REGIONAL SECURITY
SECTOR REFORM PLATFORM

REPORT

BASED ON REGIONAL EXPERTS NETWORKS IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS CONTROL AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SECURITY

January 2016 - June 2017
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<td>US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs</td>
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# ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AF</td>
<td>Armed Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATT</td>
<td>Arms Trade Treaty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAFA</td>
<td>German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCMS</td>
<td>Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIH</td>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>DG DEVCO</td>
<td>European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAPC</td>
<td>Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECIS</td>
<td>Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GToT</td>
<td>Gender Training of Trainers</td>
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<td>INL</td>
<td>US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs</td>
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<td>IRH</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme - Istanbul Regional Hub</td>
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<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<td>KEXP</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange Platform</td>
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<td>MFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>MoD</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
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<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
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<td>NCGM</td>
<td>Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations</td>
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<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>RACVIAC</td>
<td>Center for Security Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBEC</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme - Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<td>RCC</td>
<td>Regional Cooperation Council</td>
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<td>RSSRP</td>
<td>Regional Security Sector Reform Platform</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALW</td>
<td>Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEE</td>
<td>South East Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEESAC</td>
<td>South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSR</td>
<td>Security Sector Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNDP CO</td>
<td>UNDP Country Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN PoA BMS 6</td>
<td>United Nations Programme of Action on Small arms and light weapons</td>
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<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
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SUMMARY

THE REGIONAL SECURITY SECTOR REFORM PLATFORM (RSSRP) IS:

- A regional platform for addressing global stabilization needs;
- A regional mechanism that delivers quick, effective, and demand-driven responses to Rule of Law needs designed to contribute to efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Goal 5 on Gender Equality;
- A South-South and Triangular Cooperation knowledge exchange mechanism.

KEY RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016/2017

There has been an increase in demand for RSSRP expertise compared to 2015, with seven deployments of 17 experts in the 2016/2017 period. The increase in demand reflects the high quality of expertise and training that is being provided through the RSSRP as well as increasing awareness of the mechanism. Deployments were organized to Kyrgyzstan (2), Moldova, United Kingdom, Croatia (2). A training course was organized for Armed Forces of Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda, entirely delivered by the RSSRP Experts. In summary:

- **Eight experts** from the Ministries of Defence (MoD) and Armed Forces BiH, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were deployed during a 10-day NATO-accredited Gender Training of Trainers course, organized from 7 to 15 December in Belgrade for 15 participants from the Armed Forces of Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda;
- **Two experts** from the Serbian Ministry of Interior’s National Criminalistic-Technical Centre were deployed to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 9 to 10 November. For their Kyrgyz colleagues, they held a workshop on Forensic Investigation of Crime Scenes in Criminal Acts against Sexual Freedom and Domestic Violence;
- **Three experts** from the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces of BiH, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supported the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM), the Croatian Armed Forces and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in conducting a Gender Training of Trainers course in Zagreb from 18 to 28 May, 2016;
- **Two experts** from police services in Bosnia and Herzegovina contributed to a conference of the Association of Women Police Officers in Kyrgyzstan held on 3 – 4 March 2016 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and shared their experience on the establishment of women police officers networks and how such networks can help advance gender equality in policing.
- **Three experts** from the Serbian Ministry of Interior provided training for their colleagues in the Moldovan General Police Directorate and the Ministry of Interior on the EU Integration process and shared lessons learned in a training organized from 25 to 26 February 2016, in Chisinau;
- **Two experts** of the Regional Network of Gender Trainers in the Western Balkans supported the Ministry of Defence in United Kingdom and NCGM in delivering the Gender Training of Trainers course, which took place from 24 to 29 January 2016 near Hampshire, UK.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN 2016/2017 INCLUDE:

- Increasing deployment requests from within UNDP;
- Increasing the number of channels of cooperation with non-UNDP entities;
- The need to remain open to new areas of expertise to be incorporated into RSSRP.
### Strengths of the Platform

1. **Delivers quick, effective and demand-driven responses to Rule of Law needs**
2. **Draws upon regional expertise to address global stabilization needs**
3. **Works with countries to respond to global commitments such as achieving the Global Goals**
4. **Enhances South-South and Triangular Cooperation knowledge principles using a peer-to-peer based approach**

