

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CARDS REGIONAL POLICE PROJECT**

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter. A number of activities were carried out during the July-October period within the CARDS Police Regional Project: “Development of Reliable and Functioning Policing Systems and Enhancing of Combating Main Criminal Activities and Police Co-operation” (CARPO).

The CARPO project, which started in March 2004, aims at strengthening the capacities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to develop and implement regional strategies against serious forms of crime based on the *acquis* of the

European Union and other European standards and practices by:

- providing them with the necessary tools against economic and organised crime (module 1, co-ordinated by the Council of Europe)
- enabling them to deliver comprehensive training against trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration (module 2, co-ordinated by the International Organization for Migration).

You can find more detailed information on our webpage www.coe.int/cards-police.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Adoption of the Joint Declaration, endorsing the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime with Project Area Specific Actions (Brijuni, 23 September 2005)
 - Publication of the Situation Report on Organised and Economic Crime in South-eastern Europe (Strasbourg, August 2005)
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New Members of the Advisory Board

We are pleased to announce the nominations of:

- Mr Mato Blazanovic, Head of Unit, Ministry of Interior of Croatia as Senior Representative of Croatia (in replacement of Mr Boris Spudic) as of 10 October 2005.
 - Mr. Tihomir Kralj, Head of Department for Special Criminal Investigations in the Ministry of Interior of Croatia, as Module 1 coordinator as of 19 October 2005.
 - Mr Rezar Velmishi, Specialist in the Data Analysis Sector, Directorate against Organised Crime in the Ministry of Interior of Albania, as Module 1 coordinator as of 23 August 2005.
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Forthcoming meeting of the Advisory Board

- 4th CARPO Advisory Board Meeting (Strasbourg, 6 December 2005)
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MODULE 1
COMPLETED ACTIVITIES
(July-October 2005)

Output 1.1

Development of the regional strategy on economic and organised crime in accordance with the acquis of the EU and European standards and practices

- Study visit to Europol for crime analysts and intelligence officers (The Hague, 5-7 July 2005)
- Regional meeting to review the draft regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime (Strasbourg, 29 August 2005)
- Finalisation of the Situation Report on Organised and Economic Crime in South-eastern Europe (August 2005)
- Regional expert level meeting to finalise the regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime (Brijuni, 22 September 2005)
- High level meeting of Ministers of Interior and of Security and Senior officials of Governments and Administrations from South-eastern Europe on the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime (Brijuni, 23 September 2005)
- 7th Colloquium on Cross-border Crime in Europe (Sarjevo, 6-8 October 2005)

Output 1.2

Capacities for financial investigations aimed at the confiscation of proceeds from crime strengthened

- Short-term experts to assist working groups in developing target-group specific training materials in each project area (September-November 2005)

Output 1.3

More effective use of special investigative means and intelligence in accordance with human rights standards supported

- Study visit for crime analysts and intelligence officers from Croatia on criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis, proactive policing and data protection (Madrid, 6-7 September 2005)

Output 1.4

The creation of effective mechanisms to protect witnesses of serious crime supported

- Development of training materials and guidelines on witness protection by short-term experts (July-November 2005)

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Output 1.5

Capacities for co-operation in criminal matters among the countries of South-eastern Europe made more efficient

- Workshop on Strategies for the Ratification and Implementation of the 2nd Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (Ets 182) and Assessment of Training needs (Sarajevo, 10 August 2005)
- Assessment of Training needs in the Field of International Co-operation in Criminal Matters:
 - Albania** – Tirana, 23 September 2005
 - Croatia** – Zagreb, 26 September 2005
 - Kosovo** – Pristina, 29 September 2005
 - Montenegro** – Podgorica, 9 September 2005
 - Serbia** – Belgrade, 7 September 2005
 - “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”** – Skopje, 30 September 2005

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Output 1.2

- Regional workshop to finalise and endorse training materials and concepts on financial investigation for all project areas (Tirana, 19-20 December 2005)

Output 1.3

- Short-term experts to assist working groups in the development of training materials and guidelines on undercover operations, low-tech electronic surveillance, cross-border use of SIMS and international cooperation, high-tech SIMS and cyber crime, as well as criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis and data protection (Sarajevo, 15 November 2005 and Skopje, 17 November 2005/ Belgrade and Podgorica, date tbc, end of November 2005)

Output 1.4

- Regional seminar to promote co-operation in the field of witness protection (Budva, 23-24 November 2005)

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MODULE 2 COMPLETED ACTIVITIES (July-October 2005)

Output 2.1

Training strategy developed and adopted based on a thorough analysis of needs and capacities

- Development meeting to review and discuss anti-trafficking training modules (Brussels, July 2005)
- Instructor development update meeting for international trainer conducting the Regional Train-Trainer Event (September 2005)

Output 2.2

Curricula and training materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration developed, tested and available for further training

- Expert meeting for content and language review as well as educational upgrade on the Manual to Combat Illegal Migration and Smuggling (Brussels, July 2005)
- Translation of developed training material into all local languages and distribution to the train trainers and experts (September 2005)
- First Regional Train Trainer Event – Illegal Migration and Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (two separate courses) for trainers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro (Budapest, October 2005)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Output 2.2

- 2nd Regional train trainer seminar (Skopje, 14-18 November 2005)

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Other Relevant Events

- Stability Pact Working Table III (Prague, 15 November 2005)
 - EU-Western Balkans Forum, Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting (Vienna, 25 November 2005)
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