



# SPCP 2012-16 Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

January – March 2015

## PCC- Ad Hoc Meeting of Legal Experts on DNA

**Ljubljana, Slovenia  
16-18 February 2015**

A meeting of legal experts, held in Ljubljana from 16 to 18 February 2015, was organized under the auspices of the Hungarian Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-organization with the PCC SEE Secretariat. The meeting brought together representatives from the PCC SEE region to reinforce the drafting process of the common multilateral agreement for automated DNA exchange, which is to be followed by parallel implementing agreements. Experts also identified opportunities for the support and development of DNA structures in the region, and sought the active engagement of Contracting Parties in future bi-/multilateral cooperation activities.

As a first follow-up, EU Member State parties to the PCC SEE will conduct on-the-spot analyses in non-EU Contracting Parties by the end of June 2015, hoping to provide tailor-made recommendations and solutions.

## PCC - 5th Meeting of the TWG on Exchange of Information

**Budapest, Hungary  
16-18 March 2015**

The 5th meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Exchange of Information regarding Forged and Fake Travel Documents within the PCC SEE, organized under the auspices of the Hungarian Chairmanship in Office and in co-organization with the PCC SEE Secretariat, took place in March 2015 in Budapest. The meeting provided a platform for discussion on issues including biometric passports, information exchange on persons and documents stored in national databases, new forms of forgery and relevant forensic approaches. Additionally, participating states continued with the good practice of exchanging national document specimens (to determine if they are genuine). The ongoing dissemination of warning messages on forged and fake travel documents in the region contributes to a swifter operational response at border crossings in an effort to stem criminal activity along the Balkan route. The sharing of detailed technical information on detected documents helps uncover patterns of their use and supports the development of national forensic capacities.





## **PCC - Capacity Building Workshop on Information Exchange** **Ljubljana, Slovenia** **23-25 March 2015**

The management of voluminous information exchanges at the level of national units has become a major challenge for the responsible services. To address this need, the capacity building workshop helped identify the current state of regional cross-border criminal information exchange. The event brought together experts from the PCC SEE region representing the Single Points of Contact/International Law Enforcement Cooperation Units and the central criminal units responsible for the coordination and execution of cross border cooperation activities. Participants focused on identifying and discussing the needs and available tools in the region to improve information flows, and explored possible solutions to identified gaps, including the synergies of cooperation between Europol and PCC SEE Secretariat.

## **IOM Joint Border Patrol Trainings** **Region** **February, March 2015**

The IOM carried out a number of joint patrol trainings during the first quarter of 2015. These ranged from two-day to five-day trainings. In January 2015, border police agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia attended training in Nova Varos (Serbia). In February 2015, the border police of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia took part in a similar exercise in Kumanovo (Macedonia). In addition, the border police agencies of the Republic of Albania, Kosovo\* and Montenegro joined five-day trainings at the end of March and beginning of April 2015 in Prizren (Kosovo\*) and in Bar (Montenegro).

## **OSCE Serbia: Study visit to the Belgian Federal Police** **Brussels, Belgium** **18 February 2015**

Nine senior analysts from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia visited the Directorate for Information Technology and Communication of the Belgian Federal Police. The one-day visit was recommended as a means to harness good practice in the development of strategic analytic reports and threat assessments. Participants learned about intelligence gathering, dissemination and analytical techniques applied to the Belgian Federal Police analytical products. Belgian police also discussed the strategic policy cycle, and the development of a concept for their national security image for 2015. The visit further focused on how to align national priorities towards the EU integration.

## **OSCE Serbia: Planning workshop and the Project Steering Committee meeting** **Belgrade, Serbia** **18-20 March 2015**

With the aim of recapping first-year project achievements, and to plan in detail second year of activities, project participants were invited to a workshop to identify the key steps and milestones that need to be undertaken towards the achievement of the project objective. Among those present were all 18 analysts and 3 project focal points. The workshop resulted in a detailed plan of activities- both project related and internal to the three Ministries of Interior that would lead to development of SOCTA. The workshop was followed by the project Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) in which the conclusions of the workshop were formally adopted.



## **BK - High Level Working Meeting** **Tirana, Albania** **11 – 12 February 2015**

The main objectives of this meeting were the preparation of the SEPCA General Assembly in April and the preparation of SEPCA presidency's next steps. The meeting was attended by the Director of the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria, Mr Franz Lang, the Albanian Chief of Police Mr Artan Didi and his deputy, Mr Haki Cako. The upcoming SEPCA General Assembly on 15 April 2015 was discussed during the meeting. In particular, the invitation of Kosovo to participate as an observer was subject. The presidency decided to send a letter to all SEPCA members in order to ask for their approval. Additionally, Austrian experiences on the police reform process have been presented. Mr Lang announced the willingness of the .BK Austria to support the Albanian police reform by providing expertise and advice.



