



Centre for Security Cooperation

RACVIAC CYBER SECURITY PROJECT ROUNDTABLE

12 – 14 December 2011, RACVIAC, Rakitje, Croatia

Activity Background

With the two-fold aim of, firstly, bringing together cyber security experts from the regional countries in order to provide them with an opportunity to exchange relevant information and experience, as well as to expose them to the latest developments in the field, as presented by relevant international experts, and, secondly, to provide all the participants with an opportunity to express their ideas and thus actively participate in the development of RACVIAC cyber security related activities in the future, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation – organized and carried out the “RACVIAC Cyber Security Project” Roundtable.

Cyber threat is recognized, both globally and in the SEE region, as a serious security hazard whose weight and gravity are to become even more prominent in the future. All security threats have one dominant characteristic in common – their concern-raising ability to transform. In the cyber world it is all the more preoccupying given the rapid development of cyber technology and the ability of cyber threats to spread regardless of borders. Furthermore, the SEE region is becoming increasingly recognized as a region with a significant and growing volume of cyber crime, while general cyber security is often not at a sufficient level. In this regard, unless we become able to respond with equal flexibility and unless our preparations are future-oriented, we will risk

not being able to cope with this threat in the future.



Family photo

Faced with such a complex and multifaceted threat, nations around the world, as well as international organizations, are striving to develop both policies and tools to tackle it. NATO, for example, established its Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn (Estonia) in 2008, with the mission to enhance the capability, cooperation and information sharing among NATO, NATO nations and Partners in cyber defence. Similarly, a big part of the overall efforts of the UN Interregional Crime & Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) is dedicated to understanding cyber threats and devising adequate counter measures. In the same light, the European Union established a special agency – European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) – as its response to the cyber security issues.

Hence, if the common goal is to find and implement an efficient way to deal with this threat, constant attention needs to be paid to its evolving form, with international cooperation forming an integral part of any counter cyber threat strategy. The SEE region is not and cannot be an exception to this.

By organizing this roundtable, RACVIAC served as a forum for experience and knowledge exchange, facilitating international and inter-organizational cooperation and regional approach to cyber threats. The more specific objectives of the roundtable were:

- To expose regional cyber security experts to the experience of international experts and enhance already existing cooperation;
- To enable regional cyber security experts to exchange knowledge, experience and know-how, as well as to facilitate networking among them;
- To present the RACVIAC cyber security project proposal and to collect inputs from the participants regarding the number and the type of cyber security related activities to be conducted in the future and other relevant topics.

Activity Venue, Duration and Participation

The Roundtable was held from 12 to 14 December 2012 at RACVIAC premises in Rakitje (Croatia).

The Roundtable comprised three sessions. In the first session, titled “International and Regional Aspects of Cyber Security”, representatives of international organizations and the Republic of Austria presented their views and provided information on their international activities in the cyber security realm. In the second session, titled “Views from the Capitals”, representatives of the

countries of the SEE region and the Federal Republic of Germany presented their views and provided information on the cyber security related activities of their institutions/organizations. Both sessions were designed to include presentations and discussions alike, with sufficient time left to properly address the participants’ questions. The third session was used to inform the participants on the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project Proposal and to stimulate discussions among the participants in order to collect their ideas and opinions on the Project Proposal.

The participants were representatives from eight countries and six organizations, as follows: Albania (3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5), Croatia (12), Serbia (5), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ (2), Montenegro (1), Austria (1), Germany (1), Cyber DefCon (1), NATO (4: NATO HQ Brussels–1, NATO HQ Sarajevo–1, NATO JFC Naples–2), Regional Cooperation Council – RCC (1), Southeast European Law Enforcement Center - SELEC (1), UNICRI (2) and RACVIAC (7).

Conference Opening

Opening the Roundtable, Colonel Željko



Welcome address by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Colonel Željko Capanec.

Capanec, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, greeted the participants and welcomed them

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

to RACVIAC and Croatia. He went on to emphasize that RACVIAC recognized the growing importance of cyber security and the need, arising therefrom, to broaden the scope and increase the number of cyber security related activities to be conducted by RACVIAC in the future.

