blaž Mihelič, Advisor, MoD/SAF, Republic of Slovenia. Mr Mihelič in his presentation showed many examples, in the form of case studies, of ammunition storages, methods and sites. Looking back in history he gave a detailed account of the story of a storage site in Trieste.

The second day of the Seminar was devoted to The HALO Trust’s presentation and detailed work on evaluation by the participants, lecturers and RACVIAC staff.

- An overview of HALO’s experience in PSSM by Mr Nicholas Bray, Global Technical Officer, The HALO Trust (UK). Mr Bray, who works as a global technical officer at The HALO Trust worldwide, emphasized the organization’s global presence, underlining that in the region it has been present only in Kosovo*. Stressing the importance of The HALO Trust’s holistic approach to PSSM he mentioned the problem of fundraising that can be seen in the fact that they literally have to go to regions to which the donors direct them and that that’s why The HALO Trust’s largest program can be found in the Ivory Coast. Mr Bray expressed the importance of firearms safety education as well.

Proposals Made by the Participants

- Providing
  a) Less time for national presentations
  b) Translation from ENG to LL for better understanding

* 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 accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation).
**ACTIVITY REPORTS**

- **Creating**
  a) A regional ammunition database (the recent one is outdated)
  b) Creating a SOP to test chemical stability

- **Providing Lectures About**
  a) Pyrotechnic safety
  b) Chemical stability of propellant
  c) The life-cycle management of ammo

**Conclusion**

Thanks to careful preparation on the part of the activity team, a great number of high-level lecturers took part in this seminar. Their professionalism and experience, as well as their presentations, were highly appreciated by all participants.

According to the evaluations made by the participants the seminar was successful, very interesting and well organized. Most of the participants were members of national authorities dealing with ammunition and stockpile issues in their countries and they considered it valuable for their future work.

The participants were highly motivated during the seminar and they showed deep interest in the subject matter.

This event proved to be a good example of a topic that was very well chosen by RACVIAC, resulting in a highly successful and popular seminar. RACVIAC and, especially, the CSE Pillar, hope that the continued popularity of this successful event, and Austria’s financial support, will go on, in order to promote with all of the means possible the issue of the right management of ammunition and weapons.

Compiled by the CSE Pillar
RACVIAC

---

**Gender Training of Trainers Course**

*17-27 May 2016, Rakitje, Croatia*

**Summary**

*In the period from the 17th to the 27th of May 2016, the RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation together with the Personnel Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, and the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM), including support from the UNDP-SEESAC, co-organized in Rakitje, the Republic of Croatia the “Gender Training of Trainers” Course (GToT). The GToT curricula is built based on the NCGM template certified by NATO with some improvements in accordance with the lessons-learned from previous two similar training events in 2014 and 2015. In this way, it presents a direct result of three years of continuously successful cooperation between above mentioned organizations.***

This 10-day Course prepares instructors and trainers to plan and conduct pre-deployment training and education for troops, units and individuals on integration of gender perspectives in military operations. Its content is applicable in both national and international training and education for armed forces and defence organizations and provides the participants with knowledge on how to integrate the gender perspective in mission specific training as well as national basic training.

This year the Course grew in terms of participation and partners involved, and ultimately fulfilled its initial ambition. For the first time, UNDP-SEESAC joined this effort as a new partner organization, the Course Director for the first time came from the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, while all the syndicate leaders and instructors came from SEE countries. Thus, the GToT became regionally owned in its all aspects. Furthermore, the new idea was presented at the end of the event: to include Nordic countries’ students in future course activities as instructors. Thus, a new potential for growth has been created in term of quality, visibility and importance.
Activity Background

The importance of integrating gender perspective in military operations in order to increase operational effectiveness had prompted NATO, as well as other national and multinational defence organisations to address, regulate and implement this subject, both on the duty level and on the level of participation in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

This training event prepares instructors and trainers to plan and conduct pre-deployment training and education for troops, units and individuals on integration of gender perspectives in military operations. The course content is applicable in both national and international training and education for armed forces and defence organizations and will provide the participants with knowledge on how to integrate the gender perspective in mission specific training as well as national basic training.

The subject course is a direct result of three years of successful cooperation between the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, and the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

Provisions of corresponding expertise and overall organization were respectfully divided between RACVIAC as the course main facilitator, and the course partners who provided executional support in terms of subject matter expert personnel and contributions in kind. All parties were at a certain point included in organizational support, development of the course agenda and experts’ engagement.

