



SPCP 2012-16

Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

Issue # 3

April - June 2014

IOM Capacity Trainings for Border Police Officials from the Region

Region

Throughout April, May and June 2014, a two-day training on joint patrols was organised seven times for the border police officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Montenegro, Serbia (group one) and Albania, Kosovo* and Macedonia (group two).

The two-day training on joint patrols was facilitated by high-ranking police officials and took place at locations close to border crossings. The trainings covered topics on, inter alia, border protection, the concept of integrated border management, new modalities of cross-border crime, identification of victims of trafficking and risk analysis. An UNHCR representative also attended the trainings to give a presentation on issues related to asylum. Classroom training was complemented by outdoor practical exercises.



IOM Steering Committee Meeting

Podgorica, Montenegro

13 May 2014: The IOM hosted the *2nd Steering Committee Meeting* pertaining to the Project "Building the Capacities of and Strengthening Cooperation between Law Enforcement Officials of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Republic of Serbia". The meeting was attended

by the Heads and high-ranking representatives of border police services from the Western Balkans region. Participants discussed the activities conducted in the first six months of project implementation, as well as future activities related to the project and its possible continuation. In particular, they discussed the three draft documents produced –



– "Regional Training Curriculum for Police Officials Participating in Joint Patrols", "Manual for Prevention and Combating Cross-Border Crime by means of Joint Patrols" and "Collection of Regulations pertaining to Joint Patrols". Based on the feedback from the participants, the documents will be finalised and distributed to each of the planned locations.

PCC Hosting Several Meetings and Events in Spring 2014

- convened under the auspices of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Chairmanship in Office –

Opatija, Croatia

9 April 2014: The *11th Meeting of the Committee of Ministers* gathered ministers responsible for home affairs, their representatives and other high officials from the Contracting Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE). The participants came together with the aim to discuss progress in the PCC SEE implementation process and further modalities necessary for the advancement of cross-border law enforcement cooperation amongst their countries.

The Committee of Ministers discussed with an intention to adopt three crucial decisions on the fulfilment of data protection preconditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Moldova. Thus opens a new chapter in the enhancement of operational cooperation as all eleven



Contracting Parties can begin exchanging information, including personal data.



The Committee of Ministers also supported the future efforts for practically advancing the implementation process, namely in the areas of data and information exchange and cross-border DNA information exchange. The Committee endorsed the 18-month work programme of the Trio PCC SEE Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Hungary, and welcomed the strategic and practical priorities set out for the period 2014 – mid 2015.

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

24 and 25 April 2014: The *4th Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Exchange of Information regarding Forged and Fake Travel Documents within the PCC SEE* brought together experts with operational experience, as well as a background in forensics, from the 11 PCC SEE Contracting Parties and Switzerland. The meeting provided a platform for experts to exchange experiences regarding, inter alia, specimens and information on new forms, methods and misuses of forged and fake travel documents, as well as national training systems, and to identify common challenges in their daily work.

From 28 to 30 April 2014: The *3rd Meeting of the Surveillance Expert Network for Southeast Europe within the PCC SEE (SENSEE)* and the *Training on the use of the EUROPOL Platform for Experts (EPE)* were held in cooperation with EUROPOL. The nationally appointed SENSEE members, nationally appointed EPE content managers, SENSEE Chair and EUROPOL representatives shared experiences and discussed recent developments in the field of cross-border surveillance. Furthermore, they engaged in the practical use of the EPE and became familiar with the methodology of the platform.

6 and 7 May 2014: A *Training Course on Special Investigation Actions* was organised for Country representatives with a thorough background in special investigation actions. The aim of the training was to transfer rele-

vant know-how and methodology in the areas of cross-border surveillance, controlled delivery and undercover investigations. Participants shared their experiences and best practices in these areas in order to further explore the possibilities for enhanced cross-border cooperation of law enforcement organisations.

Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

26 and 28 May 2014: The PCC SEE Secretariat organised a *2-day Capacity Building Workshop on Joint Investigations Teams (JITs)* in late May. The workshop combined both a theoretical and practical approach by addressing important elements related to the establishment of JITs and increasing the participants' knowledge and skills through various exercises, while also building mutual trust between prosecutors and practitioners from the PCC SEE region.