Thanking the participants for their attendance, the Deputy Director reminded them that the Roundtable presented not only an opportunity to discuss cyber security issues for the benefit of our region, but that it also provided a possibility for them to express their preferences as regards the future role of RACVIAC in this field of common concern. Having said this, the Deputy Director called for participants' proactive contribution and openness in expressing their ideas and opinions. Such an approach to the discussions to follow would allow the participants individually, as well as the countries and organizations they represent, to have their say on the role of RACVIAC, as an international organization owned by the countries of the SEE region, in the realm of cyber security.

Keynote Speech

Following the welcome addresses, the Roundtable participants had the honour of listening to the keynote speech delivered by Mr Raoul Chiesa, who works for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) as a Cybercrime Advisor and is a renown cyber security expert and a member of a number of national and international cyber security related organizations and initiatives.

During his speech, Mr Chiesa offered a comprehensive, yet succinct, picture of the current worldwide cyber security situation, navigating skilfully from early days at the beginning of the 1980s to the present; from cybercrime through information wars to cyber war, giving lively and illustrative examples from all parts of the world.



Keynote speaker, Mr Raoul Chiesa (right), is presented with a gift by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Colonel Željko Čepanec

After giving a short presentation of the UNICRI and its activities, Mr Chiesa presented a short history of hacking, explaining how first hackers came about and what motivated them, how new generations emerged and how these early generations of hackers stratified into various profiles of hackers existing today. He elaborated on hackers' profiles and their motivation, and went on to explain and give examples of the activities cybercrime involves nowadays. These examples included detailed explanation of money collecting mechanisms behind several exposed cybercrime schemes. To further illustrate the issue, he continued the presentation with estimates of the value of cybercrime activities that ranged from several billions of US dollars annually to a staggering estimate according to which cybercrime drains one trillion US dollars from global economy annually.

The presentation continued with a brief explanation of the terms «information warfare» and «cyberwar», which also included examples from the recent past and information on how countries around the world are currently building up their cyber forces.

Mr Chiesa concluded his presentation by providing the Roundtable participants with a vision of a possible cyber security future. According to his vision, in addition to the intensification and multiplication of «traditional» cybercrime activities, the future

will also see growing attempts of hackers to exploit the increasing number of smartphones and other mobile computing devices, whose unprecedented connectivity and still underdeveloped security features make a tempting bait. Cyber space will also be increasingly seen as an additional security arena where an adversary can be challenged, which will result in an increased number of sponsored cyber attacks. These actions will become an integral part of all future conventional conflicts. In order to counter these new threats, we will witness increased public – private partnerships.

Session I. International and Regional Aspects of Cyber Security

Mr Jart Armin, CEO of Cyber DefCon, started his presentation by showing snapshots that indicated the number and geographical distribution of cyber attacks worldwide. Special attention was given to Europe, from where it was also visible that the SEE region is an area in which a significantly elevated number of cyber attacks takes place. Thereupon, Mr Armin concluded that this confirmed that special attention should be devoted to cyber security in the SEE region and thus supported the idea that RACVIAC should dedicate more attention to it and become more active in cyber security. Further on, Mr Armin suggested considering his proposal, according to which RACVIAC would become a regional center that would serve to capture the totality of the internet traffic in the SEE region, analyze trends in search of potential threats, monitor potential threats in order to confirm their maliciousness and then report to national authorities of the member countries that would undertake measures to counter the threat.



Mr Jart Armin (right) is presented with a gift by RACVIAC Deputy Director, Colonel Željko Cepanec

Mr Virgil Ivan-Cucu, Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit of the RCC, focused in his presentation on legal aspects of cyber security. He started by explaining from the legal standpoint various terms used to define and describe different activities that pose a threat to cyber security. He continued his presentation by stimulating discussion on how to differentiate, and based on what criteria, cyber threats that jeopardize national security from “ordinary” cyber threats as well as on how to protect individual freedoms and personal information in a situation when broadly available technology offers cheap and efficient ways to endanger it? He illustrated the latter by presenting a few examples on how general public can be stimulated to voluntarily give away personal information they would not normally give away. Mr Ivan-Cucu closed his presentation by offering a comprehensive list of conclusions that could be used as a starting point for the development of regulations aimed at protecting general security and individual rights and freedoms.