A special course preparation event had been conducted two months prior to the beginning of the course (29th to 30th March 2016), and primarily included syndicate leaders and responsible representatives of the partner organizations. By doing this, all organizational stakeholders were in a position to carefully analyse all organizational and academic aspects of the subject event, to identify possible shortfalls and to provide common solutions.

Thus, all partner organizations were constantly engaged in the preparations of the event in line with the previously agreed and established main objectives.

This year, the Course grew in terms of participation and partners involved, and ultimately fulfilled its initial ambition.
Activity Venue, Duration and Participation
This was the fourth SSR 2016 annual programme activity. In total 51 participants from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Kingdom of Denmark, Japan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Republic of Turkey, and KFOR HQ, including subject matter experts, members of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia, NCGM, RACVIAC and UNDP-SEESAC staff took part in the Course.

Out of this number, 25 were course students while the rest were involved in course execution as academic, administrative or support personnel.

The event itself had a standard NATO certified curricula and lasted for ten working days, from 18th to 27th May 2016, while 17th May had been dedicated as the arrival day.

Activity Description and Content
The GToT Course is a 10-day training event designed as the balanced combination of contents comprised of subject matter lectures, corresponding individual and syndicate work, followed by a practical exercise and final exam.

The specific approach included daily students’ feedbacks on introduced topics regarding achieved quality and adequacy of the contents. Following this and with the same goal, every day started with short common reflections, targeted to point out accomplishments of the previous day and what is ahead of them. The goal for this approach was to reach the highest possible level of interaction with the students and to implement and individual approach during the training itself.

From the very beginning of the course, students were encouraged to be open and actively contribute to joint work primarily as the members of a designated group - syndicate. Due to course methodology, capacity and specific quality standards, the number of students was limited to not more than 28.

As one of the major improvement based on the lessons-learned from the last year’s course, and as the part of the individual course preparation, prior to their arrival students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online course on "Improving Operational Effectiveness by Integrating Gender Perspective". In this way they arrived with a certain common level of knowledge on the subject matter topics.

The joint work started on 18th May with the course opening ceremony during which welcome addresses were given by:

- Brigadier General Gordana Garašić, MSc, Head of the Military Office, Cabinet for National Security and Defence, Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia,
- Lt Col Grethe Stensland, Officer in Command, Education and Training, NCGM, and the Course Director Mentor,
- Mr Ivan Hostnik, MSc, SSR Programme Manager, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

After the brief official opening of the course, the work continued with a mutual introduction, presentation of general academic and administrative information, which primarily included: learning outcomes and the objectives of the course, the course schedule, and individual responsibilities including the final exam. Furthermore, the syndicate system of work was presented and the four syndicates themselves were established (syndicate set-up). In the academic part, students were initially introduced to some of the basic training assessment tools, instructional strategies and techniques.

The first course day concluded with an ice-breaker social event, which was also designed to support course objectives and served primarily for informal introduction of the students, initial syndicate bonding (team-building), and creation of a positive competitive spirit among the syndicates.

Classroom Session
All course lectures were presented in the RACVIAC Conference Room, while the syndicate work was done in four separate classrooms

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name
As part of individual course preparation, prior to their arrival, students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online course.

During the second day, students were introduced to the subject matter terms and definitions; interlink between culture, religion, and gender; how to use and teach NATO BI SC Directive 40-1; how to identify gender perspective as a tool in a commander's operational tool kit and apply gender perspective into PSO and other military activities. The day concluded with the individual task of building a training plan and actually applying what they have learned during first two days.

Day three of the course was dedicated to familiarization with the international framework and background of gender perspective: Human Rights and International Humanitarian law; United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Additionally, to enhance this objective, students were given individual task to self-study corresponding UNSC resolutions, which also served as an introduction to the brief Women, Peace and Security Resolutions Seminar. This day concluded with the lesson on how to plan training in accordance with audience level, and existing depth of knowledge among a specific audience. Part of this was a related syndicate task.

The final day of week one for the course brought a panel demonstration on how to have a dialogue on different tactics and techniques and share experiences on how to successfully integrate gender perspective into military operations. The Panel demonstration involved Col Boženko Đevoi (course director), Lt Col Suzana Tkavc (last year's course student), Lt Col Strašo Stojčevski (course syndicate leader), and 1st Lt Tatjana Šolaja (course student).

As part of individual course preparation, prior to their arrival, students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online course.

During the second day, students were introduced to the subject matter terms and definitions; interlink between culture, religion, and gender; how to use and teach NATO BI SC Directive 40-1; how to identify gender perspective as a tool in a commander's operational tool kit and apply gender perspective into PSO and other military activities. The day concluded with the individual task of building a training plan and actually applying what they have learned during first two days.

