

Council of Europe
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SUPPORT TO PROSECUTORS NETWORK IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Monthly Activity Report – December 2008

Project title	Support to Prosecutors' Network in South Eastern Europe
Reference number	2008/153-650
Project starting date	17 April 2008
Project duration	17 April 2008-16 April 2010
Implementation	Council of Europe (Economic Crime Division, Technical Co-operation Department, Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs) and Ministry of Justice of Italy
Project budget	1 666 669 Euros
Date of report	12 January 2008
Reporting period	1-31 December 2008

Updated workplan

OUTPUT 1	Draft laws available aimed at making investigations and prosecutions of serious crime cases more effective and facilitating cross-border cooperation	
Activity 1.1 Partially completed May – June 2008	Assessment with aim of identifying legislation to be reviewed and improved (by visiting each project area during the inception phase)	
Activity 1.2	Up to 2 legal reviews per project area (and continuous ad hoc advice) in order to review the existing legislation on investigation, prosecution and co-operation against serious crime August 2008 – March 2010	
1.2.1	▪ Albania	
1.2.2	▪ Bosnia and Herzegovina Review of Draft Law on International Co-operation in Criminal Matters	October 2008 Completed
1.2.3	▪ Croatia	
1.2.4	▪ Montenegro	
1.2.5	▪ Serbia Review of Draft Law on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	November – December 2008 Completed
1.2.6	▪ The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Review of Draft Law on International Co-operation	November 2008– January 2009
1.2.7	▪ Kosovo ¹	
Activity 1.3	2 roundtables per project area (follow up to the legal reviews) and 2 regional workshops October 2008-April 2010	
1.3.1	▪ Albania	
1.3.2	▪ Bosnia and Herzegovina Roundtable on Draft Law on International Co-operation in Criminal Matters	7 November 2008 Completed
1.3.3	▪ Croatia	
1.3.4	▪ Montenegro	
1.3.5	▪ Serbia	
1.3.6	▪ The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
1.3.7	▪ Kosovo	
1.3.8	▪ Regional Workshop 1	
1.3.9	▪ Regional Workshop 2	
Output 2	Human capacities of prosecution services strengthened in view of more effective co-operation, investigation and prosecution of serious crime cases	
Activity 2.1	4 Regional thematic trainings (e.g. joint investigative teams, use of	

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

	special investigation means, cybercrime, witness protection, confiscation and assets sharing)	
2.1.1	Regional Thematic Training 1 Financial Investigations and Confiscation of Proceeds from Crime	Dubrovnik, Croatia 25 and 26 September 2008 Completed
2.1.2	Regional Thematic Training 2 Training for prosecutors and judges and Conference on Co-operation under the Cybercrime Convention	Ohrid, FYROM, 17-19 November 2008 Completed
2.1.3	Regional Thematic Training 3	August 2009
2.1.4	Regional Thematic Training 4	January 2010
Activity 2.2	2 Thematic in-country trainings (on issues of priority interest) August 2008 – March 2010	
2.2.1	Albania	
2.2.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	
2.2.3	Croatia	
2.2.4	Montenegro Training Seminar for prosecutors, accountants and auditors on inter-agency co-operation and data exchange regarding reporting of corruption related offences	Podgorica 24-25 November Completed
2.2.5	Serbia Training on International Co-operation in international instruments	Belgrade 18 September 2008 Nis 19 September 2008 Completed
2.2.6	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
2.2.7	Kosovo	
Activity 2.3	Organisation of two-week internship programme (3 prosecutors per project area) to EU member States (Italy, Portugal and Slovenia)	
2.3.1	Internship 1 – Italy (Rome, Napoli and Bari)	17-28 November 2008 Completed
2.3.2	Internship 2	June 2009
2.3.3	Internship 3	January 2010
Output 3	Co-operation manual and other tools available for more effective co-operation against serious crime	
Activity 3.1	Translation and publication of explanatory reports of relevant conventions and other documents of priority interest in local languages	April 2009
Activity 3.2	Update, translation and publication of PACO manual on judicial co-operation against corruption and organised crime	January 2009 – February 2010
Activity 3.3	Creation of web sites on judicial co-operation to be hosted on the existing web sites of prosecutor offices and/or Ministries of Justice and Ministries of Interior / Security	December 2009-April 2010
Output 4	Contact points for judicial co-operation strengthened	

Activity 4.1	Assessment of existing co-operation networks, contact points and legal frameworks for their operating April – November 2008	
Activity 4.2	Organisation of 2 regional meetings to review the competences of contact points and resources available with aim of improving and strengthening their capacities	
4.2.1	▪ Regional Meeting 1	16 January 2009
4.2.2	▪ Regional Meeting 2	June 2009
Activity 4.3	Organisation of 2 regional meetings of contact points and members of prosecutorial network and heads of organised crime units from each project area to strengthen networking at regional level	
4.3.1	▪ Regional Meeting 1	Early 2009
4.3.2	▪ Regional Meeting 2	July 2009
Activity 4.4	Organisation of a regional conference of prosecutorial network with the aim of amending the Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of the Prosecutors' Network June 2009	

1. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: 1 – 31 DECEMBER 2008

1.1 Project Activities

Activity 1.2.5 – Review of Draft Law on International Co-operation of Serbia

On 4 December 2008 the Expert Opinion in English and Serbian languages was submitted to the Ministry of Justice of Serbia. One of the experts engaged for this activity Mrs Lorna Harris (United Kingdom), prepared an amended Draft Law in which she offered alternative wording and suggestion for improvement of the Draft Law. Although they offered suggestions and advice on how to improve the Draft Law, general remark of both experts, Mrs Lorna Harris and Mrs Anna Adamiak (Poland), is that the draft Law is well prepared and in the spirit of respecting the standards established and supported by the Council of Europe. It is considered that the Draft Law guarantees a proper level of international co-operation in criminal matters.

Activity 1.2.6 – Review of Draft Law on International Co-operation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

The experts identified for provision of an expert opinion on the Draft Law are Mrs Lorna Harris (United Kingdom) and Mrs Anna Adamiak (Poland). The submission of the expertise to the Ministry of Justice is foreseen for early January 2009.

Activity 4.1 – Assessment of existing co-operation networks, contact points and legal framework for their operating

Mr Rok Jannez Steblaj from Slovenian Ministry of Justice was engaged to prepare an assessment of existing networks for prosecutorial co-operation, legal framework for their work and assessment of their effectiveness. Mr Steblaj was involved in a number of activities of the Regional CARDS Judiciary Project for Western Balkans, which was considered to be an asset in present assignment. Mr Steblaj's analysis should be completed in early January and he should present it at the Regional Meeting to review competences of contact points for prosecutorial co-operation at the meeting in Strasburg on 16 January 2009.

2. NEXT STEPS: JANUARY 2009

Activity	Date	Venue
Activity 1.2.6 Provision of Expert Opinion on Draft Law on International Co-operation of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Early January	N/A.
Activity 4.1 Provision of analysis and recommendations for improvement of co-operation	Early January	N/A.
Activity 4.2.1 Regional Meeting of Prosecutors' Network, PROSECO Contact Persons and SEEPAG Contact Points to review competences of contact points	16 January	Strasbourg
Second Steering Committee Meeting	15 January	Strasbourg