



SPCP 2012-16 Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

April – June 2015

PCC – Meeting of Police Directors-General

Tirana, Albania

14 April 2015

The PCC SEE Meeting of Police Directors-General followed the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCHA) General Assembly meeting, and was convened under the auspices of the Hungarian Chairmanship in Office with support from the PCC SEE Secretariat. The meeting addressed the proliferation of illicit firearms, components, ammunition and explosives from a national and regional perspective. Discussions focused on different regional threats and explored measures of regional cooperation to tackle them. All Contracting Parties (CPs) expressed their commitment to cooperation, as illicit firearms pose a significant common challenge. The PCC SEE Counter-Terrorism Network addresses this challenge in the frame of counter-terrorism efforts as a priority topic.

PCC – 13th PCC-SEE Committee of Ministers (CoM) Meeting

St.Pölten, Austria

5 May 2015

The CoM gathered ministers for home affairs and officials from Contracting Parties to discuss progress in PCC SEE implementation, and to identify modalities for the advancement of cross-border cooperation. The meeting was also attended by observers from EU agencies, international organisations and regional initiatives. It is worth noting that this was the first occasion in which Kosovo* participated in PCC activities. The CoM discussed PCC SEE achievements and reflected on key strategic objectives, expectations and needs for PCC SEE in the next multi-annual period.

The CoM endorsed the upcoming 18 month work programme of the incoming PCC SEE Trio Chairmanship of Macedonia, Moldova, and Montenegro. The CoM further tasked the PCC SEE Secretariat to support Contracting Parties in the practical application of PCC SEE provisions. Following consultations with the Contracting Parties, DCAF announced the decision to appoint Mr. Ottavio Bottecchia, national secondee of the Republic of Austria, as the new Head of the PCC SEE Secretariat.

PCC – 5th Meeting of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Police Education and Training

Budapest, Hungary

26-28 May 2015

The latest meeting of the TWG led to a progress review and addressed the Training Needs Assessment (TNA) done by the Chairmanship. The TNA discussion resulted in the identification of future TWG activities and interests. These include strengthening cooperation, communications, exploring the possibility for organising specialised trainings in the regions by CPs and drawing knowledge from the PCC SEE Pool of experts. CEPOL attended the meeting and shared experiences in the implementation of e-based learning solutions - which some CPs are in the process of implementing. The participants were also welcomed to the new CEPOL office where a brief presentation on the new role of CEPOL was also presented.



IOM – Border Police Training and Patrol Vessel Handover
Region
April 2015

Two-day trainings on joint patrols were organised for the border police agencies of Albania, Kosovo* and Montenegro. These were held on 01-02 April 2015 in Prizren (Kosovo*) and on 07-08 April 2015 in Bar (Montenegro). In addition, a border police patrol vessel was officially handed over. The vessel was procured within the project framework for the Montenegrin Border Police, to be used at the Skadar Lake.



IOM Closing event, Montenegro



Border Police Vessel, Montenegro

IOM – Project Closing Ceremony
Przno, Montenegro
28 April 2015

A closing ceremony was held for the IOM project, attended by stakeholders including: five senior representatives from every Border Police Agency that participated in the project implementation (the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia), chiefs of IOM missions that coordinated project activities with the stakeholders in the Region, representatives from OSCE, UNHCR, FRONTEX, EU Delegation, EXBS, and Embassies. The event was headed by Ms. Renate Held, IOM Regional Director for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ms. Held opened the conference together with Raško Konjević, Montenegrin Minister of Interior.

BK – SEPCA General Assembly
Tirana, Albania
15 April 2015

The SEPCA General Assembly was attended by Police Directors-General of member countries, and representatives of partner organisations. The Assembly served to discuss current issues related to organised crime, including people smuggling and the fight against terrorism. Insights were presented into these major challenges and their impact on the daily work of police organizations. A regional approach was asserted as absolutely essential in counteracting these phenomena by further strengthening international police cooperation.



SEPCA General Assembly



BK – Simulation Exercise
Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia
20-23 April 2015

The simulation exercise was attended by ILECU-officers and prosecutors from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia, as well as senior experts and operative officers from the region. The goal of the session was to reproduce and analyse information exchange processes between ILECU, based on practical cases. For example, a SWAT team of the Serbian Criminal Police Directorate simulated the arrest of suspects in two different cases, related to trafficking in human beings and trafficking of firearms. By analysing the flow of information and internal procedures, an evaluation was performed and opportunities for improvement were identified. Findings and recommendations regarding the cooperation between the ILECU officers and prosecutors, technical means of cooperation, preparation of ILECU staff in all three participating countries were also presented.