*THEMIS network meeting*

## **BK - THEMIS Networking Meeting** **Budapest, Hungary** **19 – 20 February 2015**

During this period a meeting of THEMIS was held. This network is an informal regional network of national authorities responsible for the protection and the management of natural resources. The network meeting offered the opportunity to explore avenues for intensifying cooperation between prosecutors, police in the fight against environmental crime. The link with the International Law Enforcement Cooperation Units (ILECUs) of South Eastern Europe was discussed. Participants were given presentations focused on possible cooperation between the ILECUs and the THEMIS network, cross-border activities, synergies among different law enforcement authorities related to combating environmental crime. In this context, participants shared experiences on common cooperation and best practice. Further common activities as well as the need for a closer cooperation between environmental and law enforcement authorities in Albania, Kosovo, BiH, Serbia, Moldova, Macedonia and Montenegro were discussed and future joint activities were planned.



*SEPCA Meeting*



**BK -Study Visit**  
**Vienna, Austria**  
**16 – 23 March 2015**

The study visit was attended by two representatives of the Albanian State Police to the Crime Analysis Department within the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria. The visit covered operational and strategic crime analysis (tools and methods), crime data management, crime statistics and reporting methods, geographical information systems, social network analysis as well as behavioral analysis and negotiation teams. Participants gained in-depth knowledge on data and information analysis as well as on preparing reports on the findings. This will facilitate the future development of the Management Information System (MIS) as an important strategic steering tool for the Heads of Police in the SEPCA member countries.

**UNODC - Operation "Balkan Gate"**  
**Port of Bar, Montenegro**  
**11-31 March 2015**

Between the 11 and 31 of March 2015, the operation 'Balkan Gate' was conducted by WCO to detect consignments of counterfeit goods. A risk-analysis was carried out by national experts on the behalf of Customs Administration of Montenegro, and 27 containers were selected for the operation on the basis on "pre-arrival" data. An inspection of 9 containers found goods under suspicion of infringing intellectual property rights or copyright. In total, 16'617 items of various brands were seized with a market value of € 400'000, and included: shoes (sports sneakers), children's toys, purses and wallets, etc. The goods were found in consignments destined for the domestic market. During the operation, national experts and customs officers from the Port of Bar took part in customs procedures and inspection of goods.

**UNODC - Drug Seizure by Joint Port Control Unit**  
**Durres, Albania**  
**26 March 2015**

The Joint Port Control Unit operating at Durres Port under the UNODC – WCO Container Control Programme seized 2.5kg of heroin at the ferry terminal. The heroin was of Afghan origin and was destined to Bari, Italy. Officers of the joint team utilized elements of risk analysis for the operation. The seized heroin has an estimated street value of 50.000 Euro. Authorities have launched a criminal investigation.



*Drug seizure in Durres*



**UNODC - Anti-Corruption and Port Controls Training Workshop takes place in Albania**

**Tirana, Albania  
07- 08 April 2015**

A two-day training workshop on Anti-Corruption and Port Controls was organized by the Office of the Minister of State on Anti-Corruption, UNODC, WCO and US Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS). The workshop brought together representatives from the Albanian Customs Administration, State Police Directorate, Durres Port Authority, the officers of the Joint Port Control Unit and business community.

The purpose of the training workshop was two-fold – first, to provide border security entities and anti-corruption bodies with a general overview of UNCAC as a universal tool in fighting corruption. It also sought to review and analyze mechanisms of corruption and principal anti-corruption measures in the public security sector and in border control institutions. The workshop was moderated by the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of State, who introduced the participants to the recent anti-corruption policies of the Albanian Government. These include the newly approved Anti-Corruption Strategy of and its Plan of Actions. Specific issues like the Code of Ethics, Integrity Plan, definition of corruption, risks etc., were also discussed by various international and local speakers who shared their views and experiences with the participants.



*Training in Tirana*

**OSCE Kosovo - Quantitative and Qualitative Analyst Training**

**Tirana, Albania  
9-13 March 2015**

Weeklong training on strategic analysis was conducted in Tirana, Albania from 9-13 March 2015. This was the fourth and final week of training for the Kosovo Police and the Albanian State Police for the development of a Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) in accordance with Europol standards. Participants included 5 police officers from Kosovo and 6 from Albania. The training focused on quantitative and qualitative measurements and was a follow up to a five-day training on open source investigation completed in January in Kosovo. The next stage of the project implementation covers mentoring and country visits to get familiar with other relevant SOCTA components.



*Training workshop in Tirana*

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



## NEWS

### ***SPCP Partners' Forum 2015***

The SPCP Partners' Forum took place on February 11-13, 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia. The event brought together over twenty participants from the different implementing partners of the SPCP, programme donor, advisory group members and intermediate management body. The forum facilitated the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt in project implementation. It also helped produce guidelines for a common approach to results based evaluation.