Mr Ivan-Cucu from the Regional Cooperation Council delivers his presentation

Ms Elizabeta Ilieva, Macedonian Police Liaison Officer and Project Manager for Financial and Computer Crimes Task Force (TFFCC) at SELEC, acquainted the participants with SELEC and its activities, putting a special emphasis on the activities of TFFCC. Taking into account the second goal of the Roundtable, she stressed that one of the tasks of TFFCC was the facilitation of regional training of national experts, and she also provided information on such trainings which had been organized so far under the umbrella of TFFCC indicating that this could be an area of cooperation between SELEC and RACVIAC.

Colonel Josef Schroefl from the Ministry of Defense (MoD) of the Republic of Austria, provided information on how cyber security was perceived and dealt with at the national level, and then concentrated on the role of the MoD, putting a special emphasis on the Multinational Experiment (MNE). The MNE, which was started in 2001, gathers interested countries and organizations in order to estimate threats to the global commons (maritime, air, space and cyber domain) and devise measures to protect them. Afterwards, he provided information on the development of the Austrian Cyber Security Strategy and concluded his presentation by confirming that, taking all into account, it was in his country's best interest to support RACVIAC's cyber security project.

At the end of the session, Major Peter Horvath from the NATO HQ Sarajevo presented NATO's Perspective on Cyber Defense and Botnets, while Special Agent Christopher Peppers, working for NATO JFC Naples and U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), presented the activities of the NCIS Cyber Operations Field Office covering Europe and Africa supported with real-life investigation examples.

Session II: Views from the Capitals

During this session the Roundtable participants from the participating countries had an opportunity to present institutions / ministries / agencies they were representing, to provide information on their activities related to cyber security and to present the accompanying plans for the future. Representatives of all the countries present at the Roundtable utilized this opportunity and widely endorsed RACVIAC's initiative to step up its cyber security related activities and agreed that, in general terms, international cooperation was an irreplaceable element of any viable and efficient cyber security strategy.

During the session, a lively discussion developed, from which it became apparent that national Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were at different levels of establishment and development. Namely, while in some countries a network of national and other CERTs is well developed, in some countries national CERTs are still to be developed or in the initial phase of development. This situation led to the conclusion that it would be beneficial if RACVIAC organized an experience and knowledge exchange activity which would bring together the representatives of national CERTs and, possibly, the representatives of adequate international organizations.

Session III: RACVIAC Cyber Security Project

After a short introduction given by the RACVIAC Deputy Director, Colonel Željko Cepanec, ideas and goals of the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project were presented by Major Saša Konjević, RACVIAC's Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE. Major Konjević started by explaining how the idea came about as a result of RACVIAC's prominent activity held in December 2010: the "Unprecedented Wave of Security Vulnerability: Cyber Security Threats in SEE" Conference. He continued with the presentation by providing a possible vision of the Project end-state. This included details on the number and type of cyber security related activities to be performed annually in RACVIAC and other relevant topics.



Major Saša Konjević, RACVIAC Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE, presents RACVIAC's ideas and goals of the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project.

He then went on to remind the participants that one of the goals of the Roundtable was to collect inputs from them on what they thought RACVIAC should do regarding cyber security in the future. In order to fulfil this goal, a questionnaire was developed and sent to the participants before the Roundtable commenced.

Summary

The Roundtable proved to be worthwhile, as it provided an opportunity for cyber security experts from the SEE region to exchange

knowledge, experience and know-how, as well as to hear about the experiences of cyber security experts from the countries outside the SEE region and from international organizations. Social events organized during the Roundtable played an important role in facilitating networking among the participants.

As a result of the Roundtable, a summary of ideas and proposals was developed. The summary was derived from the questionnaires filled in by the Roundtable participants, as well as from the notes taken during discussions among the participants. The summary, containing ideas and proposals on the curricular (type and number of activities), personnel, infrastructure and equipment issues, will be used as the springboard for further refinement and fine tuning of the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project.

Compiled by: Major Saša Konjević, Planning and Liaison Officer for SEE at RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation and Course Director for the RACVIAC Cyber Security Project Roundtable.