Day three of the course was dedicated to familiarization with the international framework and background of gender perspective: Human Rights and International Humanitarian law; United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Additionally, to enhance this objective, students were given individual task to self-study corresponding UNSC resolutions, which also served as an introduction to the brief Women, Peace and Security Resolutions Seminar. This day concluded with the lesson on how to plan training in accordance with audience level, and existing depth of knowledge among a specific audience. Part of this was a related syndicate task.

The final day of week one for the course brought a panel demonstration on how to have a dialogue on different tactics and techniques and share experiences on how to successfully integrate gender perspective into military operations. The Panel demonstration involved Col Boženko Đevoi (course director), Lt Col Suzana Tkavc (last year's course student), Lt Col Strašo Stojčevski (course syndicate leader), and 1st Lt Tatjana Šolaja (course student).

As part of individual course preparation, prior to their arrival, students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online course.

During the second day, students were introduced to the subject matter terms and definitions; interlink between culture, religion, and gender; how to use and teach NATO BI SC Directive 40-1; how to identify gender perspective as a tool in a commander's operational tool kit and apply gender perspective into PSO and other military activities. The day concluded with the individual task of building a training plan and actually applying what they have learned during first two days.

Day three of the course was dedicated to familiarization with the international framework and background of gender perspective: Human Rights and International Humanitarian law; United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Additionally, to enhance this objective, students were given individual task to self-study corresponding UNSC resolutions, which also served as an introduction to the brief Women, Peace and Security Resolutions Seminar. This day concluded with the lesson on how to plan training in accordance with audience level, and existing depth of knowledge among a specific audience. Part of this was a related syndicate task.

The final day of week one for the course brought a panel demonstration on how to have a dialogue on different tactics and techniques and share experiences on how to successfully integrate gender perspective into military operations. The Panel demonstration involved Col Boženko Đevoi (course director), Lt Col Suzana Tkavc (last year's course student), Lt Col Strašo Stojčevski (course syndicate leader), and 1st Lt Tatjana Šolaja (course student).

As part of individual course preparation, prior to their arrival, students were obliged to complete the NATO "ADL 169" online course.

During the second day, students were introduced to the subject matter terms and definitions; interlink between culture, religion, and gender; how to use and teach NATO BI SC Directive 40-1; how to identify gender perspective as a tool in a commander's operational tool kit and apply gender perspective into PSO and other military activities. The day concluded with the individual task of building a training plan and actually applying what they have learned during first two days.

Day three of the course was dedicated to familiarization with the international framework and background of gender perspective: Human Rights and International Humanitarian law; United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Additionally, to enhance this objective, students were given individual task to self-study corresponding UNSC resolutions, which also served as an introduction to the brief Women, Peace and Security Resolutions Seminar. This day concluded with the lesson on how to plan training in accordance with audience level, and existing depth of knowledge among a specific audience. Part of this was a related syndicate task.

The final day of week one for the course brought a panel demonstration on how to have a dialogue on different tactics and techniques and share experiences on how to successfully integrate gender perspective into military operations. The Panel demonstration involved Col Boženko Đevoi (course director), Lt Col Suzana Tkavc (last year's course student), Lt Col Strašo Stojčevski (course syndicate leader), and 1st Lt Tatjana Šolaja (course student).
ACTIVITY REPORTS

Conclusions and Recommendations

This particular RACVIAC Programme activity is an excellent example of the highest possible level of synergy being achieved among a total of four main organizational partners in utilizing mutual resources and support, while being able to complete a full range of individual and common objectives.

This event is also specific in terms of evaluation which is done in real time and on a daily basis for the course academic purposes and using modern IT solutions. The final joint assessment was done during the final day of the course and involved all course actors.

ENERGY SECURITY SEMINAR

07-09 June 2016, Rakitje, Croatia

In recent years our neighbourhood has bore witness to significant adverse political developments, followed by financial and economic instability that also affected the energy sector. Those events have shown that access to energy is not just an economic, but a security issue as well.

When it comes to energy, common EU policies call for an effective energy market which needs to rely on enhanced interconnections that guarantee its constant supply. This is ensured by identifying a shared standpoint regarding vulnerable supply points or a vulnerable consumer. Finally, there is a need for a coherent regulatory approach to be established.

It is also important to mention the new dimension of energy security and the threat to critical infrastructure in general. Protection of facilities has to be taken into consideration as it is of essential importance since addressing security-related issues can significantly contribute to fostering regional dialogue in particular.