### What Have We Done So Far?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM A SAFER REGION</th>
<th>TO A SAFER WORLD</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 experts on security sector reform from police officers to ministries of defence employees</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>from 4 countries in the Western Balkans - BiH, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>shared expertise on gender equality in the military to EU integration process or forensics related knowledge in 6 deployments</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>to 8 countries in Europe and Africa: Croatia, Ghana, Moldova, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Uganda, United Kingdom</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>in partnership with 5 public institutions across the region from Ministries of Defence, Armed Forces to Police Directorates and Ministries of Interior</td>
<td>5</td>
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### Examples

1. **New gender trainers in the military** - A 10-day Gender Training of Trainers course held by experts from the Western Balkans for Armed Forces personnel from Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda
2. **Capacities of forensics experts in Kyrgyzstan for forensic investigation of sexual and gender based violence offenses** strengthened through a workshop held by experts from Republic of Serbia
3. **Women police officers** from Kyrgyzstan supported by women police officers from BiH by sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices in advancing gender equality in policing
BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

SEESAC was established in 2002 and is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). SEESAC has supported national and international stakeholders in their efforts to implement Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control measures for over 15 years, and has similarly provided support to the implementation of Gender in Security Sector Reform activities for over 7 years. The dual focus of SEESAC’s portfolio aligns with Goals 5 and 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on Gender Equality, and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, respectively. The portfolio similarly aligns with two of the key development outcomes of the UNDP Strategic Plan: 2014-2017 – namely 2) Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance, and 4) Faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment. Through its activities, SEESAC has enhanced security cooperation in South East Europe (SEE), with a large number of individuals receiving additional training in their respective fields through SEESAC support. As such, the region currently sits on a wealth of experience and expertise in niche areas of Security Sector Reform, such as in small arms and light weapons control and gender equality in policing and the military.

UNDP proposed to make this expertise available to partners outside of South East Europe, enhancing South-South and Triangular cooperation. This was to be accomplished through a knowledge-sharing and advisory support mechanism encompassing a roster of experts from South East Europe to be deployed for activities carried out by requesting partners coupled with the support and expertise of the SEESAC Team. As a result, the SEESAC Regional Security Sector Reform Platform (RSSRP) was established and endorsed by participating states at the Regional Steering Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), which convened in Sarajevo at the Regional Cooperation Council on 27 February 2015. The RSSRP was officially launched on 21 September 2015 at an event organized hosted by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) in Brussels.

The RSSRP functions under the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) and is hosted by the Istanbul Regional Hub, with SEESAC as its facilitator. It is designed to respond primarily to demand from UNDP Country Offices, as well as to requests from UN Member States, UN Country Teams and missions, while remaining open to cooperation with other regional entities, especially the EU. Except if otherwise agreed, the costs of the deployments of experts will be borne by the requesting entities.

The RSSRP offers quick, effective, and demand-driven short-term targeted technical support and training capacity in niche Rule of Law areas. It further provides the opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation in Security Sector Reform and inspire new partnerships outside of South East Europe, sharing the vast accumulated knowledge and experience of improving citizen security and the Rule of Law in developing and post-conflict/crisis societies in South East Europe. As such, the RSSRP embodies the region’s transition from being an importer of security to being an exporter of security.
The roster of experts was developed by SEESAC and approved by the participating states. The experts were pre-screened and vetted for their proven track-record and hands-on experience of national policy design and implementation, coupled with their participation in SEESAC’s regional projects and initiatives. The Roster of Experts currently consists of 71 experts, 35 women and 36 men, with 41 gender experts, 27 SALW control experts, and 3 Security Sector Reform experts, further divided into 14 areas of expertise (see Box: 1). The majority provide expertise in English, but other languages include Albanian, BCMS (Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), Romanian, and Russian. The deployment notice is 4 to 6 weeks in most cases. Apart from the regional experts, there the expertise of SEESAC’s own staff is also available as either in combination with national experts or as freestanding. The Roster is hosted on the SEESAC website secure area of the RSSRP Roster of Experts and consists of an easily searchable database: by name, area of expertise, and language – enabling swift and targeted deployments.

