



# SPCP 2012-16 Swiss Regional Police Cooperation Programme

July - September 2015

## **PCC - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on JIT Expert Network within PCC SEE**

**September 17-18, 2015**

**Vienna, Austria**

The 3rd Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on JIT\* Expert Network brought together representatives of national law enforcement and judiciary authorities from PCC SEE Contracting Parties.

Participants shared practical experiences and discussed technical and legal obstacles encountered in JITs. The meeting touched on the involvement of non-EU member states in JITs and funding possibilities for such cases. Participants were briefed on available support from agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL, who fund both EU member states and aspiring EU Candidate countries. The agencies further presented on recent developments relevant to JITs.

The meeting also resulted in the adoption of a decision to operationalize a web platform: the JIT Member Centre hosted on the PCC SEE Secretariat's homepage. The JIT Member Center will provide a secure online environment where the members will be able to exchange non-operational data, exchange practical information and documents. In addition, they will be able to coordinate with Eurojust representatives, who will also have access to the platform.

*\*Joint Investigation Teams (JITs)*

## **UNODC - WCO Launch of the Women's Network**

**25 August 2015**

**Vienna, Austria**

A one day meeting was held in Vienna to launch the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) Women's Network initiative.

The meeting brought together numerous female UNODC-WCO staff from the Joint Port Control Unit in Durres, Albania, in addition to female CCP Coordinators for South Eastern Europe, Middle East & North Africa, and the West African region.

Participants discussed the operationalization of the Women's Network, which is aimed at promoting professionalism and core leadership of female national counterparts as well as to increase women's participation in the Programme.



*CCP Women's Network*

Among the actions to be undertaken, the CCP Women's Network will:

- Encourage the Programme's PCUs to include female law enforcement officers by introducing a number of measures including gender-sensitized recruitment criteria and flexible working hours;
- Establish a support network to build the capacity of women PCU members including specific mentoring initiatives and the development of information/resource sharing initiatives;
- Introduce a gender sensitization module to the standard CCP training package for men and women PCU members; and,
- Define gender indicators to assess the impact of interventions.



## **OSCE Mission to Serbia – SOCTA Mentorship Workshop**

**29 – 30 September, 2015  
Herceg Novi, Montenegro**

A two day mentorship workshop was organised for the SOCTA Working Group to support the finalising of national SOCTA reports for Serbia and Macedonia, as well as the SOCTA mid-term review in Montenegro.

During the workshop two Europol experts and project mentors worked closely with 18 strategic criminal analysts from the three national police services so as to consolidate the structure, indicators, recommendations and conclusions of the reports. The national SOCTA reports, and mid-term review, are to be finalised by the end of 2015. It is expected that after their completion, the three countries will work together on the development of the first regional SOCTA by mid-2016.

## **.BK – 9th SEPCA Strategy Board Meeting**

**29 – 30 September 2015  
Sofia, Bulgaria**

The 9<sup>th</sup> SEPCA Strategy Board Meeting was convened with the objective of discussing the presentation of national Management Information System (MIS) assessments.

The MIS assessment structure lists priority areas for which each country logs national statistical data relevant to the combat of organised and serious crime.



*Participants at SEPCA Strategy Board Meeting*

National MIS assessments are expected to serve as a base for the preparation of the South East Europe (SEE) MIS report, an intended management tool for Police Directors that will be presented for the endorsement of Police Directors at the next General Assembly on 26 November 2015. The report will provide an overview of areas of interest, identify main issues, propose recommendations and outline relevant actions.

During the meeting, participants were also informed of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Romanian and SEPCA. An official ceremony will take place during the upcoming General Assembly. Lastly, the Strategy Board Meeting defined key priorities for the SEPCA-region in 2016. Areas of focus for the upcoming period include: the current migration crises, human smuggling and terrorism.

## **UNODC – WCO Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Container Control Programme**

**03 September 2015  
Tirana, Albania**

The Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the Container Control Programme in Albania (CCP) was held in Tirana, where SC members were briefed on the status of CCP global and regional implementation. The particular case of the Port of Durres was also discussed.



*Annual SC meeting*



The annual meeting gave way to the introduction of current and future activities for the CCP programme. UNODC-WCO programmes such as Air Cargo were introduced, as meetings with relevant national authorities concerning these programmes would be part of CCP activities in the near future.

To improve their approach to inter-agency cooperation, meeting participants decided on taking action to improve risk indicators/assessment, on exploring the possibility of setting up a container examination shed after discussing it with senior officials of Durres Port Authority, and that a report on the annual meeting would be shared with the national and international steering committee members.



*Annual SC meeting*

Further actions arising from the meeting place UNODC-WCO in a role of facilitator of information sharing among JPCUs in the region and with other national stakeholders; the training of six support officers for the team; and improving risk indicators/assessment utilized for results-oriented reporting.

### **UNODC – WCO - Mentorship mission at the Port of Bar**

**September 27- October 2, 2015**

**Bar, Montenegro**

A five day mentorship mission took place at the Port of Bar for the JPCT of Montenegro. In attendance were also four officers of the JPCT at Durres Port in Albania. The objective of the mentorship visit was to build capacity of the target joint team and enable officers to reach out to their services in a more effective way.



*Mentorship mission in Bar*

During the mentoring week, containers originating from China, Ecuador and Costa Rica were examined upon completion of risk assessments. These often included the use of a mobile scanner to assist officers during their examination.

Additional specialised training on the manipulation of seals and container search was also provided during the event. Furthermore, UNODC-WCO equipped the JPCU with 6 UN drug and precursors test kits for both teams.



*Mentorship mission in Bar*



**UNODC – WCO - Workshop on principles of basic criminal intelligence analysis**  
**21-22 September 2015**  
**Bar, Montenegro**

A two-day Workshop on Principles of Basic Criminal Intelligence was organised for officials of JPCUs from participating countries in the CCP: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The workshop was part of UNODC-WCO continued support to the enhancement of crime response capacities in customs administrations.

This activity built upon a previous training opportunity organised for officials of JPCUs in May 2015 (the Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures (COPES). Main topics included the administration of police structures (including border and customs police) as well as the modernization of risk management practices through the strengthening of intelligence capabilities.

The workshop provided participants with tools and techniques designed to enhance their analytical capabilities in the pursuit of credible, reliable, and timely intelligence products. This form of continuing education is in line with the demands of a risk-based approach to customs management.



*Workshop on principles of criminal analysis*

**NEWS**

**SPCP Midterm Review 2015**  
**May-June 2015**

An independent midterm review for the SPCP was carried out during May-June 2015. Interviews were conducted with programme beneficiaries on site with the support of implementing partners- The MTR found SPCP to be relevant for regional police cooperation and on track with its intended objectives. The MTR also found that SPCP was making progress in the establishment of trust among law enforcement officials.

Recommendations were issued to the benefit of enhanced sustainability and effectiveness of the programme, as well as for the increased inclusion of Kosovo in regional police cooperation.

**UNODC – WCO - Seizure of forged euros.**  
**July 26, 2015**  
**Durres, Albania**

As a result of cooperation between the JPCU at Durres Port, Albania and the Sector for the Fight Against Economic Crime and Money Laundering, an arrest was made for illegal arms trafficking and a seizure of over EUR 40,000 in forged currency, as well as undeclared currency and precious items – all of which are penal offences under the Albanian Criminal Code.

The arrest was made using special investigative techniques and in coordination with various law enforcement agencies.



*Seizure in Durres*

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