INTRODUCTION

Since its inception* RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) has been an important centre for dialogue and cooperation on security matters, unique in the South-Eastern European (SEE) region.

Promoting enhanced regional security and dialogue through the concept of regional ownership, being tailored to the needs of the region, situated in the region, and comprising personnel from the region, RACVIAC perfectly embodies the expression “regional ownership”.

With the new Agreement that was ratified and entered into force in December 2011 RACVIAC obtained the status of a regionally owned and international organization, with the status of a Diplomatic Mission in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961).

RACVIAC accomplishes its mission “to foster dialogue and cooperation on security matters in SEE through a partnership between the countries of the region and their international partners” primarily by promoting mutual trust and building bridges by providing an independent and impartial platform for dialogue on critical issues related to peace and security.

RACVIAC focuses its activities on three overarching themes:

- Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control, and Countering-Weapons of Mass Destruction (C-WMD) Network
- Security Sector Reform
- International and Regional Cooperation, with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration.

RACVIAC is managing its Programme through a project-oriented approach, as one of the key objectives of the Strategy 2015-2020 (for more info please visit www.racviac.org), which has been adopted by the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

Its Programme acts as a platform for addressing the transformation processes within the countries of SEE in view of EU and NATO membership responsibilities and institutional readiness.

* RACVIAC was established in 2000 as the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre with an aim to provide Arms Control training, and promote confidence and security building measures in South-Eastern Europe. The Centre later broadened its scope and activities to comprise a wide range of politico-military issues, including security sector reform and international and regional cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic integration. The transformation process began in 2007 and was concluded with the new Agreement (December 2011).
**RACVIAC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- To raise awareness about the Centre and its activities in and around the region and to increase outreach activities in order to achieve membership of all South-Eastern Europe Cooperation Program Parties and to motivate others in the Euro-Atlantic area to participate in RACVIAC activities;
- To enhance the established overall cooperation on security matters in the region;
- To capitalize on the progress and achievements made so far;
- To endow the Centre sufficient resources and capacities as well as flexibility and credibility to address emerging challenges and security threats;
- To promote Security Sector Reform/Transformation solutions and encourage regional cooperation and synergy;
- To continue to foster trust and confidence and security building measures as a veritable regional forum for security dialogue, especially on Arms Control treaties and agreements;
- To enhance regional European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes.

**Observers** - other countries, institutions or organizations, which may participate in RACVIAC activities as Observers after approval by MAG: Canada, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and the USA.

On October 10, 2014, MAG invited Kosovo** to participate on a permanent basis, at all levels and on equal terms in all activities and meetings of RACVIAC/MAG.

**MANAGEMENT**

The **Director** comes from a RACVIAC Member. He/she is elected for a period of three years. The Director is responsible for the overall management of the organization and reports to the MAG. The Director is also responsible for the budget as well as proposals on the Programme of activities of the Organization. The Deputy Director always comes from Croatia, being the RACVIAC host nation.

**MAG** is composed of representatives from Members, Associate Members and Observers. It can take decisions by consensus when more than half of its Members are present, and it convenes twice a year, in spring and autumn.

**Financial policy** - RACVIAC budget is divided into an Operating and a Programme part. The Operating part, covering the “running costs” of RACVIAC and a portion of activities, is financed by its Members, while Associate Members contribute to the Programme part the funds required to execute RACVIAC activities.

In addition, international partners, organizations and donor countries can make financial contributions, support RACVIAC Programme activities and become partners in developing them.

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*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. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)
COOPERATION

RACVIAC cooperates with and supports a number of international and regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions working to enhance security cooperation in SEE. To name just a few: UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, RCC, SEESAC, UNDP, DCAF, GCMC, NCGM, OPCW, SEDM, USEUCOM, ReSPA, RAI, UNODC, IAEA, national authorities of SEE countries, etc.

RACVIAC PROGRAMME

RACVIAC annual Programme of activities includes around 25 activities: seminars, courses, workshops, meetings, conferences, roundtables, as well as other extra-curricular activities.

In the past 16 years more than 10 000 participants from SEE and other regions attended RACVIAC activities!

The Pillar is focused on promoting different aspects and principles of reforming the Security Sector in the fields of defense resource management, democratic oversight and accountability, civil-military relations, human rights and integration of the gender perspective in the security sector (gender equality) and border security management.

Regional cooperation on security sector governance and reform is recognized as one of the key mechanisms for enhancing the corresponding national efforts. That’s why the Pillar continues to fulfil its primary role in facilitating regional cooperation to its best capacities by promoting regional ownership as a key driving principle.

CSE PILLAR

Cooperative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control Pillar (CSE) is one of RACVIAC domains with the longest tradition dealing with Arms Control treaties and agreements, implications and the role of Arms Control policy aimed at confidence and security building measures, regional aspects of Arms Control in SEE, and physical security and stockpile management.

The identified spectrum of regional needs in the said domains ranges from training of inspectors while providing a chance for practical demonstrations of the knowledge gained on the one hand, to identifying possible contributions of the most relevant, well-functioning Arms Control regimes to regional stabilization on the other hand.

The main activities include: Dayton Article IV Course, Vienna Document 11’ Course, Chemical Weapons Convention Seminar, Open Skies Course, etc.

As a premier platform for dialogue on security cooperation RACVIAC contributes to openness, transparency and predictability in the region by encouraging exchanges of information, views and ideas.

... fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in n SEE
C-WMD

At the request of RACVIAC Members, the Countering-Weapons of Mass Destruction Network (C-WMD) project was launched in 2015 with the aim of facilitating the development of counter weapons of mass destruction national strategies.

As this strategic-level project evolved, the need for some tactical work to support the implementation of the C-WMD national strategies emerged. Therefore, in 2016 the C-WMD Network introduced a series of five tactical-level workshops, entitled “Nuclear Security Detection Architecture Awareness”.

Central to the work done at both levels lies the objective of enhancing cooperation both among the SEE countries themselves as well as with the wider international community, as a key element in facing the challenges WMD proliferation poses today.

IRC PILLAR

International and Regional Cooperation with focus on Euro-Atlantic Integration Pillar (IRC) deals with regional security cooperation, European and Euro-Atlantic integrations and emerging security challenges.

Therefore, the Pillar focuses its activities on the aim of enhancing security cooperation and supporting the process toward European and Euro-Atlantic integration of SEE countries.

The main focus is on the project-oriented activities, such as cyber security, foreign terrorist fighters, building integrity, search and rescue, energy security, and all those that are relevant for the security environment in SEE.

The close regional and wider cooperation among SEE countries, through dialogue and various forms of cooperation, is a strong response to today’s security challenges and leads to the building of confidence and trust among the countries.

The activities conducted by the Pillar in cooperation with other international and regional organizations are fully dedicated to overcome the common security threats and challenges.

LOCATION AND FACILITIES

RACVIAC is located at the “Vitez Damir Martić” military barracks in Rakitje, 10 km from Zagreb. Its facilities include two newly renovated Seminar rooms capable of holding up to 50 participants each, including simultaneous translation equipment. RACVIAC also provides high standard accommodation for up to 30 participants in the hotel in the barracks, a gym, a restaurant, and the Officers’ Club “Barbara”.

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