The course is the longest and also the most demanding RACVIAC Programme activity in terms of applied IT support and RACVIAC is constantly improving this aspect. One of the major proposals regarding the course evolution is to increase its length from 10 to 12 days, in order to give students and instructors more time for the course programme elaboration and to be able to introduce additional practical contents. In this way, the idea is to utilize the first two days for the course curriculum - the time that was previously dedicated for instructors' final preparations. For this reason, the instructors will have an advance preparation session separated from the course schedule.

Finally, an excellent idea came from the Nordic countries' students, and that is to, in the future, engage some of them in the course execution as instructors. This will be a new dimension that will additionally expand the course's reach beyond SEE. Again, there's a new potential for growth of the RACVIAC Programme in terms of quality, visibility and importance, primarily in the SSR field of interest.

Compiled by the SSR Pillar
RACVIAC

Close cooperation among the key players in the field of energy security, involving experts and policy makers, seems to be crucial for energy stability and security. The cooperation should be established through joint approaches, especially when it comes to the implementation of concrete projects. Interactive efforts by national institutions and international organizations are needed, whenever possible, since energy-related issues are still among some of the main objectives for the EU and countries in the SEE region.

The RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation has initiated an Energy Security project that was carried out both in its Programme 2015 and Programme 2016. The Conference „Regional Approach to Energy Security" (March 2015, Bucharest, Romania) was the first event in the series.

The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Romania with the aim to present a platform to share experiences at the regional level and facilitate a common understanding of the concept of energy security in SEE.
From 07 to 09 June 2016 RACVIAC, with Romania as a leading RACVIAC Member in the energy security field, and the Croatian Ministry of Economy, organized a “Seminar on Energy Security: The Regional Dimension and the Need for Diversification”, which was held in Rakitje, Republic of Croatia. The Seminar was a follow-up event to the Bucharest regional Conference on Energy Security, aiming to extend regional dialogue on energy security. The event offered the possibility for RACVIAC members to focus on challenges, risks and threats to energy security and to commonly assess issues related to critical energy infrastructure protection. The exchange of ideas among participants proved to be a useful exercise to better understand the level of engagement and different specificities of the countries in the SEE region, set against the background of a more integrated energy market in Europe.

The focus of this year’s seminar was set on recent developments and added additional significance to an already dynamic and demanding energy security milieu. Noting the need to constantly adapt to the ever changing environment, involved stakeholders are expected to share and further express their views on the future of the regional energy market, as well as on the most efficient approaches to current energy security challenges.

Moreover, the discussions also touched upon new programmatic documents adopted at the European level (such as the Energy Union Strategy Package and the European External Action Service Energy Diplomacy Action Plan) which comprehensively assessed the current state of play and at the same time promoted ambitious projects for member states and their partners alike.

The event lasted two days and was structured around lectures, presentations, and discussions. It also included a Welcome Reception at the Embassy of Romania in Zagreb and a brief study visit to the LNG site on the Island of Krk.

In his opening address, RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, welcomed the Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Cosmin Dinescu, and Ms. Kristina Čelić from the
There is a high degree of consensus among the countries in the region on a number of issues concerning energy security; Energy security is seen as an integral part of national security; Currently, attention must be directed towards energy projects of a smaller scale; There is a major interest for regional interconnection which can be funded through European mechanisms and platforms that have already expressed their interest for energy projects in the region (PECI, PCI).

Over the course of the first day of the seminar the lectures and presentations consisted of two sessions. The first session was dedicated to "Energy Security - Building Synergies Between Outreach Strategies and Regional Development". The presentations were given by Mr. Dan Nicolae Ionescu (Alternate Head of the Economic Department of Energy Policies in the Romanian MFA); Mr. Vasilie Iuga (PWC Romania), and Mr. Gianfranco Bochicchio (Coordinator for the Working Party on the Western Balkans in the EEAS).

The second session was titled "Ensuring the Integrity of Energy Infrastructure - Regulations and Physical Vulnerability" where through a video teleconference the participants had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Mr. Andrew Wright (Operations Division, and Civil Emergency Planning in NATO HQ). The session continued with a presentation that was given by Ms. Kristina Čelić (Directorate for Energy and Mining in the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia).

The sessions were followed by presentations by the representatives of the participating delegations from Albania (AL), Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (MK) and Montenegro (ME). The Seminar was attended by participants from all RACVIAC Members (two from AL, two from BA, one from the Republic of Croatia (HR), two from MK, two from ME, two from Romania (RO), one from the Republic of Serbia (RS) and one from the Republic of Turkey (TR), and 3 participants from Kosovo**.

