

International expertise helps to boost rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The EU is helping to bring law enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina up to international standards, with collaboration nationally and internationally delivering positive results in areas ranging from border control to seizure of stolen goods.

CLOSER COOPERATION TO FIGHT ORGANISED CRIME

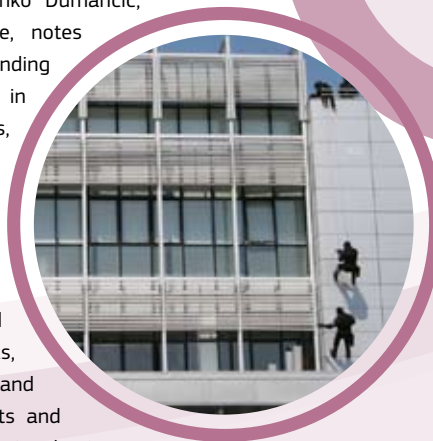
The country's capabilities for fighting organised crime and corruption are being reinforced by strengthening police and justice cooperation. Samir Rizvo, Assistant Minister of Security for International Relations and European Integration, considers this "one of the most significant projects for the Ministry of Security". A threat assessment has been prepared to combat organised crime, in line with the Europol methodology, based on a new level of intelligence-sharing among law-enforcement agencies. Goran Lujčić, Chief of Police of Brčko District, says the cooperation has given police "new mechanisms for the fight against organised crime, corruption and terrorism". And Žarko Kalem of the State Investigation and Protection Agency highlights the benefit of training in the fight against organised crime and corruption, particularly through special investigative measures.

Collaboration has also led to the recovery of high-value vehicles that had been stolen in the EU. "Access to European databases linked with fast exchange of information was the key", said Adi Biser, of the International Police Cooperation Sector of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies. The EU assistance has promoted more effective use of expertise, making it possible to set clear priorities for the fight against organised and serious crime and to implement the seizure of illegally gained assets.

SECURE BORDERS

Karl Lesjak, project team leader, particularly recognises the help in mounting effective policing of the new thousand-kilometre border with the EU since Croatia's accession. "The assistance to border police included training more than a thousand instructors on the new rules that have to be applied". This has benefits for both sides, he points out: "An efficient national border police system brings more security for the country's citizens, and for the EU". And Vinko Dumančić, Director of Border Police, notes the improved understanding his team has gained in managing external borders, and welcomes a new communication strategy the EU aid also generated.

All the education elements of the project involved police officers from all levels, to improve cooperation, and to establish wider contacts and relations between professionals in different lines of police work.



FINE-TUNING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also gained access to the broad European Anti Corruption Training system, prompting closer coordination among authorities that had often used differing approaches to fighting corruption. Jasmin Pilica, Director of the Agency for

Police Support, appreciates the enhanced collaboration: "The Agency for Police Support benefited from help in ensuring more effective joint public procurement of police equipment." In the fight against organised crime and corruption, a solid information base was required to set priorities, linking in to a wider regional initiative. A pool of experts has been created to identify threats and to advise senior police ranks on appropriate decisions.

PROJECT DETAILS – Support to the Area of Law Enforcement

Partners:

Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior
International Centre for Migration Policy Development
Ministries of Interior of Hungary and Slovenia
Police Academy of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Germany

Total cost in €: 7 million

EU Contribution in €: 7 million (100%)

Start date: May 2012

End date: April 2014

Results: Better coordination among key institutions in the security sector, reduction of organised crime, reduced corruption

Techniques:

Training

Project website:

<http://lawenforcement-bih.eu>

