On Wednesday, 14 June 2017, H.E. Mr. Paulo Roberto Campos Tarrisse da Fontoura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Croatia, accompanied by Mr. David Silveira da Mota Neto, Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, and Mr. Gustavo dos Santos Pereira, First Secretary, visited RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation.

The guests were welcomed by RACVIAC Director Ambassador Haydar Berk, Deputy Director Brigadier General Gordana Garašić and RACVIAC senior staff members.

After a presentation on RACVIAC Ambassador Berk provided an explanation related to the development of RACVIAC Programme of activities, and activities planned for 2017. Ambassador Berk emphasized that the Centre, apart from the training and education that it provides, serves as an excellent platform for networking, building of bridges, trust and confidence among the SEE countries. Capacity development and harmonization is another important aspect of RACVIAC overall goals of cooperating more efficiently on different security matters in the region, he added.

In continuation the two Ambassadors talked about the increasing security challenges such as terrorism and border management but also about the challenges related to the implementation of Arms control treaties and agreements such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Chemical Weapons Convention. ●
Visit of Defense Attaché of Bosnia and Herzegovina to HR

On Wednesday, 28 June 2017, Colonel Siniša Ostojić, Defense Attaché of Bosnia and Herzegovina to HR, visited RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. He was welcomed by RACVIAC Deputy Director Brigadier General Gordana Garašić and RACVIAC senior staff members. After a presentation on RACVIAC and Programme of activities planned for 2017, Colonel Ostojić informed about the current status of implementation of reforms in defense sector necessary for integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Euro-Atlantic organizations. It was reiterated that the Centre, apart from training and education that it provides, serves as an excellent platform for networking and building trust and confidence among SEE countries. Both parties are looking forward for future cooperation.

DCAF Visit

On Thursday, 29 June 2017, Mr. Anton Travner, Director of DCAF Office Ljubljana, and Mr. Rajko Kozmej, Head of the IISG & WBCTi Project, visited RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. They were welcomed by RACVIAC Director, Ambassador Haydar Berk, Deputy Director Brigadier General Gordana Garašić and RACVIAC senior staff members.

After a presentation on RACVIAC and Programme of activities planned for 2017, DCAF representatives presented the concept of Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) in the Western Balkans. The concept consists of three pillars (WB Counter Terrorism initiative, WB Counter Serious Crime initiative and WB Border Security initiative) that ensures integrated and holistic approach. The main aim of the IISG is to integrate EU and international assistance in this three areas in order to reduce duplications of action among the existing and planned efforts of various actors, and maximize the efficiency in capacity-building and operational cooperation. During discussion many common areas of interest were detected, especially due to the fact that work of the Centre is aimed at strengthening security cooperation in the region and responding to the needs of SEE countries vis a vis the contemporary challenges. Both parties are looking forward to future cooperation.
Annual Meeting of the Representatives of Defense and Security Committees from SEE

5-7 June 2017
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

“The most important challenges or potential risks we face today in our region are terrorism, be it foreign terrorist fighters or other terrorist groups, violent extremism, possibility of proliferation of WMD, and cyber-attacks. Furthermore, these risks are also accompanied by sources of instability such as irregular and uncontrolled migration, and cultural intolerance. The international community needs to work together against any form of terrorism and any terrorist organization, without exception. No single country can deal with the risks and challenges to security by itself. Therefore, cooperation and concerted efforts among all actors are of vital importance.”

The "Annual Meeting of the Representatives from Defense and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments" was held on 6-7 June in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo.

This event was a continuation of a series of Annual Meetings of the Representatives from Defence and Security Committees of the Parliaments launched in 2013, and aimed at promotion of parliamentary oversight and to share their mechanisms and practices. All such previous events, regional, inter-parliamentary and bilateral ones, between RACVIAC and the Defence and Security Committees from SEE Parliaments, have been unanimously assessed as important and beneficial forums of parliamentarians and experts from the countries of South East Europe (SEE).

The main purpose of the Annual Meeting in 2017 was to give a broad introduction on the mechanism and practices of the regional parliamentary defence and security committees, enabling the participants to discuss parliamentary procedures, challenges and oversight mechanisms in the field of defence and security, focusing on the contemporary security challenges in the South-Eastern European region.

The Meeting was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, and the Joint Commission for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and supported by DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and NATO Headquarters Sarajevo. The Meeting was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of National Defence and Sports of the Republic of Austria.

