



CARDS Regional Police Project : *a new Council of Europe regional project against serious crime in South-eastern Europe*

Project Summary

The Project “Development of reliable and functioning policing systems and enhancing of combating main criminal activities, and police co-operation” is a joint project between the European Union and the Council of Europe, under the CARDS Regional Programme 2002 – 2003.

The project started in March 2004 and will last until August 2006 (30 months).

The project areas are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro¹ and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the above-mentioned project areas to develop and implement regional strategies 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 economic and organised crime (**Module 1**);
- enabling them to deliver comprehensive training against trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration (**Module 2**).

The project covers, through a series of in-country and regional activities (e.g. seminars, study visits, trainings) **the following issues:**

- the development of a regional strategy on economic and organised crime;
- the strengthening of financial investigations capacities aimed at the confiscation of proceeds from crime and experience exchange among the financial intelligence units in the region;
- the use of special investigative means and intelligence in accordance with human rights standards;
- the creation of effective mechanisms to protect witnesses of serious crime;
- the strengthening of capacities for co-operation in criminal matters;
- the development of training strategies in all matters related to trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration;
- the development of curricula and training materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration.

The overall intervention logic of the project can be summarised as to:

- develop regional strategies and benchmarks;
- develop country-specific implementation plans for specific tools and fields of crime;
- develop, test and produce training materials in local languages to support the

¹ The project area includes also Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), currently under the interim administration of UNMIK in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

implementation of the strategies;

- review progress made in the implementation of the strategies and thus in the progress made towards the *EU acquis* and European standards and practices.

Through the two modules, the project **combines a horizontal approach** (tools which are common to most forms of economic and organised crime) **with a vertical approach** (trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration as the specific field of crime).

Finally, **close co-ordination and synergies with other organisations and projects** supporting measures against economic and organised crime, trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal immigration are sought in the implementation of the project.
