



## **Police Forum Initiative**

### **Progress Report about the analysis period 3rd quarter 2005 July - September**

#### 1. General information

The Police Forum Initiative is giving advice and supporting activities aiming at capacity building through police trainings, supporting regional police networks and is nurturing the process towards regional ownership. The activities are fully in line with the Thessaloniki Declaration on the Western Balkans (Jun2 2003), the South Eastern European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Joint Campaign to fight organized crime and corruption (May 2004) and the EU Presidency Statement on the Western Balkans (December 2004).

The initiative is contributing to the overall objective of the Stability Pact's activities on Justice and Home Affairs to promote national reforms among the countries of South Eastern Europe through regional cooperation and closer international links.

Although important reforms have taken place, further reforms and enhanced capacity building efforts are needed in JHA areas, including police training and regional law enforcement cooperation. Progress can be expected only with a clear and firm political commitment from Governments, a commitment that is a condition of the internationally – financed technical assistance programmes.

At present, the Police Forum Initiative has developed the following projects: Regional Police Training (RPT) for leading police officers, Organized Crime Training Network OCTN for specialised investigating police officers of organized crime units, the Stolen Vehicle Project, the Anti-Drug-Network (AND) to exchange data and best practises and the Border Checking Points Project I-24/7.

#### 2. Police Forum Initiative Projects

##### 2.1 Regional Police Training Project

This is a training project for leading senior police officers aiming to improve managing capacity, to introduce best policing practises, through the exchange of knowledge and experience on subjects relevant to the target group of police officers, and to apply European standards in the field of policing. The project initiates, furthermore, broad regional police co-operation and networking bringing participants from the different countries in the region together.

The Police Forum has been the framework of implementation for regional police training modules. The Association of European Police Colleges, AECP, is managing the project. From the planned 14\* specialised modules 13 have been implemented.

The last module 'Maintain Public Order' has been scheduled by the Police Forum Initiative but at the moment, it is lacking financing. The budget for this project is about



70,000.00 Euro. The Police Forum has sent out information about the Project to seek interest. There are already some offers for support with trainers but interest of countries to fund this last module has not yet been forthcoming.

In the coming months an assessment of project implementation so far will be conducted.

\* Trafficking in Human Beings; Illegal Migration; Trafficking in Drugs; Police Management; Policing in Multicultural Society; Trafficking in Light Weapons and Small Arms; Dealing with Extreme Phenomena; Methods of Technical Crime Investigation; Police Ethics; Training Methods; Financial Crime and Money Laundering; Smuggling Stolen Vehicles; Forging Documents and Maintaining Public Order

## 2.2 Organized Crime Training Network Project

Based on the conclusions of the London Conference on defeating organised crime in South Eastern Europe, held in November 2002, and based on a donor meeting convened in Bern in May 2003, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Slovenia in close co-operation with the Ministries of the Interior of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and as an observer the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, are working to set up a special network for organised crime investigators of South East European countries. The Steering Committee mandated a full time project manager to lead the project in April 2005.

The overall objective of the project entitled "Organised Crime Training Network for operational managers in South Eastern Europe" (OCTN) is to strengthen the regional and international co-operation in order to successfully combat cross-border organised crime.

OCTN will give the operational police officers in SEE the opportunity to share best practices and to enhance common investigation activities. The network is expected to establish institutionalised relationships among police investigators of the region and will also link them to other international partners.

The core element of this approach is the development of a training programme aimed at operational police officers, which will be expected to take place yearly in a range of countries in SEE with the close cooperation of the diverse police organisations. Trainings will focus on the skills necessary for operational staff in the investigation of organised crime. The project comprises three key elements:

- Training of investigators
- Networking of key personnel
- Organisational development

The project is expected to last until 2011. The inception phase of the project has been carried out in the period from September 2004 until March 2005 by an interim project manager

The first implementation phase is scheduled to last from April 2005 until March 2006, organizing regional courses for crime investigators and the OCTN Local Contact Points in the region as well as 'policy makers.



The first standard training course related to combating drugs connected with organized crime has taken place at the Kosovo Police School in Vicitrn between August 22 – 26, 2005 with participation by specialized investigators from the region.

The second course took place in Moldova on October 10 -14, 2005 and has been related to the international law and EU acquis to fight drugs crime.

The partner countries have agreed to support the programme by participating actively in the Project planning and implementation. They will nominate Local Contact Points and send operational managers of organized crime investigation units to participate in the OCTN training courses. Further on, the partner countries intend to assist the programme by hosting training courses in their countries, if adequate facilities are available.

### 2.3 Stolen Vehicle Network Project

The Police Forum Initiative is aware of the high rate of the Stolen Vehicle Crime in Europe and South Eastern Europe. In a meeting in July with the SECI Centre it has been agreed that the Police Forum and the SECI Centre will increase cooperation on the Stolen Vehicle Project. An additional tool in this connection will be the Border Checking Points Project I-24/7 (see 2.5) which the Police Forum has initiated and which will be implemented together with Interpol.

A strategy meeting to coordinate joint future activity and ensure improved progress will take place in November 2005. The goal is to increase the effectiveness of the region's response to this type of organised crime and to meet international expectations in fighting stolen vehicle crime.

### 2.4 Anti-Drug-Network

The activities of the Anti-Drug Network under the auspices of the Police Forum are to be coordinated more systematically with those of the SECI Centre. The common network connects and brings together specialised and leading police officers from anti-drug units of the regional police services.

The network coordinates regular joint activities in the region. In September 2005, the SECI Centre initiated a joint action. Strategic Analysis on Drug Trafficking is an important activity developed by the SECI Centre to support member countries.

### 2.5 Border Checking Points Project I-24/7

Based on the Interpol I-24/7 system, the project I-24/7 for Main Border Checking Points aims to implement the Interpol connection I 24/7 IT-system at the main border checking points and to relevant law enforcement units in the SEE region to enable the border police and other police services to control and check border crossing traffic related to stolen documents, stolen vehicles and missing persons.

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The projects goal is to strengthen border controls, allowing them greater success in fighting organized crime. It will reduce the checking time at the borders, but increase efficiency of the border authorities especially in crimes related to trafficking drugs,



stolen vehicles, arms and human beings and to connect the border police with the national NCB Interpol Bureaux. The project allows for all suspicious cars to be checked within a very short amount of time. This will strongly increase the effectiveness of the fight against stolen vehicles crime.

The project has been initiated in 2004, during the Portoroz Regional Table of the Stability Pact. Later in 2005, after consultation with donors, the Stability Pact and Interpol agreed a common project to implement the I-24/7 IT-system in main border checking points. The estimated budget for the first phase is around 500,000.00 Euro.

Interpol will start a second project to provide other checking points with I 24/7 at a later stage.

Currently, Interpol is assessing the needs for the entire region in cooperation with the NCBs.

### 3. Important Dates of the Police Forum in the analysing period

- June 9-10, 2005 a meeting regarding Stolen Vehicles and Anti-drugs, Bucharest.
- July 5-6, 2005 a Police Forum Strategy Meeting, Zagreb.
- August 7, signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Stability Pact's Special Coordinator and IOM Ljubljana relating to the OCTN project
- September 8, signing ceremony of the letter of intent for the OCTN project, Belgrade
- September 29, semi-annual Police Forum Meeting in Belgrade