



Police Forum Initiative

Progress Report

**Reporting period between the Working Table Meetings,
November 16, 2005 and May 29, 2006**

1. Regional Police Training Project

This year the project has reached its final stage. From the planned 14 modules, 13 have been implemented. The last module 'Maintain Public Order' has been scheduled, but is still lacking funding. The budget for this project is about 90'000.00 Euro. The Police Forum has found only one donor Country, ready to provide 45'000.00 Euro. One other country is still considering to host the seminar free of charge in its Police training centre and to further assist by offering free training and accommodation. If this solution would not be possible, the last module will be cancelled, and a conference to review the achievements of the project will be organised.

2. Organized Crime Training Network Project

Since the Regional Table in Prague the third seminar on fighting drug trafficking was organized as well as three seminars on financial crime and money laundering in the SEE region, with specialised investigators participating. The second meeting with the Local Contact Points was held in Belgrade on May 9/10, 2006. Two project consultants assessed the first year's project implementation and submitted an assessment paper in April 2006 to the Steering Committee. The assessment result shows a positive picture and describes the seminars as very useful and successful. The outcome of the assessment was discussed intensively at the Steering Committee meeting in April 2006, taking on board the recommendations for the future of the project's strategy.

LCP and Project Seminars during the reported period:

- Dec 2005: Seminar C; on fighting drugs based on reg. support and nat. strategy
- Jan 2006: Seminar A; on financial crime on reg. / int. law and national obstacles
- Feb 2006: Seminar B; on finCrime crime of key elements on money laundering
- Mar 2006: Seminar C; on financial crime oriented to corruption and fraud
- May 2006: 2nd Local Contact Point meeting

3. Stolen Vehicle Crime Project

On March 27/28, 2006 the Police Forum and the SECI Centre co-organized the 6th "SECI Centre Task Force Meeting" and the 3rd "Stability Pact Regional Conference on Stolen Vehicles in SEE" in Bled Slovenia. Representatives from all SEE countries, except Albania and Moldova, the other SECI member states, supporting countries and organizations attended the meeting, in total 53 participants. The countries agreed to standardize the activities and work closely with the SECI Center to improve the police actions against stolen vehicle crime. SPOC and SECI Centre have developed a questionnaire related to legislation which has been sent to all SEE countries. Meanwhile all countries have sent a national report to the Police Forum to assess their activities, also with a view to create standards and indicators for future reports. The



outcome of the national report assessments and the SPOC questionnaire will be discussed with the SECI Centre and the countries to improve the regional activities.

4. Main Border Checking Points I-24/7 project

In cooperation with Police Forum, Interpol drafted a first project proposal by asking all NCB's in their SEE partner countries what was required and then the draft was sent out to each interested country. Based on the first draft a donor meeting took place in Lyon to inform the interested countries about the project, by introducing the I-24/7 IT system comprehensively and in practise. The donor meeting was attended by Germany, Norway, Switzerland (absent but with a statement) and the United States. The project proposal has identified a financial need of 894 006.00 Euro and three interested countries have already offered partial funding of the envisaged budget but there is still a need for further finance.

5. South Eastern European Chiefs of Police Association

The Police Forum and SEPCA agreed to build a partnership to support SEPCA politically and to include SEPCA in all Police Forum projects in order to ensure that the implementation of these projects will be supported internally in police services. After a working group meeting a cooperation agreement paper has been negotiated which will be signed in June 2006.

6. Austrian SEE Police Cooperation Convention project

The Stability Pact and its Police Forum supported politically the Austrian Police Cooperation Convention project, and also delegated a JHA Expert to participate in the negotiation process. The Convention has been signed in Vienna on May 5, 2006 by the Ministers of Interior of the SEE countries, with the exception of Croatia and Bulgaria. The convention follow-up will be supported by the EU Commission, which will start a project for implementing the convention, in parallel to the ratification process.