It was attended by 81 participants and speakers: parliamentarians, members of defence and security committees, expert staff of the relevant ministries coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Slovenia, Republic of Turkey and international organizations such as NATO HQ Sarajevo, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, COM EUFOR, DCAF Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Conference was opened with Welcome addresses by Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, Ms Borjana Krišto, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, H.E. Martin Pammer, Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr Sifet Podžić, Chairman of the Joint Commission for Defence and Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Welcoming the participants Ambassador Haydar Berk stressed that “the most important challenges or potential risks we have today in our region are terrorism, be it foreign terrorist fighters or other terrorist groups, violent

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
extremism, possibility of proliferation of WMD, and cyber-attacks. Furthermore, these risks are also accompanied by sources of instability such as irregular and uncontrolled migration, and cultural intolerance. The international community needs to work together against any form of terrorism and any terrorist organization, without exception. No single country can deal with the risks and challenges to security by itself. Therefore, cooperation and concerted efforts among all actors are of vital importance”, concluded Ambassador Berk.

Ms Borjana Krišto in her speech emphasized that regional conferences such as this one are a good opportunity for exchange of good practices and experiences in parliamentary oversight mechanisms and procedures, particularly on how parliamentary committees and executive power could cooperate better in order to face the challenging security threats such as terrorism, radicalization and extremism, and corruption.

In his Opening speech H.E. Mr Martin Pammer, Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, said: “Strong regional cooperation is the way forward! Solutions to security challenges can only be found through greater regional engagement and cooperation. This makes the work of RACVIAC all the more important.”

The Conference was designed as a series of speeches and presentations given by Committee members and experts, high level speakers from international and national organisations and ministries, followed by a discussion and expert consultations.

In the first panel, “Parliamentary Oversight of the Defense and Security Sector, Good Practices”, Mr Marc Remillard from DCAF Geneva talked about the experiences and good practices in SEE whereas Ms Sanja Čatibović from the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina explained what the parliaments’ and parliamentarian bodies’ contribution to the preparation of annual reviews of Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Cooperation is. The Conference continued with the panel “The Current Security Challenges in the Region of South East Europe”. Mr Mevludin Nuhodžić, Minister of Interior of Montenegro, talked about ‘The Current Security Challenges in South East Europe’. After that Mr Dragan Mektić, Minister of Security of BA, gave a presentation “The Current Security Challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. After this presentation the representatives of each Committee provided a short national overview on “How to Counter the Current Security Challenges”.

The second day of the event was marked by the third panel, “Migration - The Security Challenges for the Countries of South-Eastern Europe”. The panel was moderated by Mr Borislav Bojić, Member of the Joint Committee, BA Parliamentary Assembly, while Mr Peter Van der Auweraert covered migration on a “Balkan Route”. Mr Predrag Radojičić from the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina spoke about the “Current Problems on the Borders of South East Europe (global problems, the way to counter them, cross-border cooperation, good practices, etc.”). Mr Slobodan Ujić, Director of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, talked about “Migration in the Region of South-Eastern Europe, Cooperation between Law Enforcement Agencies and Preparing of BA to respond to the Current Challenges”. He explained the importance of coordination of all relevant bodies in a time of threat and of cooperation with regional countries in sharing similar approaches.

The Conference was concluded with the exposés/conclusions by the representatives of the Commissions (Committees) of SEE countries. •
Workshop on Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

12 - 13 June 2017, Rakitje, Croatia

The South-Eastern European region has the heaviest cluster munition (CM) contamination rate in Europe. It includes both States Parties and Non-States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) who are addressing issues of land contamination and CM stockpiles.

The Workshop was attended by the representatives of three (3) states from South-Eastern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, along with the representatives of two (2) states from the “other regions”: Cuba and Peru. During the first session, the delegates presented the risks, threats and progress made in the implementation of the CCM in their respective states. Participating as resource persons were the President of the 7MSP to the CCM, the Director of RACVIAC, the Director of the ISU-CCM, and representatives from Australia, the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and RACVIAC staff.

The Workshop consisted of four sessions. Session 1, “Overview of the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions”, was chaired and moderated by ISU-CCM Director Ms Sheila N. Mweemba who began the session with a presentation on the overview of the CCM. This was followed by presentations from developments impacting the implementation of the CCM by focusing on the concept of establishing “country coalitions” (i.e., with a country specific focus) as a means to enhance international cooperation and ownership by all countries which are States Parties to the CCM and thus support the implementation of specific aspects of the Convention in SouthEast Europe. A coordinated approach concerning destruction and clearance (including mapping and securing of contaminated areas) of CMs and assisting victims, involving donor states and operators, would support States Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. Furthermore, it envisone that a country specific approach is required to help ensure progress in the implementation of the CCM.
representatives of the participating states, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cuba, and Peru.

The next session, “Cooperation and Assistance by Introducing the Country Coalition Concept”, focused on cooperation and assistance by introducing the country coalition concept, discussing and refining this approach. The session was chaired by Mr Hugh Watson, First Secretary/Legal Adviser of the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. The speakers were the President of the 7MSP to the CCM, Ambassador Michael Biontino and Acting Director of the CMC, Ms Amélie Chayer.

