



REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE
(RACVIAC)

Stari hrast 53, Rakitje
10437 Bestovje / Croatia

REPORT

WORKING GROUP 1

“TRANSITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL”

06-07 December 2005

I. INTRODUCTION

The Agenda was adopted in the beginning of the WG1 session, as follows:

1. Introduction, administrative information
2. National Focal Point – updating
3. The countries' presentations about current situation and needs / offers
(AL, BA, BG, HR, MK, RO, S&M):
4. Discussion on the questionnaire and matrix – updating
5. Needs (Offers) – general overview
6. The final proposal for Program 2006: Topics, Audience, Lecturers
7. Report of the Working Group: Conclusions & Recommendations

II. PARTICIPANTS

26 participants from the region and international organizations took an active role during the discussions on the above-mentioned topics.

- **CHAIRMAN:** Maj Zvonko **Popović**, Head of Transition Office, MoD, Croatia
- **EXPERT:** Ms Lena **Andersson**, Senior Consultant, Balkans analysis group, Sweden
- **REGIONAL COUNTRIES REPRESENTATIVES:**
 - **Albania:** Mr Ilirjan **Tavanxhiu** (MoD)
 - **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** LtC Brane **Janković** (MoD); LtC Savo **Gnjatić** (MoD); Mr Elvedin **Žiško** (MoD); LtC Ivica **Drmić** (MoD)
 - **Bulgaria:** Dr Peter **Pashov** (MoD)
 - **Croatia:** Mrs Vesna **Peašinović** (Employment Service); Mrs Anita **Ljubičić Čalušić** (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)

- **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹**: LtC Gjorgji **Mitrinovski** (MoD)
- **Romania**: Mr Cristian **Puricel** (MoD)
- **Serbia and Montenegro**: Commander Nikola **Lunić** (MoD); Col Milan **Mićanović** (MOD); Maj Miroslav **Mitrović** (MoD); Mrs Zorica **Kojčin** (MoL)

- **OTHER MAG COUNTRIES:**
 - **Austria**: Ambassador Helmut-Werner **Ehrlich** (MFA)
 - **Norway**: Mr Jakob **Heradstveit** (MoD); LtC Bright **Vagge** (Embassy in Belgrade) & Ambassador Thor **Gislesen** (MFA)
 - **USA**: Mr Albert **Fuerst** (HR Advisor BAH, Macedonian Team USA)

- **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
 - COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK FRANCE: Mrs Michele **Meunier** Director - Research and Analysis Dpt Council
 - DCAF: Mr Marc **Remillard**, Program Manager
 - OSCE: Gen Bernard **Aussedat** (Arms control consultant OSCE in Moldova); Ms Kelly **Moon** (Social & Economic Adviser OSCE in BiH)
 - RACVIAC: Maj Barbara **Benčić**

III. SUMMARY

THEME:

Area of concentration was transition and downsizing of military personnel. Representatives of countries in the region submitted brief presentations about current situation, needs and offers.

According to the statistic about downsizing military personnel, future downsizing and transition, e.g.:

COUNTRY	NEED TO BE DOWNSIZED	REINTEGRATED	NEED TO BE REINTEGRATED
HR	21 000	14 600	6 400
S&M	24 000	9 952	14 048
TOTAL	45 000	24 552	20 448

shows that it will be a serious task for the countries in the region.

Participants of other MAG countries and international institutions promised to support in their functional area of responsibility and possibility.

GOALS:

Taking into account the specific situation from each country –some countries developed transitional programs, downsized military personnel and reached standards, while others don't have a program and strategy in that area.

Defining clearly the term transition as “military live cycle” and downsizing as a consequence of approaching to NATO, WG1, working as a team and exercise group dynamic, decided to help the countries in the region to be on track of transition standards.

¹ “Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name”

By updating the “transition matrix” and listing the needs of region, WG1 noticed that some countries don’t have:

1. Transition program
2. Infrastructure (offices, counselors)
3. Vocational training
4. Data-base
5. Marketing program (campaign, PR)
6. Institutional approach
7. Economical approach
8. Individual approach
9. Local approach
10. Monitoring
11. NATO expertise
12. Financial support
13. Lobby for project
14. Regional development plan
15. Market needs survey

CONCLUSIONS:

WG1 decided for the first meeting in 2006:

1. To help the countries in the region in following areas:
 - a. To develop a program (developing infrastructure and database)
 - b. To develop info campaign and vocational training
 - c. To exercise good and bad practice – progress, case-study
 - d. To show experience gained by international organizations
2. To have a lecture on business incubator
3. To invite some international institutions as a target audience (IOM, US AID and some others)
4. To define the WG1 agenda for the next meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To develop the coordination inside the WG1 members
- To establish an advisory body in the region
- To establish monitoring of the programs
- To demonstrate offers and good practice
- To enhance lobbying for funding

Chairman WG1 (HR)
Major
Zvonko Popović