



NEWSLETTER

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BiH hands over SEPCA Presidency to Macedonia



Dear Readers,

On the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which stressed the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security, SEPCA initiated the implementation of a project whose objective is to support gender mainstreaming in police services in South Eastern Europe. The project, which is establishing a Women Police Officers Network (WPON) in SEE, is being implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through SEESAC (South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons). Funding for the project was provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), the UNDP Gender Thematic Trust Fund and UNDP Serbia.

The WPON project is a direct result of the study into the situation of women in police services in SEE. The study is based on a survey in which 8 police services in the region participated and which provides a set of recommendations on how to address gender issues in police services in the region. The resulting report was published under the title "Establishing the South East Europe Women Police Officers Network – Research Findings". In the period from October until December 2010, the project will support the organization throughout SEPCA member states of public presentations of the report. The aim of the presentations is to raise the awareness of police services on gender issues.

The current phase of the project envisages the institutionalization and promotion of the WPON, which is to become a regional advocacy and advisory platform for gender mainstreaming in policing practice in SEE. Following the adoption of the WPON Founding Document and the nomination of representatives of the Police Services for the WPON Council, the first Annual Meeting of the WPON will take place in Sarajevo, BiH, on 25-26 November 2010. The WPON aims to raise awareness and develop capacity for police services in the region. SEESAC will support WPON with the development of policy and best-practice guidelines in two specific areas: career development for women police officers; and gender sensitive policing strategies; and advocate for their implementation. The final phase of the project envisages supporting the establishment of a national association of women police officers.

At this point, it is essential to stress the strong support that the WPON Project received from the police services, without whose commitment to gender equality, work on this important issue could not take place.

Bojana Balon
WPON Project manager
UNDP/SEESAC



Ohrid, 17th September 2010: On 17th September 2010 Macedonia took over the presidency of Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) within a two-day meeting of SEPCA Executive Board in Ohrid. Present at the event were the new president of SEPCA and Police director of Macedonia - Ljupco Todorovski, the former president of SEPCA and Police director of Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation- Zlatko Miletic, the former member of the Executive Board and Police director of Croatia – Oliver Grbic and the new vice-president and Police director of Montenegro – Veselin Veljovic.



During the handover the former SEPCA president Zlatko Miletic stated that many successful joint operations were conducted by the SEE police forces. The new president Ljupco Todorovski committed himself to working towards an efficient regional police system to fight organized criminal groups and other criminal activities that present threat to the region. Mr. Todorovski pointed out also that police institutions from Italy, Austria and Turkey had expressed interest to take part in the SEPCA activities.

During the Executive Board meeting the police directors discussed also the future development of the Association, its partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and other organizations, the new strategy of SEPCA as well as institutional issues and latest project developments.



Sofia, 21st September – The external reviewers of SDC-SEPCCA Police cooperation program visited SEPCCA Secretariat where they had meetings with every staff member. SEPCCA institutional challenges, financial matters as well as ongoing and future projects, short-term plans and SEPCCA Strategy were discussed with the reviewers. On 27th September in Skopje the reviewers had also a meeting the newly appointed president of SEPCCA.

28th September – SEPCCA announced the opening of the application process for its Community Policing Award which is dedicated to specific community policing projects of SEPCCA members. The application deadline is 1st November 2010.

Events | October 2010

3-5 October in Belgrade: Regional Ministerial conference “Strengthening regional and transnational cooperation as a pre-condition for successful fight against organized crime in Southeast Europe”

5-6 October in Istanbul: CARICC/SECI Center Operational meeting on coordination of efforts of the law enforcement agencies of the SECI Center and CARRIC member states and their partners in the field of combating trans-border organized crime with focus on drug trafficking.

5-8 October in Podgorica: “Western Balkan Cross-border Surveillance Exercise”

18-22 October in Skopje; OCTN Seminar

27-28 October in Sarajevo: SECI Center/RCC/UNODC Workshop for SEE member states on national coordination and regional cooperation

29th November - 1st December 2010: General Assembly of SEPCCA

National Coordinators Meeting, Ohrid, 15 September 2010 | At the National Coordinators (NCs) meeting held on 15 September 2010 in Ohrid, the national coordinators from Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina-Federation, BiH-RS, Macedonia and Serbia were present.

Due to circumstances and in a will to find a solution, the issue of the establishment of SEPCCA as an international organisation was discussed, in accordance with the conclusions of the GA held in April 2010 in Opatija.

During the procedure of establishment of the international organisation, the status of SEPCCA as a non-profit organisation will be the following:

1. It will exist until the establishment of the new international organisation with the same name;
2. Based on the Articles of Association and Bulgarian legislation all activities, archive, active and passive and other related issues of SEPCCA will be handed over to the new organisation;
3. The new organisation is a legal successor of SEPCCA;
4. New Statute will stipulate that member-states are represented by the police directors;
5. SEPCCA Secretariat is responsible for all activities regarding the establishment of the new organisation;
6. SEPCCA continues regular operations until establishment of the new organisation (successor).

A regional workshop on democratic policing, 29 September - 01 October, 2010 in Sarajevo | A regional workshop on democratic policing organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit with the support of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) was held on 29 September -01 October, 2010 in Sarajevo.



The two-day executive-level event, gathered more than 40 senior police officers from OSCE and RCC members from South-Eastern Europe, policy and management experts from the OSCE region and international organizations as well as civil society. Participants discussed the practical application of best practices in the law enforcement field with a special emphasis on democratic policing, strategic planning and good governance for managing police reform in the region. This expert meeting was part of a series of OSCE-facilitated regional events focusing on democratic policing.

Sofia, 23rd September 2010 | **The UNDP/SEESAC team representatives visited Sofia to meet SEPCCA Secretariat** | One issue of the meeting focused on presenting the final English version of the comprehensive regional report on the situation and challenges for women police officers. The report includes data from eight of SEPCCA members. The partners discussed also the time schedule for the national presentations of the report which will be conducted mainly in October and November. Both UNDP/SEESAC and SEPCCA confirmed their satisfaction of the achieved results so far and committed to continue their cooperation in the field of gender mainstreaming.



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