Session 3, “The Connection Between Affected Countries and Donor Countries and Exploring the Practical Implications of the Country Coalition Concept on the Challenge of Articles 3 & 4 Obligations”, sought to address the issue of the connection between the affected countries and donor countries. It was chaired by Mr Hrvoje Debač, the Acting Director of the Office for Mine Action Croatia. The panel of speakers comprised LtCol Arjan Gjyla, Staff Officer for WMD, Engineering and Field Artillery of the Albanian Army, Mr Hugh Watson, First Secretary/Legal Adviser of the Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, Mr Goran Ždrale, Senior Officer of the Mine Action Center (MAC) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr Darvin Lisica, Regional Director for Southeast Europe in NPA.

The Wrap-up and recommendation Session was chaired by Ms Amélie Chayer, and consisted of a presentation by Mr Hrvoje Debač, and Concluding remarks by Ambassador Michael Biontino. Mr Debač gave a presentation on the impact of the 2014 floods on the mine-suspected areas in South-Eastern Europe to demonstrate the process and value of regional cooperation.

Ambassador Biontino concluded the Workshop by providing a summary of the discussions that were held. Some of the key learning points from this Workshop on the country coalition concept are:

- Challenges faced by the affected states include lack of funding, technical expertise and resources, and a lack of political will;
- Affected states need to take the first steps in establishing country coalitions by effectively communicating the assistance they need based on a comprehensive plan to fulfill their CCM obligations;
- Affected states need to coordinate the initiative together with partnering states and implementing organizations in order to keep the projects self-sustainable to the point of completion;
- International cooperation and assistance could be in the form of technical, material and/or financial assistance;
- Donor or partnering states also need to improve their coordination to ensure that assistance is distributed to all affected states, and not just states with problems that have higher priority.

Ambassador Biontino:

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- Donor or partnering states also need to improve their coordination.
Imports represent the biggest share in the energy consumption in SEE and being heavily reliant on a single supplier is a common problem. This import dependency represents a disadvantage as it causes vulnerabilities linked to supply disruptions created by political or commercial disputes.

On 18-21 June 2017 the Energy Security Seminar, “Contribution of EU’s Neighbouring South-Eastern Countries to Regional Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation”, was held in Rakitje, Croatia. The event was jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian Ministry of Energy, with significant assistance by the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy.

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation initiated an Energy Security project in 2015 by organizing the first seminar in Bucharest, Romania and the next one in 2016 on RACVIAC premises in Rakitje, where the role of the leading nation in this project was assumed by Romania.

The purpose of these projects is to enable open expert debates on common energy security challenges in the context of the Energy Security Strategy and the Energy Union Strategy Framework in South East Europe.

This year the Seminar’s aim was to identify the developing energy security challenges for SEE and opportunities for regional co-operation and provide participants with the opportunity to share the best practices in terms of specific national regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with high levels of import.

The target audience included SEE representatives active in the field of energy security at the senior officials' level and the level of experts from governmental institutions and agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, and selected experts in the field of energy security. In total, there were 33 participants from the Republic of Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Republic of Croatia (2), Republic of Serbia (2), Romania (12), and Kosovo* (2), as well as a representative from the European Commission/DG Energy and the representative from the Energy Community Secretariat.

Dr. Mario Šiljeg, State Secretary, Croatian Ministry of Energy and Environment: “The natural energy market deployment, the energy infrastructure development and its protection should be the corner stone for the energy security. By sharing our experiences, problems, plans and efforts to find the adequate answers for the energy security challenges we will be one step closer to finding right solutions.”
The Seminar was opened by Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, H.E. Mr Mihail Constantin Grigorie, Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Croatia, and Mr Mario Šiljeg, PhD, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry of Environment and Energy.

H.E. Mr. Constantin Mihail Grigoriu: “Energy has become a strategic factor in global politics, a vital element for the economic development and progress of the society in its eternity, generating in the same time, a number of major global concerns.”

The first working session of the Seminar, titled “Enhancing the Energy Market Development in the Western Balkan Countries and Neighbouring Countries”, focused on the role of the Energy Community and emphasized the efforts made to integrate the energy market through technical cooperation and policy dialogue for facilitating cross-border energy trade. The Keynote speaker in this session was Mr Simon Uzunov, Deputy Head of the Electricity Unit, Chairing the Energy Community Security of Supply Electricity Subgroup within the Energy Security Secretariat. In addition to the energy strategy of the EU in the context of the Energy Union, the relation to the political dialogue with the Western Balkan countries in various regional cooperation formats (e.g., CESEC) was discussed in order to provide a proper view of the regional cooperation dimension and its importance for the enhancement of energy security.

