

# Trust and Security through Cooperation



EU Support to Law Enforcement

Newsletter published by the EU Support to Law Enforcement Project

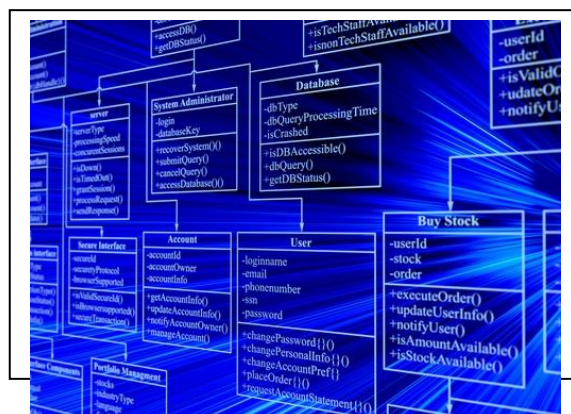
Issue V

## IN FOCUS

Complementing the efforts of the BiH law enforcement agencies to improve the capacities for fighting organised crime and corruption, to enhance cooperation with the prosecutors, and to benefit from the regional and international police cooperation continued to be in the focus of the EU Support to Law Enforcement Project's activities from September to December 2013.

Featured are the past four months' highlights.

Enjoy the reading!



## Role of ICT in Security

Improvement of legal basis for the access to and protection of data, development of standard for technical solutions to ensure systems compatibility and exchange, to strengthen support and professional education of IT personnel are the preconditions for more efficient functioning of the ICT within the law enforcement. These were *inter alia* conclusions of the conference organised by the Project in November 2013 on the role of Information Communication Technology in security.

Emphasising that the ICT is a dangerous weapon in the hands of criminals, but powerful tool in the hands of police, Samir Rizvo, Assistant Minister of Security of BiH

praised the role of the European Union, particularly in the field of forensics and lawful interception. *"The EU has invested a lot in the development of the ICT sector within the law enforcement, particularly in the field of forensics and lawful interception,"* noted Rizvo.

The ICT must become one of the policy priorities while discussing the security at all levels of government in BiH. *"Further development of this segment requires professional use, cooperation, coordination, trust, but also additional investments and systematic enhancement. However, without the right preconditions - from the strategic level over the legal ground to the operational readiness - I am afraid the investments cannot be used to the*

*full potential,"* said Brigitte Kuchar, Programme Manager of the EU Delegation to BiH.

Further development of the ICT sector also requires continuous upgrade of the existing level of professional and effective cooperation between the police and judiciary. *"With the establishment of the electronic data exchange system of police and prosecutor registries, BiH has formalised the principle of data exchange but needs to become a part of day-to-day police work,"* said Almir Babić, Long Term Expert.

The Project has forwarded the list of conclusions to all relevant stakeholders and will follow-up on in early 2014.



This project is funded by the European Union



The project is implemented by the consortium led by the Bundesministerium für Inneres der Republik Österreich

## CEPOL Completes Fact-Finding Mission in BiH

The fact-finding mission of the European Police College (CEPOL) facilitated by the Project was completed in December 2013.



*“CEPOL representatives have conducted the fact finding mission at the three police education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina i.e. the Agency for Education and Professional Training of BiH, and Police Academies of Republika Srpska and Federal Ministries of Interior and declared that all criteria assessed comply with the requirements,”* said Long Term Expert Guido Fickenscher

CEPOL is prepared to launch official negotiations with BiH on signing a working agreement as soon as the issue of the focal point is agreed on among the BiH stakeholders.

*“The advantages that membership in CEPOL offers are manifold: from participating in different education and training modules, establishing professional contacts with the EU colleagues to exchanging best practices and experience,”* concluded Fickenscher.

The Project stands ready to continue offering its assistance to the BiH stakeholders in having the working agreement in place.

## Training on Money Laundering

Police and prosecutors from the state and entity level of BiH have completed the Project's training on Financial Crime: Money Laundering in November 2013.

The training was delivered by Elena Scherschneva-Koller and Josef Mahr who are leading the financial intelligence unit in Austria.

Participants addressed the money laundering trends in the region, highlighting new methods used by criminal groups to disguise the proceeds, sources, or nature of their illicit activities.



As the money laundering facilitates a broad range of serious underlying criminal offenses and ultimately threatens the integrity of the financial system, the group also focused on ways to enhance both national and international cooperation and initiate investigations, by using the existing international networks such as EGMONT and FIU-net, which aims to establish a secure computer network for the exchange of financial intelligence.

*“Money laundering is a complex, widespread and multi-faceted activity, and fighting it requires tight national and international cooperation. As BiH might become a destination country in the money laundering cases in near future, because of the recently established EU borderline with Croatia, the reasons for enhancing the international cooperation in the information exchange on money laundering/terrorist financing is even greater,”* said Guenther Bechtloff, Long Term Expert.