Ljubljana, Slovenia

From 23 to 24 June 2014: An *Ad hoc Meeting on Legal Aspects of DNA Information Exchange*, in light of PCC SEE implementation activities, was held in Ljubljana. The meeting gathered legal and DNA information exchange police experts with the aim to further develop the area of cross-border automated DNA information exchange by exploring the legal aspects of the EU Prüm instrument as a model.

UNODC - WCO hand over equipment for the Joint Port Control Unit and Anti Drug Service in Albania

Tirana, Albania

17 June 2014: In partnership with the Office of the General Director of the Albanian State Police, UNODC organised the ceremony for the handover of 13.200 Mercury Evidence Bags of various sizes. Each evidence bag has a unique serial number to ensure correct preservation and documentation of seized drugs, which will later be used as evidence in court.



The handover ceremony took place at the Headquarters of the Albanian State Police and was attended by the General Director of the State Police, Mr. Artan Didi, the Charge d' Affaire of Switzerland/Head of the Swiss Development



Cooperation (SDC), Mr. Holger Tausch, the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania, Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, representatives of the Albanian State Police and donors, amongst others. The handover protocol was signed by Mr. Didi, on behalf of the Albanian State Police, and by Ms. Benjelloun, on behalf of UNODC. The donation is part of the assistance offered to the Albanian Government under the Container Control Program (CCP).

Cooperation (SDC), Mr. Holger Tausch, the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania, Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, representatives of the Albanian State Police and donors, amongst others. The handover protocol was signed by Mr. Didi, on behalf of the Albanian State Police, and by Ms. Benjelloun, on behalf of UNODC. The donation is part of the assistance offered to the Albanian Government under the Container Control Program (CCP).



Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina

From 23 to 24 April 2014: In the frame of the CCP, the joint UNODC-WCO team conducted a technical mission to the CCP designated site in Bijača. The aim was to assess the current situation at the site, the level of engagement and commitment by the local stakeholders to the work of the Joint Port Unit and the CCP as a whole. The team also conducted a training needs assessment to develop recommendations for future program implementation.

Albanian law enforcement officers meet with Montenegro counterparts

Podgorica, Montenegro

10 May 2014: With the support of UNODC, a delegation from the Department for the Fight against Organised Crime in the Albanian General Directorate of the State Police, accompanied by the Head of the Joint Port Control Unit of Durres, participated in an official visit to Podgorica. The visit followed the Montenegrin authorities' recent successful seizure of 250 kilos of cocaine destined for Albania's Durres Port. During the visit, the delegation discussed the recent operation and explored new ways of exchanging and sharing information and undertaking joint operations with their counterparts.

Meeting with Montenegro law enforcement Agencies

Podgorica and Bar, Montenegro

From 3 to 5 April 2014: Representatives of the UNODC mission met with Montenegro law enforcement agencies. The establishment of the Joint Port Unit at the port of Bar and necessary preconditions for its operationalisation were discussed and agreed upon.

ILECUs III – Task Force Meeting

Tirana, Albania

From 22 to 25 April: An *ILECUs Task Force Conference on Organisational Management* took place in Tirana. During the meeting, relevant aspects for setting-up and managing taskforces, such as IT needs, human resources and infrastructure, were jointly elaborated using a very practical approach. The conference was attended by high-level representatives from the Criminal Police of Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Moldova and Kosovo* as well as experts from the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service. The experts' presentations were based on practical cases varying from transnational murder investigations to economic crime taskforces and international state-of-the-art cybercrime investigations.

NEWS

Ministerial Conference 2014

Opatija, Croatia: Switzerland and Croatia co-organised the *Ministerial Conference on Contemporary Challenges in Regional Police Cooperation*, with the support of DCAF. The conference was implemented within the framework of the SPCP 2012-16 and during the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship. Ministers, senior officials, high-ranking law enforcement officials, police experts and representatives of international and regional organisations participated in

the conference, which provided a platform for exchanging views on current issues in the field of policing and regional police cooperation. Ministers and senior representatives provided suggestions on how to strengthen their cooperation; political support was considered a key element for enhancing cooperation at the operational level. The conference's key messages will be published in a brochure, which may serve as a reference and guidance for further discussions on this topic at political, strategic or operational levels.