The SEESAC Team is continuously carrying out research on ongoing projects in the fields of Security Sector Reform (SSR), SALW Control, Gender in SSR, and other relevant topics in the ECIS region as a way of mapping out possible entry points for RSSRP. The initial focus has been on UNDP projects, but the mapping has since gone on to also include OSCE initiatives, and will continue to expand its coverage as the Platform grows.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

SALW Control
- Policy development support
- Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)
- Marking, Tracing and Registration
- Collection Campaigns and Awareness Raising
- Arms Exports control

Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform
- Policy development support
- Raising Gender Awareness in the Military and Police
- Capacity Development for gender Equality Mechanisms
- Mainstreaming Gender in Military and Police Recruitment and Retention
- Mainstreaming Gender in Military and Police Training and Education
- Integration of Gender in Military Operations
- Technical support in the Establishment of Women’s Network in the Security Sector
- Strengthening Capacities of Police to Combat Gender Based Violence
- Gender Research and Analysis

BOX 1:
RSSRP AREAS OF EXPERTISE
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The operational activities carried out under RSSRP in 2016/2017 centered around three strands, namely: (1) Deployments; (2) RSSRP continuity; and (3) Outreach and Visibility.

1. DEPLOYMENTS

Seven deployments took place between January 2016 and June 2017. Deployments were organized to Kyrgyzstan (two), Moldova, United Kingdom, Croatia (two), and a training course was organized through RSSRP for representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. This section provides a detailed overview of deployments carried out in the reporting period:
I. GENDER TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSE FOR AFRICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

Gender Training of Trainers course for 15 participants of Armed Forces from Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda.

Fifteen officers from the Armed Forces from Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda successfully completed a Gender Training of Trainers [GToT] course which took place from 7 to 15 December 2016. The GToT was organized by SEESAC in partnership with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) and the Peacekeeping Operations Centre of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The NATO certified course was delivered by eight Gender Trainers from the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces of BiH, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with support from NCGM and UNDP. The course enables instructors to efficiently integrate the gender perspective into military training and education for troops, units, and officers. Gender Trainers that delivered the training are members of Regional Network of Gender Trainers in MoDs in the Western Balkans.

The aim of the course was to build upon the results achieved within UNDP’s Gender Equality in the Military in the Western Balkans project, and utilize the capacities developed to foster South-South cooperation. The course was organized in cooperation between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC), UNDP Bureau for Policy and Program Support, and Regional Bureau for Africa.

WHO:
Lt.Col. Fahir Žilić, MoD, BiH
Lt.Col. Strašo Stojčevski, MoD, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Lt.Col. Antoniela Stankovska, MoD, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Lt.Col. Goran Topalović, MoD, Republic of Serbia
Lt.Cdr. Jovan Krivokapić, MoD, Republic of Serbia
Capt. Sanja Pejović, AF of Montenegro
Capt. Vjekoslav Njemičević, MoD, Republic of Serbia
Tatjana Višacki, MoD, Republic of Serbia

WHEN:
07-15/12/2016

WHERE:
Belgrade, Serbia, with participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda
II. FORENSICS EXPERTS DEPLOYED TO KYRGYZSTAN

Workshop on the Forensic Investigation of Crime Scenes in Criminal Acts against Sexual Freedom and Domestic Violence

Two experts were deployed from the Serbian Ministry of Interior National Criminalistics-Technical Centre to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 9 to 10 November 2016. For their Kyrgyz colleagues, they held a workshop entitled Forensic Investigation of Crime Scenes in Criminal Acts against Sexual Freedom and Domestic Violence.

The workshop was designed to help build the capacity of the staff at the Forensic Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan by utilizing the expertise and experience of representatives of the National Crime Technical Centre and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. The training included technical advice, examples of good practices, coupled with several practical demonstrations.

WHO:
Lazar Nelić, Mol, Republic of Serbia
Vladan Zec, Mol, Republic of Serbia

WHEN:
09-10/11/2016

WHERE:
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Gender Trainers from the Regional Network of Gender Trainers and SEESAC supported the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations, the Croatian Armed Forces and RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation in conducting two Gender Training of Trainers in Zagreb. One was organized from 18 to 28 May 2016 and the second one from 15 to 26 May 2017.

