



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



## Activity Overview

### “Open Skies Treaty Aerial Observation Course” (CSE-A4-C-18)

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, CROATIA  
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**Dates** 19-29 March 2018

**Venue** Hungary

**Background** Since 2002 RACVIAC has been organizing courses on the Treaty on Open Skies (OST). These courses have become one of the most distinctive RACVIAC products in which the synergy of several institutions comes into play. In 2018 RACVIAC is cooperating closely with the Ministry of Defence of Hungary in order to execute yet another successful Course that will be co-organised, hosted and sponsored by Hungary. The Federal Republic of Germany and the Italian Republic will also support the event with the provision of lecturers.

**Purpose and Objectives** The purpose of the Course is to train personnel from SEE countries to plan, organize and execute an Aerial Observation Mission based on the provisions of the OST and thus increase the administrative capacity in the field of security cooperation.

The objectives of the Course are:

- to recall the historical background and the development of the OST;
- to provide the participants with information about the current situation in the development and implementation of the OST;
- to overview the specified elements of the OST, highlighting the most comprehensive and commonly followed rules and procedures of its execution;
- to enable participants to prepare and conduct mission planning (in accordance with the OST);
- to carry out a training (Aerial Observation Mission), thus providing practical experience;
- to deepen contacts and build trust and confidence between the representatives of national organizations and agencies engaged in Arms control and/or security- and confidence-building measures;
- to increase transparency and the administrative capacity in the field of security cooperation among SEE countries.

**Participation** Participation will be limited to 18 participants due to logistics and the limited number of people who can participate in the practical part (“Aerial Observation Mission”). Participants will be invited: two (2) from each of the following: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro, and Serbia, and one (1) from Greece, Romania and Turkey (each) and two (2) from Kosovo\*\*. After registration, in case of vacancies, additional places could be allocated on a first come first served basis. Participants should be either members of Inspection/Verification Agencies who are involved (or plan to be involved) in the planning or the execution of OST Missions or members of national MoD planning staff with OST responsibilities.

**Methodology** This Course is designed as a combination of theoretical (lectures/presentations) and practical activities. The lectures will provide a comprehensive and detailed overview of the relevant parts of the OST. During the practical part of the Course, an Aerial Observation Mission will be planned and carried out over the territory of Hungary using the Open Skies aircraft, the AN-26 (to be supplied by Hungary). The working language will be English.

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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.