



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



**“STARLINK” Introductory Training Course on Security System Reform
Zagreb, Croatia,
16 – 20 November 2009**

In cooperation with the Centre for European Security Studies

Co-sponsored by the Kingdom of Denmark and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In line with its primary mission of fostering dialogue and cooperation on security matters in South Eastern Europe, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, organized the “STARLINK” Introductory Training Course on Security System Reform, in cooperation with the Centre for European Security Studies (CESS). It took place in Zagreb (Croatia) between 16 – 20 November 2009.



Course participants

The main purpose of the course was to bring together respective representatives from relevant ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations and NGOs with a view to providing training and promoting a better understanding of democratic governance in the Security System Reform (SSR) as advocated by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC).

The course comprised interactive training sessions, a full-day simulation exercise and open discussions. The participants, representing various governmental institutions from SEE

countries as well as different organizations, took active part in all course activities.



Course Opening

The course was opened on 16th November 2009, with the speeches by Colonel Željko CEPANEC, Deputy Director of RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation; Ms. Willemijn VAN HAAFTEN, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Republic of Croatia; and Dr. Sami FALTAS, Executive Director of Centre for European Security Studies.

Course Sessions

The first day of the course started with the presentation on “Democratic Governance in the Security Sector” by Mr. Merijn HARTOG,



Mr. Merijn HARTOG, CESS Programme Manager

CESS Programme Manager, who introduced the participants with the basics of democratic governance in the security sector: security sector actors, the necessity of democratic

governance in the security sector and SSR golden rules.



***Ms. Inge REMMERT-FONTES,
Independent Consultant and Trainer***

The next presentation, on existing interconnections between security, peace and development as well as civil society and SSR, was given by Ms. Inge REMMERT-FONTES, an Independent Consultant and Trainer from Germany. During her presentation the audience was divided into groups with a task to identify and justify the linkage between security, peace and development. Together with comprehensive information provided by Ms. REMMERT-FONTES, this exercise significantly contributed to participants' understanding that all three elements are closely related and of equal importance. It was stressed that SSR is a powerful tool called to help all society actors to execute their responsibilities, necessary for economic and social development and vital to the protection of human rights.



Dr. Sami FALTAS, CESS Executive Director

After that Dr. Sami FALTAS, CESS Executive Director, made a presentation titled “The Whole-of-Government Approach to Security System Reform”. The participants had an opportunity to learn and discuss the

definition of SSR, its composition, coordination challenges and requirements.



***Mr. Bauke SNOEP, Independent SSR
& Human Rights Expert, CESS Associate***

“A soldier is a citizen in uniform who should basically have the same rights as his civilian neighbour” – was an introductory quote of the presentation on fundamental rights for military personnel, given by Mr. Bauke SNOEP, Independent SSR & Human Rights Expert and CESS Associate. He made an overview of fundamental freedoms outlined in the main documents of UN, EU, OSCE and CoE. Mr. SNOEP also provided a detailed analysis of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Court of Human Rights, 1950).



***Professor Per BERGLING, University
of Umea, Sweden***

On 17th November 2009 the course recommenced with the presentations by Professor Per BERGLING (on SSR in the Justice Sector), Ms. Inge REMMERT-FONTES (on Civil Society and SSR), Mr. Bauke SNOEP (on Building Integrity) and Dr. Sami FALTAS (on Building Political Support). The conclusions of all these

presentations can be summarized into the following points:

- SSR is highly political. It changes relations of power in the security sector, government and society;
- SSR needs to be driven and led by the national government and other stakeholders (people and organizations with a strong interest in SSR) in a country concerned;
- Since local ownership is often weak, stakeholders need to work together to build local political support and leadership to SSR;
- The international community can help by encouraging and supporting local ownership. This needs to be a goal of SSR support programmes;
- A lack of political support and leadership for SSR is more fundamental than a lack of money or expertise;
- Political will is not like money in the bank. It is more like electrical power, needing to be generated all the time;
- If SSR is necessary, but political will is lacking, stakeholders will have to push, encourage, monitor, criticise and support the politicians in charge;
- Politicians move when they are pushed. Stakeholders need to push them every step of the way to carry out and sustain the reforms;
- Building political support means forming a coalition of forces inside and outside government. They need to agree on the main goals and strategy for SSR. However, they will not agree on everything;
- A strategy for SSR must include ways to deal with stakeholders who will oppose the reforms.



Simulation exercise on international efforts to support peace building and SSR after conflict in fictitious country “Karina”

During the whole working day on 18th November 2009, the participants were given an opportunity to put into practice the theoretical knowledge on SSR which they had received earlier in the course. Each participant was assigned a role within the simulation exercise designed by CESS instructors. The exercise scenario focused on international efforts to support peace building and security sector reform in a country “Karina” that had experienced a violent interethnic conflict in the past. The programme of the exercise included several rounds of consultations during which the participants played the roles of fictitious characters that represented the international community (UN, Council of the EU, UNDP, World Bank) as well as the government of “Karina”, community leaders, civil society and media. According to the participants’ feedbacks, the exercise was very instructive. The elaborated roadmap for sustainable peace in “Karina” included a large spectrum of measures and highlighted the significance of conducting SSR as part of the long-term sustainable peace process.

On 19th November 2009, the participants had an opportunity to learn and discuss SSR Assessment and Design.

The sessions were led by Dr. Sami FALTAS and outlined the core issues that all SSR actors should address when conducting an SSR assessment. In particular, it was stressed that the success of SSR depends primarily on the comprehensive understanding of the existing problems as well as the realization of opportunities for change, the constraints and any potential obstacles.



Dr. Sami FALTAS, CESS Executive Director

On 20th November 2009 the course was concluded with the "Case Study: Aftermath of the War in Georgia", conducted by Mr. Cornelis ROS, Security and Defence Consultant from the Netherlands.



Mr. Cornelis ROS, Security & Defence Consultant, the Netherlands

The purpose of the case study was to analyse the provided materials (media releases, statements of government officials etc.) and to judge the reliability of sources and information in relation to SSR golden rules (people have the right to know & the government has to reveal, explain and justify). As part of the case study, the audience was split into three groups and received specific tasks within the case study content. The findings of each group were presented by a spokesperson at the end of the case study.

CONCLUSIONS & PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT SSR ACTIVITIES

The Course 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 CESS was excellent and it immensely contributed to the positive outcome of the activity. All course learning objectives were fully achieved. The participants acknowledged that the information provided and issues discussed were of great importance to their countries and also expressed their interest to participate in the consequent SSR activities planned to be conducted by RACVIAC in cooperation with CESS in 2010.

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