

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

Welcome to the last edition of our Newsletter, June 2007. A number of activities were carried out during the January-June 2007 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, Montenegro, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” 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 organised and economic 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 - Brussels Office).

The CARPO project was due to end on 30 September 2006. The European Commission and the Council of Europe have decided, within the remaining available resources under the original budget, to extend it until 30 June 2007. During this extension period the CARPO project has focused exclusively on output 1.1-Crime analysis and output 1.2-Financial Investigations.

You can find more detailed information on our webpage [www.coe.int/carpo](http://www.coe.int/carpo).

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### End of CARDS Police Project

With the completion on 30 June 2007 of the CARPO project, the project management unit (PMU) would like to thank warmly all the counterparts, experts, practitioners, institutions and authorities/decision makers from the seven project areas for their commitment and constant support towards the project.

The PMU would also like to express its gratitude to the consortium partners for their cooperation in the implementation of the project since its start.

Finally, a special thank to all the international experts, advisers and local project officers for their valuable contributions to the success of this project. Its numerous achievements would have not been possible without them!

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### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Publication of 3 situation reports (2005, 2006, 2007) on organised and economic crime in South-eastern Europe prepared by local experts and giving a comprehensive analysis of organised and economic crime in each project area
- A comprehensive regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime adopted by the Ministers of Interior and Security from South-eastern Europe

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- Detailed project areas' action plans on tools against organised and economic crime adopted
- The intelligence led policing approach developed in all project areas
- Strategy on financial investigations adopted in all project areas
- Regional memorandum of understanding on co-operation and exchange of information on financial investigations adopted by the Heads of Police from South-eastern Europe
- Comprehensive tailored training manuals (including update version) prepared, hundreds of practitioners from law enforcement and judiciary trained in all project areas
- Gaps in legislation identified and addressed, new organisational settings for financial investigations elaborated and ready for implementation in most of the project areas
- Drafting of legislation allowing for future extended confiscation and creation of a special Agency executing seizure and confiscation orders prepared in several project areas
- Co-operation among FIUs in the region strengthened
- Detailed strategy and benchmarks on using special investigative means in accordance with human rights standards adopted in all project areas
- Legal basis for the use of SIMS adopted in most of the project areas
- Operational specialised undercover units created in several project areas
- Increased regional and international co-operation and practical exchange of experience supported
- Special legislation for witness protection adopted in most of the project areas, special witness protection units (WPU) created in all project areas, de facto regional network of Heads of WPU created
- WPUs introduced to the European network of WPUs, a number of staff from WPUs received initial operational training by European counterparts
- Comprehensive training manual for procedural protective measures prepared and dozens of practitioners from law enforcement and judiciary trained on this issue in all the project areas
- Increased regional and international co-operation on witness protection supported
- Legislative gaps for the ratification and implementation of ETS 182 identified and amendments prepared in all project areas
- Guidelines/templates on training in international co-operation in criminal matters prepared
- Training strategy on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration adopted by all project areas
- Trainers in the fields of trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration trained in all project areas

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- Hundreds of practitioners from law enforcement and judiciary trained in the fields of trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration
  - Comprehensive training manuals for law enforcement and judiciary on trafficking in persons and on irregular migration and smuggling of migrants prepared
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Signature of a regional agreement on co-operation and exchange of information on financial investigations by the Heads of Police from South-eastern Europe, Belgrade 20 June 2007
  - Update of the 2006 Situation Report on Organised and Economic Crime in South-eastern Europe, issued on 20 June 2007
  - Drafting of legislation on extended confiscation and on the creation of a special Agency executing seizure and confiscation orders in several project areas
  - Regional workshop for practitioners from the police on the exchange of experience in conducting financial investigations, inter-agency and cross-border cooperation, Belgrade, 19 June 2007
  - Update, by each project area, of the specific parts of the training manual on financial investigations and confiscation of proceeds from crime, issued mid of June 2007
  - CARPO 6th Advisory Board Meeting (Strasbourg, 20 April 2007)
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### MODULE 1 COMPLETED ACTIVITIES (September-December 2006)

#### 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**

- CARPO In-country workshop on the intelligence-led policing
  - Albania, 22-23 February 2007
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina, 16-17 April 2007
  - Croatia, 18-19 April 2007
  - Montenegro, 12-13 March 2007
  - Serbia, 21-22 May 2007
  - Kosovo, 26-27 February 2007
  - “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, 14-15 March 2007

## Output 1.2

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

- Regional workshop on the creation of a special agency executing seizure and confiscation orders and good practices in the area of management of seized and confiscated proceeds (Tirana, Albania, 14-15 March 2007)
- Regional workshop on the efficient application of civil law tools in the process of freezing seizure and confiscation of proceeds (Przno, Montenegro, 15-16 May)
- Regional workshop for practitioners from the police on the exchange of experience in conducting financial investigations, inter-agency and cross-border cooperation and signature of a regional agreement on co-operation and exchange of information on financial investigations (Belgrade, 19-20 June 2007)
- 2nd round of in-project area trainings by local trainers with expert support to test and further improve training materials
  - Albania, 12-13 March 2007
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30-31 January 2007
  - Croatia, 12-13 February 2007
  - Montenegro, 24-25 January 2007
  - Serbia, 27-28 February 2007
  - Kosovo, 17-20 April 2007
- In-project area roundtables of operational managers and representatives of training institutions to review the strategy on financial investigations
  - Albania, 16 March 2007
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 February 2007
  - Croatia, 14 February 2007
  - Montenegro, 26 January 2007
  - Kosovo, 16 April 2007
- 3rd in-country training on financial investigations and confiscation of proceeds from crime by local trainers
  - Nis, Serbia, 25-26 June 2007
- Assist working groups in development of amendments to legislation if necessary, as well as of guidelines for practitioners
  - Montenegro, 14-15 June 2007
  - Kosovo, 24-25 June 2007
  - “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, 16-17 June 2007
- Production of the updated training manuals in local languages, June 2007

## Output 1.4

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

- In project-area trainings by local trainers with expert support on procedural protective measures
  - Lovran, Croatia, 25-26 January 2007

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- Tirana, Albania, 11-12 June 2007

### Output 1.5

- Update of the PACO Judicial Co-operation Manual

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