The second session, titled “The Future of Energy: Renewable Energy and New Technologies”, examined the prevailing subject of the alternative energy sources. The panellists, Mr Stefan Moser, Head of Unit B4 in charge of the Security of Supply at the EU Commission and Mr Matei Dimitriu, representative of the Romanian Ministry of Energy, presented insights regarding the possible strategies for implementing the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology, focusing on the benefits these measures could provide for the enhancement of energy security in the Western Balkans. This session was followed by presentations by the representatives of the Republic of Albania and Kosovo*.

The third session of the Seminar, titled “Readiness to Respond to the Energy Security Challenges: the Capacity to Deal with Energy Shortages and Import Dependency”, was a more technical session that tried to facilitate a more detailed discussion regarding the energy challenges the Western Balkan countries are currently facing. The session was useful for information and best practices sharing in terms of specific national regulation, energy market development process or measures to deal with high levels of import dependency. A discussion on the security of energy infrastructure and the diversification of sources and routes was also debated by the Keynote speaker Mr Cornel Zeveleanu, Deputy General Director of the General Directorate Oil and Natural Gas and in the presentation delivered by the representative of the Republic of Turkey.

Ms Eugenia Gusilov, Director of the Romania Energy Center (ROEC), moderated all three sessions of the Seminar.

The second day of the Seminar was reserved for a study visit to the Plomin power station. This plant is a coal-fired power station based close to Plomin. As of 2007 its production corresponds to 13% of Croatia's electricity needs. The Seminar participants had an opportunity to find out more about the activity of this power station. Apart from the visit to the working section of the power station the participants learned about the functioning and organization of the structural parts of the plant, visited the port (designed especially for the power plant) and learned about the process of coal import worldwide. The entire visit was well prepared and executed, making it an interactive event with a lot of information exchange.

* 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 2016 C-WMD NETWORK IN RACVIAC LAUNCHED A PROJECT FOR A SERIES OF FIVE WORKSHOPS PROMOTING NUCLEAR SECURITY DETECTION ARCHITECTURE PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND PROVIDE PARTNER NATIONS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND SUSTAIN INDIGENOUS NATIONAL-LEVEL DETECTION CAPABILITIES.

The second annual workshop promoting Nuclear Security Detection Architecture (NSDA), titled “Threat Assessment and the Risk Informed Approach to Nuclear Security”, organized within RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation C-WMD Network, was held at ReSPA premises in Danilovgrad, Montenegro, on 26-29 June 2017.

This was the second NSDA workshop organised in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and support from the United States European Command (USEUCOM), the United States Department of Homeland Security, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DHS/DNDO), Republic of Croatia, and hosted by Montenegro.
In 2016 C-WMD Network in RACVIAC launched a project for a series of five workshops promoting nuclear security detection architecture principles and concepts to raise awareness and provide partner nations with the knowledge and tools to develop, implement, and sustain indigenous national-level detection capabilities.

The activity focused on the assessment of threats, vulnerabilities, consequences and risks within the nuclear security field, the practice of documenting and communicating risk assessment, and an increased awareness and emphasis on the importance of risk assessment when dealing with nuclear power. It further aimed to instruct and inspire national representatives with the sharing of information and best practices, to enhance the development of C-WMD National Strategies. Therefore, it also gathered the representatives from the national drafting teams participating in the program for the C-WMD National Strategy Development.

The Workshop gathered more than 40 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Serbia, Romania, and Turkey.


The Workshop lasted four working days and consisted of lectures, table top exercises, and the use of various tools and templates to facilitate practical application of the concepts discussed.

*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
“The Arms Control Symposium” is a flagship event in RACVIAC Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar. It offers the possibility to discuss the main Pillar topics in one place. Within the Pillar the key priorities range from conventional Arms Control treaties, the reduction of security threats from CBRN materials to aspects of physical security and stockpile management. The 2017 Symposium aimed to cover these priority topics and review the recent developments in the ever-changing political and security arena.

The „Arms Control Symposium“, organized by RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was held on 5-6 July 2017 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event was organized with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The purpose of this Symposium was to build on the experience of last year’s Symposium and to present the latest developments in Arms Control, with the aim to open up new perspectives on confidence-building measures in SE Europe. The idea was to bring together all relevant players in the ‘Arms Control family’ and give them the opportunity to discuss and share ideas on the future of Arms Control in Europe and the region. An important element of its overall aims was the updating of relevant information regarding Arms Control topics and to discuss the way ahead.

In her Opening address RACVIAC Deputy Director BG Gordana Garašić said that “the European system of Arms Control, confidence and security building and transparency measures, was intended to ensure that military capabilities were constructed in ways that reduce security risks. However, that system was created under different conditions, and it is now being challenged. The extent to which the system created in the past will be able to address the problems arising in the future is an open question.” She continued by saying that “the promotion of stability and transparency through cooperation and building of regional confidence is a central goal of
RACVIAC, aiming to produce a safe and secure regional environment. That’s why this is an excellent opportunity to discuss all the issues and topics mentioned, including the Arms Trade Treaty and C-WMD activities in RACVIAC and the region.”