Simulation exercise

BK – SEPCA National Coordinators Meeting – Strategy Development
Sofia, Bulgaria
9-10 June 2015

The National Coordinators Meeting of the South-east Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) took place with the aim to develop a common strategy for SEPCA for the years 2015-2017. The meeting focused on how to continue work on the Management Information System (MIS), a tool that is to be developed as a steering instrument for Police Directors - General of member countries.

BK – ILECU's Summer Academy
Zagreb, Croatia
15-18 June 2015

The second round of the ILECU's-Summer Academy was attended by 18 participants from 9 different countries. The focus was on theoretical as well as practical inputs related to trafficking in human beings (THB). The workshops aimed to enhance knowledge, skills and networking. Case studies on data protection within the ILECU, with respect to the international exchange of information, human rights and operational procedures were reviewed. Participants shared their experiences, good practice examples and most challenging cases. Knowledge transfer was provided also by experts representing the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, EUROPOL, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior and national institutions.



Summer Academy participants



OSCE Serbia – Regional SOCTA Workshop **20-24 April 2015**

The Mission organised a workshop which gathered 25 analysts from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia to work on methodology for the development of Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) in line with Europol standards. The workshop, the last in a series of four, used a common field for the session specifically that of narcotics. Participants worked in unison through all phases of SOCTA development, namely: intelligence collection and consolidation, analysis and emerging conclusions, and development of threat assessments and recommendations for future strategies and actions plans. This process allowed participants to consolidate a methodology for SOCTA development.



SOCTA Workshop

OSCE Serbia – Study and Mentorship Visits **Various** **June 2015**

Two study visits were organised by the mission for the purpose of SOCTA training. The first one was carried out during 1-4 June 2015, and saw 9 crime analysts from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia police services visit the Bundeskriminalamt (.BK) and UNODC offices in Vienna. The aim of the visit was to provide analysts with relevant information on European and international police practices for strategic analysis necessary to produce SOCTA. This visit gave the participants the opportunity to discuss their existing approach to SOCTA development with international colleagues.

The second visit consisted of a Mentorship session and took place on June 11-12, 2015 in Belgrade.

Two EUROPOL mentors provided on-the-job mentoring to crime analysts from Serbia and Macedonia. The aim of the visit was to support analysts in the development of SOCTA methodology according to EUROPOL standards.



EUROPOL Mentors' Visit

UNODC – Weapons Seizure by Joint Port Control Unit **Durres, Albania** **28 May 2015**

The Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) operating at the Dures Port in cooperation with the Anti-Trafficking Unit of Durres Police Directorate arrested three citizens, one Italian and two Albanian, during a control procedure of their “Jeep” vehicle. They found and seized a dismantled machine gun, a full cartridge-clip, 722 bullets model 56, caliber 7,62mm and two mobile phones. The JPCU has operated in Albania since February 2013 with the support of the SPCP.



Seizure in Durres



**UNODC – Exchange Visit
Albania and Montenegro
16-19 June 2015**

The Container Control Programme for South Eastern Europe hosted an exchange visit and meetings between the port officials from the Port of Gioia Tauro in Italy and the Port of Guayaquil in Ecuador. The visit aimed to provide officials with an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices for future operational work –facilitated at the theoretical, practical and behavioural level.

The visit was the third in a series of exchanges between participants. The Director-General of the Customs Administration and Head of Anti Organized Crime of the State Police in Montenegro considered the fight against international drug trafficking as a scourge which has struck all countries and can be fought through international co-operation and exchange of information in real time.



Exchange visit UNODC

**OSCE Kosovo –SOCTA training for Kosovo
Police and Albanian State Police
Various
May-June 2015**

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo, within the framework of the SPCP, carried out two three-day training sessions for Kosovo Police and the Albanian State Police in the development of a Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA).

The first session was held on May 27-29, 2015 in Vienna, Austria. The aim of the training was for both Police Services to meet the required Europol standards. This training was held at the Bundeskriminalamts (.BK) offices in Vienna. Six intelligence analysts from each police service engaged on the next phase of the training which focuses upon the different approaches to a national SOCTA and providing information to Europol.



SOCTA training in Vienna

The second training took place in the Netherlands on June 15, 2015 at the Europol headquarters. Six intelligence analysts from Albania and five from Kosovo were trained on Europol methodology for SOCTA. A representative from the Swiss Federal Police (FEDPOL) also participated.

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