



**Project: Development of Reliable and Functioning Policing Systems  
and Enhancing of Combating Main Criminal Activities  
and Police Co-operation**

**MODULE 1 - ACTIVITY 1.1.2: ESTABLISH BENCHMARKS IN TERMS OF MEETING EUROPEAN  
STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC AND ORGANISED CRIME**

**Activity 1.1.2.3: Regional seminar to review the extent to which these requirements are met by the  
countries of the region and to establish benchmarks**

**Durres, Albania, 3-4 November 2004**

***1. Introduction and approach***

The preparation of the countries of the Western Balkans for future integration into European structures is a major priority of the European Union. These countries should have a clear perspective of joining the European Union when they have satisfied all the necessary criteria. Thus, in the field of justice and home affairs, the European Commission has decided to initiate a dialogue with the countries of the Western Balkans region with the aim of establishing key priorities and benchmarks, including in the areas of organised crime and corruption.

The CARDS police project has been designed such as to contribute to this process, through a series of specific activities. Activity 1.1.2.2 will feed into the broader framework of identifying achievable, measurable and realistic benchmarks to assess progress in the JHA field, in particular regarding the following subjects:

- Crime analysis of economic and organized crime
- Financial investigations and confiscation
- Special investigative means and intelligence
- Witness protection
- International co-operation in criminal matters
- Trafficking in human beings and illegal migration

Identifying these benchmarks will assist countries in improving their understanding of the targets in fighting organized and economic crime, in terms of fulfilling their international obligations in the process of EU integration. It will also help measure progress they will be making over time. As such, it will also serve to single out priorities in the JHA field in the European Integration process.

The “benchmarking exercise” is to be completed in three phases:

The first phase: the aim is to determine requirements under relevant European and international instruments with regard to the topics mentioned above and assess levels of compliance with these requirements of each project area (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). A draft text has been elaborated (*Project's Benchmarks for follow-up regarding international and European standards and practices*, ref: PC-TC-C035-d(2004)3) for this purpose. It shall be reviewed and further developed by participating experts during regional and in-country activities, in view of establishing benchmarks to meet European standards and practices on economic and organised crime.

The second phase aims at achieving an agreement on how to approach meeting the requirements set by benchmarks, as well as how to measure and evaluate progress against these benchmarks. A regional seminar will be organized in November 2004, involving representatives from each project area, following which experts shall also liaise with country representatives in view of completing the benchmarking.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ESTABLISH BENCHMARKS IN TERMS OF MEETING EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC AND ORGANISED CRIME</b>	
1.1.2.1	Meeting of experts from consortium partners to determine requirements under relevant European and other international instruments with regard to the priority fields of crime and tools	26 May 2004 Completed
1.1.2.2	Short-term experts to assess the current level of compliance by countries with these instruments on the basis of existing reports	July – October 2004
1.1.2.3	Regional seminar to review the extent to which these requirements are met by the countries of the region and to establish benchmarks	3-4 November 2004 Durres, Albania
1.1.2.4	Short-term experts to follow up with countries to complete benchmarking	November- December 2004

The third phase is to finalize benchmarks and elaborate a fully updated assessment of compliance for each country with these benchmarks. This information will be incorporated at a later stage to the regional strategy against economic and organized crime.

<b>ACTIVITY 1.1.3</b>	<b>DEVELOP THE REGIONAL STRATEGY AND REVIEW PROGRESS MADE</b>	
1.1.3.2	Regional meeting to develop a draft regional strategy on the basis of the situation analysis, the benchmarks and needs, as well as the interim outputs under objectives 2 to 5 of this project	15-16 February 2005

## **2. Description of the activity**

<b>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</b>	Regional seminar
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Establishment of benchmarks and definition of the current level of compliance with EU and international legal instruments for each country
<b>LOCATION</b>	Durres(Hotel Adriatik), Albania
<b>DURATION / DATE</b>	3-4 November 2004
<b>WORKING LANGUAGE(S)</b>	English/ interpretation in local languages will be provided subject to available funding
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	The objective of the seminar is to achieve an agreement and understanding about how to approach meeting the requirements, as well as how to measure and evaluate progress against the benchmarks.
<b>CONTENT</b>	An in – depth explanation of the benchmarks and requirements; discussion of how to meet them; and discussion of institutional, financial and other implications of a full compliance

<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	Established draft benchmarks and the assessments of the current level of compliance. A fair understanding of how to meet the requirements and measure progress in the meantime
<b>EXPERTISE / EXPERTS REQUIRED</b>	Experts involved in the previous activities (assessment of compliance and benchmark design)
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<p><b>Profile:</b> The seminar will involve experts and relevant representatives from each project area (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, government, and other relevant institutions, members of working groups): Albania (4 participants), Bosnia and Herzegovina (6 participants), Croatia (4 participants), Kosovo (2 participants), Montenegro (3 participants), Serbia (3 participants), “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (4 participants).</p> <p><b>Total:</b> up to 30</p>