Addressing the participants on behalf of the host country Mr Zoran Šajinović, Assistant Minister for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that “the Conventional Arms Control and confidence and security building measures offer important instruments that contribute to security, optimally during “fair weather” but also during “foul weather” conditions. In this respect Arms Control should also be viewed as an integral part of conflict prevention and crisis management mechanisms. Also in this context the Arms Control toolbox, developed over several decades, remains highly relevant”.

The participants were the representatives of the related ministries of foreign affairs, defence, and interior, the intelligence community, political institutions and national authorities, responsible for the implementation of Arms Control treaties or experts in the field of Arms Control.

During the Symposium Arms Control experts examined the role of Arms Control in resolving the remaining security issues in Europe, the challenges during the implementation of the Arms Control treaties and agreements, the future of Arms Control and modern force capabilities (e.g., Open Skies improvements), further developments of the Vienna Document 2011, the Arms Trade Treaty, and C-WMD activities in RACVIAC.

The second panel was titled “Further Regional Developments Promoting the Cooperative Security Environment” and sought to address national and regional challenges in stockpile management and C-WMD developments in the SEE region. In this session the Arms trade Treaty in general and the current situation in the SEE countries was explained as well as its links and synergies to other international instruments of Arms Control, including the Firearms Protocol.

In the next session, “National Presentations and RACVIAC CSE Pillar Programme Projection”, national representatives from SEE countries (AL, BA, HR, ME, and MK) addressed the following topics: (a) the structures and branches of the national Verification Centres (VCs), (b) conventional and nonconventional Arms Control treaties in relation to the resulting national activities conducted and measures adopted, (c) other bilateral and multilateral collaborations with other nations and organizations, (d) the projects undertaken to address the SALW-PSSM issues, and summarized the challenges encountered and proposed solutions. After that Col Erhan Kilicaslan, CSE Pillar Programme Manager, provided a projection of 2018 CSE Pillar’s activities and encouraged the representatives of national delegations to give comments on RACVIAC activities in 2018, especially in connection to the RACVIAC “Dayton Article IV Course” and other Arms Control courses.

At the end of the Symposium it was concluded that full implementation and further development of Arms Control agreements is essential for strengthening of political, military and socio-economic stability within Europe and its regions and the significance of regional cooperation in the field of Arms Control was underlined.

The Symposium consisted of three panels:

The first panel, “Current Arms Control Mechanisms and Future Developments”, was moderated by Mr Robin Mossinkoff, Head of the FSC Support Section, Conflict Prevention Centre/FSC Support Section, OSCE, and focused on the role of Arms Control in strengthening security, stability and peace in Europe, and the challenges in the implementation of Arms Control treaties. It also provided an overview of the future Arms Control developments and improvements. In this panel the Austrian representatives presented the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference - Report/Summary, since Austria will assume the OSCE presidency in 2017.
The eighth meeting of the C-WMD Network's national working/drafting groups was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation on 11-13 September 2017. The purpose of the September Workshop, titled “C-WMD National Strategies Crisis Management and Communication”, was to continue facilitating the development of National C-WMD Strategies and Action Plans which is RACVIAC C-WMD Network's main focus.
The Workshop, like all previous C-WMD events, was conducted with the U.S. European Command's (USEUCOM), U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency's (DTRA), the International Counterproliferation Program's (ICP), and Croatia's support.

Opening the Workshop Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, said that he is delighted to see the results of the hard work and the efforts that members of the national working groups are putting into this project thus reaffirming that the Centre, together with its partners, stands ready to continue to assist them in the future as well.

The Workshop brought together more than 50 participants, members of the national core working/drafting groups and experts working on crisis management, C3, legal issues, and intelligence, and was conducted through open discussions, case-studies, presentations from experts, and table-top exercises.

Although the key focus of all C-WMD Network events is to continue facilitating the development of National C-WMD Strategies and Action Plans, each activity is focused on different aspects of a strategy to counter WMD. The September Workshop focused primarily on the regional and national response capabilities, crisis management functions and communication strategies. Its objective was also to peer review the progress in the development of C-WMD national strategies and action plans.

It is worth underlining that the C-WMD network project is moving forward, taking into account the changing circumstances in SEE and the resultant shift in needs of each partner nation. From one activity to the other the C-WMD Network is aligning its plans, and encompassing the most pressing concerns in the region that relate to the development of national C-WMD strategies.
There is no doubt that proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons can have catastrophic, global consequences. As non-state actors do not respect borders all elements of the global counter-proliferation systems must be constantly reinforced.