Course participants came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Republic of Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Two Gender Trainers from the MoD of BiH and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were deployed as a Course Director and Instructor during the course in 2017, and three Gender Trainers from the MoD of BiH, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have supported the course as instructors in 2016.

The Gender Training of Trainers Course is a ten-day NATO accredited course that prepares and enables instructors and trainers in the military to successfully plan, conduct, and evaluate education, training, and exercises with an integrated gender perspective. This course provides participants with information and skills to develop plans and gender-oriented training programmes as well as to mainstream gender in other training or education curricula.

WHO:
Lt. Col. Fahir Žilić, MoD, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Lt. Cdr. Jovan Krivokapić, MoD, Republic of Serbia
Lt. Col. Strašo Stojčevski, MoD, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

WHEN:
18-28/05/2016
15-26/05/2017

WHERE:
Zagreb, Croatia, with participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Kosovo, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)
IV. EXPERTS DEPLOYED TO KYRGYZSTAN

Conference of the Association of Women Police Officers in Kyrgyzstan

Two police women from Bosnia and Herzegovina were invited to take part in the conference and a planning workshop of the Association of Women Police Officers in Kyrgyzstan from 3 to 4 March 2016 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as representatives of SEESAC’s Regional Security Sector Reform Platform.

They attended the conference on the role of women police officers in Kyrgyzstan where they shared information and experience on setting up women police officers’ associations and presented the results achieved by BiH women police officers’ associations in advancing gender equality in policing. They presented their work on raising gender awareness through workshops, developing manuals, and integrating the curriculum on combating sexual and gender based violence in the curriculum of the Police Academy.

Their knowledge and experience was received with great interest by members of the Association of Women Police Officers in Kyrgyzstan, who included lessons learnt in the strategic plan for the Association that was developed during the workshop. Participants also discussed the current situation of women’s representation in police, professional development of women police officers, women’s leadership, gender equality in law enforcement, and mentoring as a tool for advancing gender equality.

WHO:
Verica Golijanin, Federal Police Administration, BiH
Sanja Sumonja, Ministry of Interior of Republika Srpska, BiH

WHEN:
03-04/03/2016

WHERE:
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
V. EXPERTS DEPLOYED TO MOLDOVA

EU Integration process - lessons learned from the Serbian Ministry of Interior

Two experts from Ministry of Interior of Republic of Serbia trained the Moldovan colleagues on EU Integration process - lessons learned from the Serbian Ministry of Interior, from 25 to 26 February 2016, in Chisinau.

In addition, one expert from the MoI of Republic of Serbia provided at the same time peer-to-peer training on capacity building for forensic institutions and services of the Moldovan Police Directorate. Moldovan police officials were advised on how to improve infrastructure, fundraise for the necessary equipment, and obtain certification of various processes, including how to train their staff to respond to new challenges.

WHO:
Zoran Lazarov, Mol, Republic of Serbia
Aleksandar Radomirović, Mol, Republic of Serbia
Igor Srbjanović, Mol, Republic of Serbia

WHEN:
25-26/02/2016

WHERE:
Chisinau, Moldova
VI. GENDER TRAINERS SUPPORT THE UK MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IN DELIVERY OF GENDER TRAINING OF TRAINEERS COURSE

NCGM’s Gender Training of Trainers course organized for United Kingdom’s Ministry of Defence

Two members of the Regional Network of Gender Trainers in the MoDs and AFs in the Western Balkans supported the UK Ministry of Defence in the delivery of a Gender Training of Trainers course, which took place from 24 to 29 January 2016 near Hampshire, UK. Experts from the MoD of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Armed Forces of Montenegro, participated as instructors and syndicate leaders. They were deployed through the RSSRP at the request of the Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations. The course, organized by the UK Ministry of Defence in partnership with the NCGM, provided NATO-accredited gender training to UK personnel from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force with an operational interest in gender principles and issues, and MoD civilians.

**WHO:**
Lt. Col. Strašo, Stojčevski, MoD, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Capt. Predrag Lućić, AF Montenegro

**WHEN:**
24-29/01/16

**WHERE:**
Hampshire, UK
2. PLATFORM CONTINUITY

Continuous contact has been maintained with the roster of experts, national counterparts and points of contact in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFAs) of the participating governments, in addition to the 28 institutions to which the experts belong (Ministries of Interior, Defence, Security, Economy, Finance). In this way, the roster is kept up to date, and the political buy-in is maintained.

