



Centre for Security Cooperation



Ministry of Defence of Montenegro

Annex A

Overview SSR-06-CF

Conference on Financial Aspects of Economic Crisis and their Impact on Security Sector

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, CROATIA
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Dates	6 – 8 November, 2012
Location	Montenegro
Background	<p>The end of the Cold War marked the beginning of reduction in military spending for the rest of Europe. During the same period, considerable part of South East Europe (SEE) saw increased national efforts in the field of military spending. Since 2008, the ongoing economic and financial crisis has struck the whole of Europe, and well beyond. In addition to that, the SEE countries had to cope with huge structural changes in the course of their transition processes, while nowadays they can speak about considerable results achieved in this field. However, the SEE countries have generally been faced with severe economic and financial crisis, unfinished transition processes and demands and efforts in the context of European and Euro-Atlantic integrations. Consequently, the security sector remains one of the prominent targets of transition and one of the prominent actors in the process of integration, alas, with its hands tied in the existing economic and financial circumstances. The defence and/or security sector have to meet the constitutional demands and basic national interests, as well as demands deriving from the national decision to commence the integration process. It is evident that defence budget/s should be higher. Only, who can persuade the nation to decide in that direction? It is difficult to achieve this during peacetime, let alone in the times of severe economic and financial hardship without a single firm indicator of when it could end. Some say that, in times as hard as these, it is advisable to join forces and thus gain more with less.</p>
Purpose & Objectives	<p>The purpose of this conference is to bring together regional experts on economy and finance, as well as experts and decision makers from Defence Planning, Defence Budgeting and Defence Policy Departments, equivalents from the Internal Affairs offices, along with members and professionals from parliamentary defence and security committees from the SEE to introduce, discuss and, to an extent, deal with the issues related to the current economic and financial crisis, its effects on budget and general expenditure trends.</p>

Participants Participants: heads and high representatives of Defence Policy, Finance, Planning and Procurement Departments, and their counterparts in the Internal Affairs offices, as well as members and professionals from parliamentary defence and security committees.

Representation of civil society organisations is welcome.

Methodology The conference will comprise expert presentations and follow-up discussions over two working days. Day one will deal with general macroeconomic and financial framework and status of the SEE countries, with reference to handling national/defence budget. Day two will tackle specialized regional defence budget analysis, specific financial constraints and their impact on defence/security system. It will also focus on the exchange of information on current trends related to defence budgets and plans.

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