A two-day Workshop, ‘Effective Practices of the Implementation of UNSCR 1540: Information Exchange and Lessons Learned’, supported by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the 1540 Committee, was organized in RACVIAC on 14 - 15 September 2017. The Workshop aimed to discuss the state of play of the existing National Action Plans (NAPs) in the SEE region and share national experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of these NAPs as well as the ways to realize the goals set in NAPs. The Workshop also provided a forum to inform about the main obligations of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) and key elements of UNSC Resolution 2325 (2016) as well as assistance mechanisms related to UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004 and NAPs).
Mr Franz Kolar, UNODA: "One way of overcoming the challenges related to the implementation of 1540 is the development of national plans. UN Security Council encourages the Member States to prepare such plans by mapping out the priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of the resolution."

The Workshop brought together technical experts and officials from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Turkey directly engaged in the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), national 1540 NAPs, as well as the representatives of UNODA, 1540 Committee, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and US Department of State.

Resolution 1540 (2004) stipulates that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery. Its central aim is to promote non-proliferation of WMD attitudes in all parties involved, both nationally and transnationally.

Resolutions 1977 (2011) and 2325 (2016) encourage States to prepare on a voluntary basis National Implementation Action Plans (1540 NAPs) with the assistance of the 1540 Committee as appropriate, mapping out their priorities and plans for implementing the key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit these plans to the Committee.

The 1540 Committee through its Group of Experts has been working to support many countries in the South-Eastern European region in their implementation of key provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) and in the development of 1540 NAPs, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, Montenegro and Serbia.

In identifying effective national practices, future priorities, and assistance requirements in the implementation of Resolution 1540 (2004) the NAPs promote cooperative national attitudes towards the adoption of the Resolution's practices and relevant tasks. The goal is to convey the benefits of a united stance on non-proliferation for all nations.

The Workshop was divided into several sessions, consisting of the UNODA experts’ presentation, as well as presentations by the 1540 Committee, US Department of State, and discussions.

In the first session Ms Sandra Raca, 1540 UN Expert in the 1540 Committee, explained the main provisions of UNSCR 1540 all the way from general principles to the operational implications. She also gave an overview of the implementation mechanisms that the Committee made available to all Member States.

Subsequently, the presentations on assistance in the implementation of 1540 obligations and of work with countries of the region in the development of NAPs, as well as 1540 Matrices (Overview of possible gaps, needs analysis, and identification of potential areas of work: NAPs, legislative acts, necessary regulations), were delivered.
The priority for the public sector is that critical infrastructure works without standstill and facilitates the delivery of services. In this context the concept of public-private partnerships in the protection of critical infrastructure presents the best platform for the development of states, societies, organizations, and individuals.

The international Conference "Private (Military) and Security Companies in Critical Infrastructure Protection" took place at "The Westin Zagreb" Hotel from 19th to 20th September 2017. The Conference was organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the Company TECTUS - Business Services and Publishing under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia H.E. Kolinda Grabar Kitarović and the City of Zagreb.

The Conference was organised as a part of the third edition of 'Days of Security and Protection' that took place on 16-20 September 2017 in Zagreb. It gathered more than 60 participants, representatives of governmental institutions and agencies, associations of P(M)SC, NGOs, managers and experts from various organizations and think-thanks such as the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, the Institute for Corporate Security Studies in Ljubljana, General Directorate of Security of Turkey, University of Zagreb, University of Belgrade, and University of Sarajevo.

This Conference was the fifth event in a series of similar events that have become a mid-term project for RACVIAC and its Security Sector Reform Pillar in particular, analyzing the changes in civil-military relations and the effects of privatization in this field.

The main purpose of the Conference was to give a broad introduction on the mechanisms and practices and the overall role of Private (Military) and Security Companies in the protection of Critical Infrastructure.

During the Opening session opening addresses were given by Ambassador Haydar Berk, RACVIAC Director, Mr Nikola Milijević, editor-in-chief of Zaštita magazine and president of the Croatian Network of Urban Security Stakeholders, Ms Lidija Stolica, President of the Croatian Security...
Association, Mr Damir Trut, Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia, and the personal representative of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr Robert Mikac, member of the Homeland Security Council.

The Conference started with a keynote speech delivered by Mr Alessandro Lazari, PhD, European Commission - Joint Research Centre, Directorate "Space, Security and Migration". Mr Lazari spoke about the European programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) and the Council Directive 2008/114/EC of 8 December 2008 focusing on the complexity of the security agenda as well as technical and policy support that the Joint Research Centre provides to the EPCIP and the Members.