3. OUTREACH & VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES

Significant efforts were invested in promoting the RSSRP through a number of avenues. RSSRP has been promoted by SEESAC in various international conferences, seminars as well as in bilateral meetings with partners. These activities served the purpose of networking with existing partners and potential ones – internally within UNDP as well as externally with relevant actors in the field to promote RSSRP. SEESAC reported on RSSRP results at:

- the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Annual Meeting on 29 June 2017 in Dubrovnik;
- the Key leader seminar on Gender in Military Operations organized by the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations on 12 and 13 June in Stockholm 2017;
- the 36th South East Europe Defense Ministerial Coordination Committee Meeting held in Izmir, Turkey on 29 and 30 March 2017;
- the RCC Meeting on Donor Coordination in the Western Balkans on 15 March in Sarajevo;
- the Regional Steering Group meetings on SALW held in Belgrade on 24 April 2017 and 5 April 2016;
- Diversity and Inclusion in the Security Sector - Key Leadership Conference at RACVIAC, 13-14 March 2017 in Zagreb;
- NATO/EAPC Seminar on Implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in SALW/MA and Arms Control 30 November and 1 December 2016;
- the OSCE Regional Workshop on Security Sector Governance and Reform held on 19-21 September 2016 in Podgorica;
- the Gender Perspectives Seminar held by NATO’s Allied Command Transformation in coordination with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, on 7 – 8 September 2016;
- the Deputy Chiefs of Defense meeting held within the South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process on 8-10 June 2016 in Sarajevo;
- side events organized by SEESAC during the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA BMS6), organized from 6-10 June 2016 in UN Headquarters in New York.

In addition to this, the RSSRP raised interest during the High Level Conference on the Role of Security Sector Reform in Sustaining Peace: Challenges and Opportunities held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 June 2017 and the 2nd OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference on 12 and 13 June 2017 in Vienna.

To better promote RSSRP, SEESAC created an entire section of its Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEXP) dedicated to RSSRP – in addition to the actual roster which resides on the secure area of the new KEXP (see earlier chapter on Platform Maintenance).

The RSSRP section of the KEXP gives detailed information about RSSRP, the areas of expertise it features, and news items about each deployment. In addition, SEESAC has ensured that the visibility of the deployments undertaken so far has been further shared and promoted on SEESAC’s social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter.
PARTNERSHIPS

In order for RSSRP to increase its deployments and its possibilities for such, SEESAC will continue pursuing partnerships both within and outside the UN system. Such routes include:

DEPLOYMENT REQUESTS WITHIN UNDP

As stated in the RSSRP Operational Plan, RSSRP is to be used primarily by UNDP Country Offices, with priority given to ECIS and its neighboring UNDP regions: Africa and the Arab countries. SEESAC will continue its outreach efforts, but target these more specifically to COs of interest. SEESAC has been contacted by UNDP COs Armenia, Colombia, Lebanon, and shared knowledge and experience on gender and SSR, and provided technical knowledge and expertise in the area of SALW control to BiH and Belarus, using the opportunity to promote the RSSRP for future deployments. With the aim to promote the RSSRP further, the Annual Report will be shared with Regional Bureaus and COs. This is the clearest growth area for the RSSRP and significant support will be needed from the RBEC and BPPS to ensure that there is increased awareness of the mechanism.

DEPLOYMENT REQUESTS OUTSIDE UNDP

Meetings were held with several partners with a view of expanding the reach of the RSSRP. While a strong partnership with the NCGM continues to provide opportunities for deployments, other partnerships have proven more difficult to conclude. SEESAC will continue building on these relations – in coordination with UNDP COs or other offices if applicable – as well as fostering new ones, taking into consideration the notion to appoint a person specifically tasked with these responsibilities.

DEPLOYMENT DYNAMICS

The deployment notice issue cannot be underestimated for future assignments. In order to ensure swift deployments, SEESAC has worked to maintain good working contact with the MFAs in South East Europe. Due consideration needs to be continuously given to this issue in order to avoid situations where a demand for an RSSRP expert cannot be met because of a refusal from the sending institution. SEESAC will continue liaising with possible RSSRP clients and with the relevant MFAs – remaining especially attuned to the needs of the latter as they play a central role in facilitating RSSRP deployments in addition to the intricacies involved in their respective offices in dealing with RSSRP as international development cooperation mechanism.