## SIPA Trains with Hungarian TEK



The Project in cooperation with SIPA hosted a specialised training on the alpinism and speleology in the framework of incident response for the members of the SIPA Special Support Unit and the Counter Terrorism Centre (TEK) of Hungary in September in Sarajevo.

Advancement of the institutional capacities of SIPA personnel, particularly strengthening of the SIPA Special Support Unit skills in fighting crime is one of the Project's objectives. *“This exercise is the second in sequence of operational trainings launched in October 2012 in Hungary on mental tactical improvement when grounds for future cooperation were discussed, and which continued with close combat tactics and shooting exercises in January 2013, organised and hosted by the TEK”*, said Peter Makai, Long Term Expert.

A one-week physically particularly demanding exercise was a chance to upgrade and excel the knowledge and skills. SIPA SSU Commander Mirsad Vilić expressed satisfaction for having had the opportunity to train together with the colleagues from Hungary.

*“I must praise the involvement and dedication of the trainees and emphasise a selfless exchange of knowledge and experiences”.*



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## Police Integrity

Police integrity and conflict of interest during investigations were discussed at the seminar organised by the Project in November for officials of the law enforcement and the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption in BiH. Long Term Expert Karlheinz Gortano said that the seminar provided guidelines for mechanisms to assess integrity risks and knowledge transfer in designing effective integrity programmes.

*“Integrity Risk Assessment is critical to design an effective integrity programme, featuring four elements: the efficient implementation of legal regulations, prevention, investigation, of all cases of corruption in the police as well as education of police.”* If the integrity is declared a priority for the police, it will serve as an impulse in assuming responsibility in investigating corruptive acts and thus influencing change.



Progress in the fight against corruption overall can be achieved only through coordinated and systematic efforts involving all segments of society.

*“Modern trends in the fight against corruption are dealing more with the prevention aspect - recognising what causes corruption and what are the risks for its development, and having institutional measures in place to pre-empt and prevent corruption. The Agency is aware of its role and hopes to be focusing more on preventive measures, strengthening transparency in the work of public sector and removing causes of corruption,”* said Sead Lisak, Director of the Agency.

In cooperation with the Agency, the Project will continue strengthening institutional capacity of the law enforcement and other stakeholders dealing with integrity and conflict of interest issues and provide knowledge on international standards and the best practices.

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## Enhancing skills in protecting cyber-space

Enhancing preparedness throughout Federation of BiH to respond to and investigate cybercrime cases was the focus of the Project training course in November 2013. *“The training enabled participants to upgrade both theoretical and practical knowledge and skills across a range of areas to conduct more effective cybercrime investigations such as: picture analyses, live data forensics, mobile phone forensics, expansion cards, search and seizure techniques,”* said Long Term Expert Andreas Fellner.

Cybercrime is one of the fastest growing areas of crime. More and more criminals are exploiting the speed, convenience, and anonymity offered by modern technologies. Cyber crimes, *inter alia*, include attacks against

of online financial services, and alike. *“There is a lag between the criminals adopting new technologies and practices and the law enforcement developing the technical skills required to counter them. The Project is therefore committed to assisting the law enforcement in BiH to further strengthen technical capacity to dismantle more cybercrime networks and prosecute more suspects,”* concluded Fellner.



## Data Protection Requires Unique Standards

*“BiH must establish unique standards in the field of data protection if the country wants to have access to Europol database,”* said Long Term Expert Matjaž Šinkovec for Banja Luka-based *Nezavisne Novine*, following data protection workshop. Underlying that while different police agencies in BiH can have different laws, the standards have to be equal and correspond to the EU acquis.

The field of data protection must be regulated to the maximum. *“It must be legally defined who has the access, under which terms, how is data being stored, how is data being destroyed and alike. We are currently working on harmonization of these regulations with the EU standards. Based on our proposal, BiH can prepare its draft law,”* concluded Šinkovec.



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## About the Project

The EU Support to Law Enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina Project was launched in May 2012 as part of the continuous commitment of the EU to bring BiH law enforcement closer to the level required for the EU accession.

Its plan of implementation complements the efforts that the BiH law enforcement at all levels is making to improve the capacities and capabilities for fighting organised crime and corruption, to enhance cooperation with the criminal justice and to benefit from the regional and international police cooperation and experience sharing.



Under the leadership of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, this project utilizes a broad range of experience of other implementing partners from across the European Union: the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Ministry of Interior of Hungary, Ministry of Interior of Republic of Slovenia, and the Police Academy of the Federal State of Brandenburg.

The project is financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA 2010) in amount of € 6,9 million.

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## Project Statement

*The project team shall share and learn, listen and advise, liaise and cooperate, trust and be trusted allowing for flexibility, transparency, dialogue with civil society, and continuity of action. It should not reinvent the wheel but build upon already existing structures and mechanisms, formal and informal, focusing on solutions that will remain after the project ends, combining European standards with BiH practice.*

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