The first panel was aimed at presenting and discussing the "Regional Best Practices in Public-Private Partnership in the Field of Security", and was moderated by Ms Ivana Cesarec from the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate. The panel speakers were Ms Teresa Hatzl from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Mr Vito Murgel, BSc from the Institute of Corporative Security Studies in Slovenia, Mr Uğur Demirci from the Directorate General of Security in Turkey, Mr Branko Kromar (the Association for the Development of Slovenian Private Security), Mr Mirza Smajić, PhD (Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo), and Ms Sanja Beljan of VIP-net, Croatia.

During the afternoon the participants had an opportunity to visit the exhibition on security sector equipment and services, organized as the third edition of the 'Days of Security and Protection' at Ban Jelačić Square.

The second day started with the keynote speech by Mr Dragan Lozančić, PhD, Director General of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia. In his presentation, titled "Critical Infrastructure Protection as a Backbone of Homeland Security" he spoke about the challenges that Croatia is facing in the further development of critical infrastructure protection, but also about the numerous opportunities and solutions that could, with good management, coordinated and sensible actions and efforts of all stakeholders, as well as planned and rational use of resources, ensure an efficient CIP system.

The second panel, "Critical Information Infrastructure Resilience and Protection", moderated by Mr Zoran Keković, PhD, Faculty of Security Studies, University of Belgrade, Serbia, provided an overview of CIP protection and resilience mostly from the point of view of private companies. The speakers who took part in this panel were Mr Dražen Ljubić, Information Systems Security Bureau, Croatia, Mr Zoran Bogadi, Croatian Telecom, and Mr Hrvoje Sagrak, Infodom, Croatia.

The last Conference panel, "Private (Military) and Security Companies in Critical Infrastructure Protection", was moderated by Mr Jasmin Ahić, PhD (Faculty of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Security Studies, University of Sarajevo), and provided an insight into the privatization of CIP from several perspectives (UN's, the private sector's, and academia's).

The Conference ended with a conclusion that CIP is vital for national security and requires robust protection as well as a more intensive public-private partnership and collaboration.

"Critical infrastructure is an integral part of the national security system of any country. More than 80 percent of critical infrastructure in the democratic states is privately owned. Thus, the private owner is responsible for management and protection, and this cannot be effectively implemented without cooperation with the public sector. The priority for the public sector is that critical infrastructure works without standstill and facilitates the delivery of services. In this context the concept of public-private partnerships in the protection of critical infrastructures presents the best platform for the development of states, societies, organizations, and individuals", underlined Ambassador Berk.
Over 40% of all countries have no SAR legislation or SAR authority, no plan or formal arrangements for civil-military cooperation, and a host of other deficiencies and shortfalls.

A two-day “Search and Rescue - On-Scene Coordinator Course”, was conducted in RACVIAC from 27th to 28th September 2017.

This Course was a continuation of a series of events jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the National Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Croatia (NPRD) aimed at capacity building and improvements in specific fields of Search, Rescue and Protection.

“SAR On-Scene Coordinator Course” was a tailor-made activity designed for “a person designated to coordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area” especially when two or more SAR units are working together on the same mission. It gathered more than 40 participants, mid-level representatives of the relevant institutions from South East Europe dealing with Search and Rescue activities such as defence/armed forces, national RCC authorities, national directorates for protection and search, civil aviation authorities, ministries of the interior, civil emergency management authorities, etc.

Opening the Course Ambassador Haydar Berk, Director of RACVIAC, said that “RACVIAC has recognized the importance of efficient SAR structures, national and regional alike, and treated this topic as a security issue that should be further discussed and explored.”

Speaking on behalf of the co-organizer the Director of the NPRD, Mr. Dragan Lozančić, said that international statistics on global SAR efforts are staggering: over 40% of all countries have no SAR legislation or SAR authority, no plan or formal arrangements for civil-military cooperation, and a host of other deficiencies and shortfalls.
The International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual defines the OSC as “a person designated to coordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area”, especially under circumstances when two or more SAR units are working together on the same mission. Usually, the OSC may have to assume all the duties and actually plan the search and/or rescue in an actual situation of distress and communicate with all the parties involved. The wide scope of responsibilities includes: provision of operational coordination of all SAR facilities on scene, development of an SAR action plan, modification of the action plan based on the prevailing environmental conditions and keeping the mission coordination centre advised, as well as providing relevant information to other SAR facilities. The IAMSAR guidance on on-scene coordination is rather comprehensive, and may seem daunting to anyone asked to become an OSC.

Similar to the preceding event conducted in April 2017 this Course comprised the necessary expertise and best practices delivered by an internationally acknowledged specialist from the Joint Aviation Authorities Training Organization (JAATO) Mr Ciaran Parker, focusing on the ways how to explore the concrete needs of each participating SAR institution related to the general role of the on-scene coordinator (OSC), the OSC’s role in a mass rescue operation, including communication with the casualties, the search mission coordination, and SAR facilities on the scene.