During the closing remarks, Mr. Iuga highlighted the following conclusions:

- There is a high degree of consensus among the countries in the region on a number of issues concerning energy security;
- Energy security is seen as an integral part of national security;
- Currently, attention must be directed towards energy projects of a smaller scale;
- There is a major interest for regional interconnection which can be funded through European mechanisms and platforms that have already expressed their interest for energy projects in the region (PECI, PCI).

At the same time it is highly imperative to develop regional planning with a view to enhancing energy efficiency and minimizing the possibility of occurrence of energy poverty through measures that can be achieved with fewer investments, yet bearing visible results, said Mr. Iuga.

On 9th June, the participants visited the LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) terminal located in Omišalj county on the island of Krk in the North Adriatic, where they had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the aims and objectives of a responsible company for the development of the LNG Import Project. The proposed project will make use of the present facilities and infrastructure, necessary for receiving, storing, reloading and regasification of liquefied natural gas.

The Project has the purpose to cater to energy needs and increase the security of gas supply, providing for a new gas supply route for Central and South-Eastern European countries. Promoting a transparent dialogue on energy security - based on a common strategic vision adapted to the needs and potential of the region, as well as strategic assessment, in order to develop resilient capacities to protect critical energy infrastructure - will remain high on the RACVIAC agenda in the upcoming period. Therefore, RACVIAC Programme 2017 is foreseen to include energy security activities coordinated by the Romanian MFA, based on a requirement for regional cooperation, and focus on the protection of critical infrastructure in relation to emerging asymmetrical threats in South-Eastern Europe.

Compiled by the IRC Pillar  
RACVIAC
Major Jasminka Šoić

Major Jasminka Šoić arrived at the RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation on August 1st, 2016 in the position of Chief of the Administration and Finance cell. She graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Zagreb and has a Master’s degree in Accounting and Finance. She has been a member of the Croatian Armed Forces since 1991. Major Šoić has been working in Finance from the beginning of the career.

Ms. Kloalda Kamberi

Ms Kloalda Kamberi joined the RACVIAC team as the new Planning and Liaison Officer for South East Europe in July 2016 arriving from the Republic of Albania. Ms Kamberi previously worked at the Strategic Policy Directorate in the Albanian Ministry of Defence. She has a degree in economics from the University of Tirana. We wish her a warm welcome to the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and are confident that she will prove to be a valuable member of the team.
GOODBYES

Ms Ivis Nocka
Ms Ivis Nocka joined the team at the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Albania in April 2014, assuming the position Planning & Liaison Officer for South Eastern Europe. In June 2016 her tour ended at RACVIAC upon which she returned to Albania. During her time at the Centre Ms Nocka displayed extraordinary abilities, always completing her tasks with great dedication and skills. At all times she demonstrated professionalism and courtesy, proving to be a very good colleague and a team player. Ms Nocka’s enthusiasm, discipline and devotion to duty at RACVIAC were highly appreciated and working with her was a genuine pleasure. We wish her continued success in her future career and private life.

Major Vlatka Jakupec
Major Vlatka Jakupec joined the RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation as Chief of the Administration and Finance Cell on May 15th, 2013. Her tour ended on May 15th, 2016. She will be remembered for her initiative, always going above and beyond to complete her tasks. Her outstanding performance, organizational skills, communication abilities, professionalism, military bearing and courtesy of the highest standards made her an indispensable asset to the Centre. RACVIAC would like to thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her future career.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS- FALL 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Topic / Title</th>
<th>Duration / Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nuclear Security Detection Architecture Workshop</td>
<td>12-16 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C-WMD National Strategies “Border Security: Emerging Threats and Challenges”</td>
<td>19-23 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Field Study Trip: Flood Prevention and Protection Systems in Lower Austria</td>
<td>26-28 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>36th MAG Meeting</td>
<td>13 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cyber Security - Building a Cyber Resilient Society in SEE (Advanced Training Course)</td>
<td>17-21 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Basics of SSR Seminar: SSR and International Organizations</td>
<td>02-04 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>C-WMD September Workshop: Interagency Cooperation</td>
<td>19-23 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Arms Control Symposium</td>
<td>07-09 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions</td>
<td>14-16 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) – Challenges for SEE</td>
<td>22-24 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>CMR: Seminar on P(M)SC IV: Regulating the Private Security Industry for the Public Good</td>
<td>28 November – 01 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4th RACVIAC/KAS Annual Conference on Security Challenges for Europe</td>
<td>06-08 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments: Migrations</td>
<td>December (TBD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Centre for Security Cooperation

„Fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe“

Follow us at:

www.racviac.org
facebook.com/RACVIAC
twitter:@RACVIAC