ARMS TRADE TREATY CONTRIBUTION

RSSRP offers a two-fold benefit in supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). First, the platform holds relevant expertise for this endeavor; and second, the platform provides a channel for UNDP to remain engaged in the process. As such, RSSRP offers a cohesive approach: providing support to implementing entities in addition to ensuring that UNDP’s interests are met and aligned with. Channels for pursuing this approach could include either working with the ATT Secretariat directly through champion country or countries, or through the EU with BAFA. It should also be noted that not just the RSSRP SALW experts are relevant when it comes to the ATT, with the Treaty’s groundbreaking wording on the need for exporting State Parties to take into account the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children. Thus, RSSRP’s Gender experts are equally beneficial for any requesting entities seeking support in implementing the ATT. As the ATT Secretariat is in its inception phase, the RSSRP could be positioned as a valid implementation partner in addition to exploring ways of ensuring the support of RSSRP-participating countries. SEESAC will leverage its role as the SALW Focal Point for South East Europe and the Executive Arm of the South East Europe Regional Implementation Plan for Combating the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons to liaise with its current partners tasked with supporting the implementation of the ATT in their home countries – requesting that they promote RSSRP at ATT meetings and discussions as an implementing instrument.
MINE ACTION

Early on, the notion of integration of mine action expertise into RSSRP emerged as a natural extension of activities given the situation on the ground where large territories are still plagued by unexploded ordnances (UXOs). However, taking this step would change the original nature and scope of RSSRP as well as highlight the overall issues of UNDP involvement in mine action globally. Several actors have pointed out the necessity for separating mine action from SALW control – with the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) noting that mine action tends to be treated as a humanitarian issue while SALW control is a security issue, combined with the fact that SALW control is more complex than mine action due to the sensitivities around legal gun ownership and the large number of stakeholders and variables involved. There are linkages between the two but their distinct characteristics imply that a uniform approach to addressing the problems is not possible across the range of activities involved. For these reasons, the decision on whether mine action expertise should be included has been put on hold. Having said that, SEESAC is keeping an open mind to the idea and will continue exploring it if needed.

NORDIC COUNTRIES

SEESAC has a long-standing relationship with several Nordic countries, having worked extensively with the Nordic Center for Gender in Military Operations through its Gender Equality in the Military Project, which was funded by the Norwegian MFA, with additional resources donated by Sweden. Additionally, Norway generously funded SEESAC Arms Export Control Program for two phases. As such, SEESAC has a successful track record of effective cooperation with these entities which could be further leveraged to explore means of cooperation in terms of RSSRP.

UN OFFICES

Given its unique position in implementing both SALW Control and Gender in SSR programs, SEESAC has an extensive network of contacts in UN agencies outside of UNDP. SEESAC will continue engaging with these agencies to gauge interest in RSSRP, and seek out possible help with promotion of the platform.

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

SEESAC will also continue reaching out to the UN Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform, in particular South Africa and Slovakia, the co-chairs of the group of friends, whose interest in RSSRP has been raised at the High Level Conference on the Role of Security Sector Reform in Sustaining Peace: Challenges and Opportunities held in Bratislava on 5 and 6 June 2017. In June 2017 a meeting with representatives of Slovakia MFA took place at the Istanbul Regional Hub, where possibilities for cooperation were discussed.

US BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS

Tasked with supporting other countries’ efforts to strengthen their police, courts, and corrections systems, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) could benefit from using RSSRP, and SEESAC is exploring means of cooperation with this entity.

DG DEVCO

SEESAC will consult DG DEVCO country programs and use its network of UNDP COs to explore possible future channels of cooperation in these territories. Moreover, SEESAC will further consult with DG DEVCO in terms of establishing contact with their national programs.

JICA

Based on its successful cooperation with JICA during the pilot deployment, SEESAC will continue exploring areas of cooperation and offer RSSRP’s expertise. In addition, SEESAC will also look into whether JICA can support with promoting RSSRP to its partners.