

SPCP 2012-16

Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

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Train-the-Trainers Workshop on PCC SEE-related matters

Sofia, Bulgaria

From 15 to 17 October 2014: The Train-the-Trainers workshop immediately followed the 4th Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Police Education and Training (TWG), during which the Contracting Parties' activities and possibilities for enhancing common regional cooperation in the field of police education and training in 2015 were addressed. The workshop brought together experts from police education institutions of the PCC SEE Contracting Parties. Based on a comprehensive presentation of the PCC SEE provisions and contemporary rules of programme design, they focused extensively on designing the framework for a common basic PCC SEE Training Programme. The participants also received proposals, practical examples and suggestions on how to approach PCC SEE topics in order for the programme to be delivered to a wider scope of police officers. As a follow-up to this event, a new plan for the purpose of police education and training on PCC SEE-related matters has been developed and will be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting of the TWG. After its confirmation, the Contracting Parties will be encouraged to implement the lesson plan in their respective national training programmes.

First PCC SEE Region-wide Cross-border Police Cooperation Exercise

Region

From 10 to 19 November 2014: The First PCC SEE Region-wide Cross-border Police Cooperation Exercise, codenamed TRAPPERS 2014, is thus far the largest exercise of its kind carried out within the PCC SEE framework.

The exercise lasted 10 days, with 10 persons under surveillance travelling through the territory of all 11 PCC SEE Contracting Parties. During the activities over 250 highly trained surveillance operatives were engaged. The operational headquarters were hosted by Europol, which also provided the analytical support it normally provides in real cases, and additionally hosted the "Acting Liaison Officers" from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Macedonia and Serbia. This exercise is considered to enhance use of available resources, identification of possible shortcomings with regard to multilateral police cooperation and data and information exchange. Furthermore, the experience and exchange of knowledge is seen to provide for a basis, on which to build further practical cooperation between the Contracting Parties and also in the wider European region.

First Meeting of the Criminal Police Directors of the PCC SEE Contracting Parties

Sofia, Bulgaria

From 6 to 7 November 2014: The first meeting of Criminal Police Directors of the PCC SEE Contracting Parties was dedicated to the topic of regional cooperation in the fight against Mobile





Organised Criminal Groups (MOCG), i.e. criminal groups who systematically acquire wealth through theft of property or fraud, having a wide ranging area of operations and being internationally active. During the meeting, the national representatives exchanged experience in countering MOCG and discussed how to enhance cross-border law enforcement cooperation in this respect. As an outcome of the discussions, some of the Contracting Parties identified a similar modus operandi of MOCG and agreed to remain in close contact for further details and cooperation. The participants reaffirmed the relevance of the project by identifying the need for additional expert-level meetings in this area and the necessity to create a network of PCC SEE national contact points.

3rd Meeting Ad Hoc Working Group on Data Protection within PCC SEE **Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia**

From 1 to 3 December 2014: The two-day meeting brought together national representatives of both data protection and law enforcement authorities from the Contracting Parties, as well as representatives from Eurojust and the General Secretariat of the Council of EU. Having in mind all 11 Contracting Parties have successfully passed the necessary evaluations in the area of data protection resulting in the fulfilment of PCC SEE preconditions for the exchange of information including personal data, the discussion focused on the need for updating the working group's tasks. The national representatives agreed that emphasis should be given to the aspect of monitoring, therefore they specified and drafted a new set of tasks in this regard. The Committee of Ministers Decision on the Amendment of the Rules of Procedure for Evaluations in the Area of Data Protection has been adopted and is in force as of 26 January 2015. During the meeting, the working group also focused their discussion on inspections performed on national level and handling of data subjects' complaints.

IOM Capacity Trainings for Border Police Officials from the Region **Region**

October/December 2014: IOM continued carrying out trainings including theoretical and practical training on joint patrols for the border police officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro in Serbia, and for the border officials from Albania, Kosovo* and Macedonia in Kosovo*. The trainings covered topics on, inter alia, border protection, existing legislation, the concept of integrated border management, the identification of victims of trafficking and risk analysis.



IOM Study Visit **Edirne, Turkey**

From 18 to 20 November: The study visit was attended by the Chiefs of Border Police from the six Western Balkan project locations (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia) and their deputies/assistants. The aim of the study trip was to visit a country bordering with the European Union and to get acquainted with the working manner as well as practical insight into the work of border police and customs, with the special focus on tackling illegal migration issues. Part of the activity included a field visit to border crossing points and meeting with local authorities.





.BK - SEPCA General Assembly

Belgrade, Serbia

26 November 2014: The meeting was attended by the Directors General of the national Police Organisations and the SEPCA Strategy Board members. As a result of the newly elaborated SEPCA strategy for the years 2014-2017, the official signing of new statutory documents, namely the Memorandum of Understanding and the SEPCA Guidelines, took place. The new statute of the organisation was hereby adopted, a rolling secretariat installed and the Presidency of the network was handed over by Serbia to Albania. As an important step of the SEPCA strategy an annual report on organisational and statistical data in the region - the Management Information System (MIS) will be developed by the SEPCA-Office in Tirana with the support of the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service .BK and EUROPOL.