Mr Parker started the Course with a presentation on applicable references and state obligations. After that he spoke about the types of SAR operations, mass rescue operations and aircraft emergencies. The first day of the Course was concluded with the presentation on the overview of OSC duties.

The second day of the Course was dedicated to OSC’s specific duties, responsibilities, on-scene communication and reporting procedures. Mr Parker explained also how the SAR operation has to be planned and conducted as well as what the major risks of an SAR operation are.

The Course provided an opportunity for SEE countries to identify and list their potential needs and encouraged the development of regional and cross-border cooperation through SAR operations.
Colonel Erhan Kiliçaslan, seconded to RACVIAC by the Turkish Armed Forces, finished his tour of duty as Programme Manager in Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar on 31 July 2017. He spent eight months in this position. During this time he demonstrated outstanding performance, professionalism, military bearing and courtesy of the highest standards that presented a great contribution to the smooth execution of the Pillar’s activities. We wish him all the best both privately and professionally.

After four years of service Lieutenant Colonel Josip Mlakić left RACVIAC in July 2017 to take up a new assignment in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During his tour of duty at RACVIAC he worked as the Activity Manager in International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro Atlantic Integration Pillar, never failing to give his best in the tasks assigned to him. LtCol Mlakić was highly professional and devoted to his duty and an excellent team player, able to carry out his duties for the benefit of our Organization. We will especially miss his optimistic and enthusiastic approach, as well as his friendly attitude. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work and friendship while wishing him success in his future career and private life too.

After three months of service Mr Toni Požar completed his internship in RACVIAC Security Sector Reform Pillar in July 2017. We would like to thank Toni for his commitment and friendship during his work at RACVIAC, and at the same time wish him all the best during his Master’s studies in international relations and diplomacy at the Spanish Diplomatic School in Madrid.

RACVIAC would like to thank Ms Valentina Scaglia, an intern who spent two months in Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar. She successfully cooperated with all RACVIAC staff and proved to be an excellent team player, able to carry out all of the duties assigned to her for the benefit of the Organization. All RACVIAC staff have nice memories of Valentina, both privately and professionally. We wish her all the best in her future life and career.

In July 2017 RACVIAC bid farewell to Mr Pál Bódogh-Szabó who served in RACVIAC as Activity Manager in Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar for four years. Thanks to his extensive professional knowledge and expertise in Arms Control Mr Bódogh-Szabó made a great contribution to RACVIAC, not only during the preparation and execution of RACVIAC activities, but also in daily work. We will remember him as a valuable and good colleague. We wish him all the best in his private life and in executing new duties in Hungary.
Lieutenant Colonel Servet Aya was seconded to RACVIAC as Programme Manager for Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar by the Turkish General Staff in August 2017. His previous assignments include: Battalion Commander, 12th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Ağrı (2016-2017), Unit Manager, Logistics Command in Ankara (2013-2016), Land Projects Financial Resource Officer, Turkish General Staff in Ankara (2010-2013), multiple assignments as Platoon and Company Commander in various units in Turkey and as a Land Desk Officer in the Joint Operation Center of NATO in Kosovo (KFOR) in 2007 as well as a Planning Officer (NATO International Staff) in Afghanistan (ISAF) in 2013. He attended the Staff Officer Training at the Turkish War College in Istanbul in 2015 and completed a Master's degree in Business Administration at Bilkent University in Ankara in 2005. Lieutenant Colonel Servet Aya is married to Mrs. Gamze Aya and they have a son and a girl.

Major Božo Dukarić joined RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation as an Activity Manager in Security Sector Reform Pillar on 15 June 2017. Prior to this he was the Head of the Operational subsection at the Support Battalion of the Support Command. He began his military career in 1992 and was posted to different commanding and staff duties in several units and headquarters of CAF. He served twice in a NATO-led mission in Afghanistan and twice in UN missions (UN mission in Sierra Leone and UN mission in India and Pakistan). He holds a Bachelor’s degree in traffic science. He is married and enjoys reading history books, gardening and sports, especially running and badminton.

Ms Beáta Varga was born in Hódmezővásárhely, Hungary. She earned her MA in International Relations and European Studies in 1997 and her MSc in Global Security in 2000. Ms Varga began working for the MoD of HU in 1998 as a defence policy expert. Between 2003 and 2006 she served at the Permanent Delegation of the Hungarian Republic to NATO as a diplomat. She returned to the Defence Policy Department of the MoD of HU and worked there until her assignment to RACVIAC Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar in July 2017. Her areas of expertise have been non-proliferation and disarmament, CBRN/WMD issues, nuclear policy and Arms Control. She has two children.
“...fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South East Europe...“