



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

**The 10th Working Group 2 Workshop on
Military Base Conversion
Podgorica, Montenegro,
23 - 26 June 2009**

*In cooperation with the Ministry of
Defence of Montenegro*

Co-sponsored by Austria

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, conducted the 10th Working Group 2 Workshop on Military Base Conversion (MBC) from 23rd to 26th June 2009. The workshop comprised a combination of presentations and field study trips to former military bases “Šipčani”, “Tološi” and “Morača“, organized by the host nation in order to familiarize the participants with the approaches of Montenegro to the issues of MBC.



Workshop participants

The main purpose of the workshop was to bring together respective representatives from all relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, financial institutions and businesses with a view to discussing all the aspects of MBC.

The workshop gathered 25 participants from the following Southeast European (SEE) countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of



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Macedonia*, Montenegro, Romania and the Republic of Serbia. The participants, all having knowledge and experience in MBC, represented relevant ministries, agencies and institutions, which are directly involved in this process. In addition, 6 experts and special guests from UNDP, OSCE mission to Bosnia & Herzegovina, SERDA and NATO HQ in Sarajevo were also present and took active part in the workshop.

Workshop Opening



Opening of the Workshop

On 24th June 2009, the workshop was officially opened with the speeches of Ambassador Nedžad HADŽIMUSIĆ, Director of RACVIAC, and Colonel Rifet KOSOVAC, Deputy Minister of Defence on Material Resources of the MoD of Montenegro.

Plenary Session

During the workshop the subject matter experts representing the MoD of Montenegro, as well as other host nation’s civilian institutions involved in domestic MBC process, provided the participants with comprehensive presentations describing the

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approaches of Montenegro to the issues of the conversion of former military bases in detail.



Plenary session

Subsequently, the lecturers and participants had an opportunity for discussions and exchanges of experience.



Colonel Rifet KOSOVAC, the Deputy Minister of Defence on Material Resources of the MoD of Montenegro

Colonel Rifet KOSOVAC, the Deputy Minister of Defence on Material Resources of the MoD of Montenegro, held the first presentation, during which he referred to the country's MBC history, the legal framework, types of conversion applied to former military bases and facilities, the negative fiscal impact of the military installations no longer in use on the country's economy, as well as positive achievements and challenges of Montenegro in the field of MBC.

Speaking about the positive achievements of the MBC process in Montenegro, Colonel Rifet KOSOVAC mentioned the following:

- use of certain locations for housing construction through co-financing with interested enterprises;

- exchange of certain locations with local government for construction of modern military facilities and apartments for the military personnel;
- sale or lease of locations that are suitable for development of tourism.



Lieutenant Colonel Željko FUŠTIĆ

Lieutenant Colonel Željko FUŠTIĆ, a representative of MoD of Montenegro, opened the field study trip by familiarizing the participants with the history of the former military base "Šipčanik" and perspectives of future cooperation with the new owner.

Shortly after the presentation, the participants visited a wine cellar "Šipčanik", a unique place containing about 2 million litres of wine and providing an outstanding example of the former hardened shelter for military aircraft, which, as a result of a successfully implemented MBC project, turned into an enterprise supporting the local economy and tourism.



Wine cellar "Šipčanik"

During the second day of the workshop, the following experts shared their knowledge and expertise with the participants:

- Mr Oliver MAROVIĆ, Deputy Director of City Planning and Lieutenant Colonel Milutin RAŽNATOVIĆ, Head of Department of Infrastructure, MoD of Montenegro (the history of former military bases, challenges, lessons learned and perspectives of MBC in Montenegro);

- Mrs Branka RADONJIĆ, PHD, Deputy Director, Agency of Economic Restructuring and Foreign Investments, Montenegro (The possibility of involvement of IOs, Agencies, Companies and local banks into MBC process);

During the same working day, the representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and the Republic of Serbia also provided the participants with the updates on their national MBC processes.



Colonel Miroljub NIKOLIĆ, update on MBC process in Republic of Serbia

The workshop was concluded on 26th June 2009 with the visits to former military bases “Tološi” and “Morača”. Located within the city of Podgorica, these sites are at their initial phases of implementation, with the perspective to be converted into business and apartmental areas.

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At former military barracks “Tološi”, future apartmental area

CONCLUSION AND TOPIC PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT WORKSHOP

The Workshop was conducted in cooperative and productive manner, thus providing the participants with plenty of opportunities for discussions and exchanges of experience. The cooperation on the part of MoD of Montenegro was excellent and it immensely contributed to the positive outcome of the activity. All Workshop learning objectives were fully achieved. The participants once again acknowledged that the conversion of military facilities is a very complex process. In this respect they reiterated their interest in the continuation of the efforts undertaken by RACVIAC within the framework of the Working Group 2 on Military Base Conversion.

The participants have also expressed their interest to include the following topics as part of the agenda for the next Working Group 2 Workshop on MBC:

1. Conversion of “unattractive” former military bases/sites;
2. Conversion of former military bases/facilities located on the coast;
3. Donors’ assistance in the conversion of former military bases.

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