International Conference on Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Begging

Zagreb, Croatia

From 26 to 28 November 2014: The Police Equal Performance concept (PEP) was developed by the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria .BK and Europol in order to help control and combat transnational crime through the implementation of European good practices within Police Organisations. The vision of PEP is that cross-border operational cooperation, based on mutual trust, becomes routine. Following these ideas a PEP-Capability Model was jointly elaborated by Europol and the Criminal intelligence Service Austria. It represents an instrument aimed to facilitate the evaluation of Police Units and Police Organisations and offers the

opportunity to identify potential for improvement by setting up common organisational and operational criteria based on European Best Practices. An international conference was organised within the framework of the ILECU- project in the Police Academy in Zagreb, Croatia, by the Criminal Intelligence Service and the Croatian Ministry of Interior, with the purpose of bringing together experts from various professional fields and countries, all dealing with fighting Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and Forced Begging. Experts from Western Balkan countries, Romania, Moldova, Georgia, Austria and representatives of international organisations (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, International Organization for Migration IOM) jointly discussed relevant implications, social, legal and operational aspects of these fields of crime, with a strong focus on victim identification and victim protection. Offering help to victims and protecting human rights are crucial in the daily Police work.



UNODC - CCP Container Control Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina commenced implementation phase

Sarajevo, BiH

From 17 to 28 November 2014: The UNODC-CCP Container Control Programme Basic Theoretical Training has been completed in Mostar, BiH. The two-week theoretical training (17-28 November 2014) was organized for the Joint Port Control Unit officers from the Indirect Taxation Authority and BiH Border Police Training also gathered observing officers from several other law enforcement agencies in BiH: State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Directorate for Coordination of



Police Bodies and Agency for Education and Professional Training, as well as the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, Customs Directorate of Koper.

BiH joined the UNODC-CCP Container Control Programme in July 2014, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNODC and became the 21st operational country out of 52 funded countries. The Joint Port Control Unit in BiH is deployed at the Border crossing/Customs point Bijača. On a daily basis, its work contributes to the minimization of risks related to illicit trafficking of prohibited goods across the Bosnia and Herzegovina border.

Container Control Programme in Albania holds the annual meeting
Tirana, Albania

22 December 2014: The Container Control Programme in Albania (CCP) held its annual meeting in partnership with the General Directorate of Customs Administration and the General Directorate of the State Police. The annual meeting highlighted the 2014 partnership of the Container Control Programme, providing insights on the container control endeavors, sustainable assistance to the functioning of the Joint Container Control Team (JCCU), local, regional and international cooperation. During the meeting, it was noted that UNODC has a long history of cooperation with the Albanian law enforcement agencies and continues to be one of the main agencies assisting the country in the implementation of the integrated border management strategy by introducing a niche to the joint work of the police and customs.



The General Director of Customs stated that the JCCU was an example of police cooperation aimed at preventing illicit activities at the Port and promoting the legitimate trade. Since its inception, the JCCU at Durres Port has increased detections and seizures of drugs and other illicit goods, including 22.7kg of heroin, more than 5.6 tons of marijuana and counterfeited goods worth 50.000 Euros. The recent successes have increased faith within the general population and internationals. Furthermore, they have demonstrated willingness in Albania's efforts to address this issue with its Balkan and European partners.

OSCE Kosovo Project for Kosovo Police and Albanian State Police commences
Tirana, Albania

From 27 October to 7 November 2014: The OSCE Mission to Kosovo* commenced the first segment of a two-year project centred on the training of the Kosovo Police and Albanian State Police for the development of a Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA). The aim of the training is for both Police Services to meet the required EUROPOL standards. This two-week training was instigated in Tirana, Albania where six intelligence analysts from police services in Kosovo and Albania were trained on Strategic Assessment and the necessary components required for the SOCTA. The purpose of this OSCE Kosovo project is for both police services to meet international policing standards, improve their overall operational capacities and meet the requirements of their respective policing strategic development plans.





Study Visit to EUROPOL

The Hague, the Netherlands

From 2 to 3 December 2014: The study visit to EUROPOL was attended by two crime intelligence analysts from Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, -nominated by their respective Ministries- plus senior officials from relevant Ministries from each country, and accompanied by the OSCE Serbia Project Manager and Coordinator. The group was given thorough presentations of Europol practice and methodology in SOCTA production, as well as the general scope and context of the Europol Strategic Analysis Unit.



The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the institutions referred to or represented within this Newsletter.

NEWS

12th Meeting of the Committee of Ministers

Brdo pri Kranju, 11 November 2014: During the 12th meeting of the Committee of Ministers, ministers responsible for home affairs and authorised high officials from the Contracting Parties gathered to discuss the progress in the PCC SEE implementation process and further modalities necessary for the advancement of cross-border law enforcement cooperation amongst their countries. Following the agreement reached between Belgrade and Pristina in February 2012 on the terms of Kosovo*’s inclusion in regional fora in South Eastern Europe, the Committee of Ministers agreed on the most balanced and mutually acceptable solution, namely to introduce a new “guest” category in the Rules of Procedure,

which may allow the representation of Kosovo* in meetings under the PCC SEE framework in this capacity. The Committee of Ministers also supported the Slovenian proposal for a regional approach under the PCC SEE in countering the occurring forms of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, which pose a threat to the security of the Southeast European region and Europe as a whole.

