



SPCP 2012-16

Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

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PCC Organizes Working Group Meetings, Ohrid Conference

Ohrid, Macedonia: The Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention in Southeast Europe (PCC) joined forces with the Ministry of Interior of Macedonia and the DCAF Border Security Programme to organize a meeting on the **Prevention and Suppression of Transnational Organized Crime in Southeast**



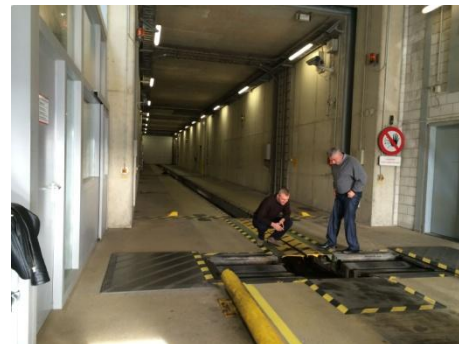
Europe – Convergence of Theory and Practice. The meeting brought together national heads and senior experts of criminal investigation units and representatives of the academia from each country, whose research focus is on the prevention, detection and investigation of transnational organized crime. During the meeting participants identified the need for the development of a common regional project, which would facilitate the creation of useful links between research and practical domains at the regional level, and enable the implementation of theoretically and methodologically-set approaches to the prevention and suppression of transnational organized crime.

Over the course of December 2013, the PCC also organized various Working Group meetings related to activities funded under the SPCP. The 1st Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on JIT Expert Network within PCC SEE was held in Begunje na Gorenjskem, Slovenia between 9-11 December, while the 3rd Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on the Exchange of Information regarding Forged and Fake Travel Documents within PCC SEE took place in Ljubljana between 18-20 December. An expert meeting on

Policing in the Roma Community was furthermore held in Budapest between 11-13 December.

Container Control Programme Gets Under Way

The UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme (CCP), under the sponsorship of SPCP, is undertaking the creation of port control units in three locations in Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project kicked off in October 2013 with practical trainings and a presentation for Albanian authorities in Tirana. Activities are currently under way at the Ports of Bar and Durres in Montenegro and Albania, respectively.



A study visit to Rotterdam was organized for Albanian port officials from Durres between 2-6 December, 2013. The visit was hosted by the Dutch Customs

Authority and served to provide a comparative and educational analysis of the challenges faced by Dutch customs and the successes of their port control units.

On 6-7 December, a UNODC technical mission visited Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the implementation of a CCP in the country. The parties agreed on a way forward and reiterated the necessity for such port control units to aid the fight against illicit trafficking and customs fraud.



IOM Launching in Podgorica

Podgorica, 4 December 2013: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted the launching of the fourth SPCP-funded project in Montenegro last December. The project is titled **'Building the Capacities of and Strengthening Cooperation between Law Enforcement Officials of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia'** and is scheduled for implementation until October 2014. To ensure the visibility of the project, the launching began with a press conference, which was followed by one general presentation and several detailed presentations and discussions on the four phases of project implementation:

1. Development and adoption of specialized regional curriculum for training for joint patrols and cross-border cooperation;
2. Trainings for strengthening work of joint patrols and cross-border cooperation;
3. Study visit to the mobile units and centers for police and customs cooperation in an EU country;
4. Purchase of technical equipment and infrastructure to enhance border police.

The meeting was attended by high-ranking Border Police Officials from Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The

attendees make up the Steering Committee of the project and will be meeting three times during the course of its implementation to follow the progress and agree on the course of the scheduled activities. The one-year project is based on the most important needs and priorities in the field of cross-border cooperation. The overall objective of the project is to improve the fight against illegal migration and cross-border crime on the borders of the Western Balkans, as a direct contribution to better security in the region.

.BK Austria attends SEPCA General Assembly

Belgrade, Serbia: The General Assembly of the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) took place in Belgrade on 4 December 2013. At the meeting, Mr. Andreas Hofbauer presented the status of the strategy development process of the ILECU project on behalf of the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Office (.BK). The project funded by the SDC under the SPCP umbrella and run in partnership with BK Austria focuses on the **Further development of International Law Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs) in South Eastern Europe and the strengthening of the strategic approach of SEPCA to combat transnational crime.**

NEWS

New Projects Approved

Bern, 28 November 2013: Two new projects were approved to be funded under the SPCP at the fifth Advisory Group meeting in Bern. The projects will be implemented by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)'s Missions to Serbia and Kosovo, and will focus on criminal intelligence sharing to tackle organized crime. More information on the OSCE projects will be posted shortly on the SPCP website at www.spcp2012-16.ch

UNODC-WCO CCP Chooses BiH Port

The Bosnian port of Bijaca in Republika Srpska has been selected as the third location for the SPCP-funded CCP. The port was chosen due to its location fairly close to the sea.

