



SWISS REGIONAL POLICE COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN THE WESTERN BALKANS [SPCP 2012–16]

FACTSHEET [January 2015]

The programme was set up to strengthen regional police cooperation in the Western Balkans during the period 2012 to 2016 with the aim of ensuring a more efficient and effective fight against organized and serious crime. The SPCP 2012-16 is part of the Swiss engagement in the Western Balkans.

This programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) is mandated by SDC to manage and oversee the programme.

Programme Objectives

The programme will focus on the enhancement of framework conditions for strategic and operational police cooperation and aims to increase mutual trust and foster harmonization of law enforcement approaches in the region.

Regional Context

Serious and organized transnational crime is a chronic problem for Southeast Europe. It seriously impedes the stabilization and democratic development of the entire region, undermines the region's goal of EU integration, and represents a serious threat to the security of people in Southeast Europe and throughout all of Europe.

The countries of the region have recognized that their strategic and operational capacities to engage in cross-border police cooperation need to be significantly improved if they are to tackle the threat of organized crime. Supporting the region in advancing police reforms and cooperation is therefore crucial to its development and stabilization, and to European integration.

Strengthening Regional Initiatives

The SPCP is a project fund that co-funds regional initiatives involving at least two countries. Based on project proposals and selection criteria, support is provided to relevant regional initiatives that facilitate strategic police coordination, promote regional networks, foster capacity and knowledge building, or support operational cross-border exercises. All co-funded initiatives address identified beneficiary needs aligned with national strategies and/or action plans and are complementary to other regional initiatives. Project partners have already been selected and the SPCP is currently entering its implementation and monitoring phase.

Sustainability and Local Ownership

The implementation of the SPCP is guided by the principles of sustainability and local ownership. The SPCP therefore emphasises the development of the institutional capacities of relevant regional and national actors. It seeks to enhance the democratic accountability and respect for human rights.

Beneficiaries

The SPCP provides support to the Western Balkans' national and regional institutions dealing with security, law enforcement and rule of law.

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www.spcp2012-16.ch

www.sdc.admin.ch