



The initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The European External Action Service (EEAS) is also involved in the follow-up of the initiative. The initiative is developed with the technical support of relevant International and Regional Organisations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at the national, regional and international level.



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Project 1

IDENTIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING FORENSIC CAPACITIES IN THE AREA OF PREVENTION OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF CHEMICAL AGENTS, INCLUDING TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT FOR FRONT LINE CUSTOMS OFFICERS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Instytut Przemysłu Organicznego, Poland (Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry, IPO, lead partner), Poland, Hotzone Solutions HZS, the Netherlands

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

1 January 2013 – 31 March 2015

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia

BUDGET:

640,000.00 euro

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The aim of the project is to strengthen capacities of custom services, border guards and forensic institutions in detecting illicit trafficking of chemical agents. This will be achieved through the provision of specialized equipment and training to the beneficiary countries.

The project will train specialists from each country on chemical substance identification, chemical structures and properties of hazardous chemicals and their precursors, rapid methods of detection, verification of detection results with the most precise laboratory techniques, international rules of chemicals trade and provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The

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specialists will become familiar with the laboratory work and procedures of the European Union custom services. They will learn how to calibrate, use and carry out maintenance of the equipment delivered.

The trained specialists will ensure the long term sustainability of the project and foster synergies with other Balkan countries to address the shared threat of dual-use chemicals. This group of trained specialists will have the capacity to keep track of developments in the area and provide further training to the line custom officers in their country. Within the scope of the project, one training for line officers will be conducted in each of the three countries covered. The training, to be conducted between the period of September to October 2014, will focus on teaching the line officers to apply the most widely used techniques for identifying chemical warfare agents and dual-use material as well as to calibrate, use and carry out maintenance of the equipment.

The final list of equipment to be provided to beneficiary countries has been defined together with the countries so as to closely reflect their varying needs and capacities. The equipment will include Raman spectrometers, mobile FITR-ATR spectrometers and GC-MS instruments. These will ensure detailed analysis of chemical samples collected on the borders, fast detection of dangerous chemicals, and will enhance the capacity to work in potentially contaminated areas or in harsh conditions.

The project will encourage the trained specialists and line officers to apply the knowledge they have acquired in their course of duty. By increasing the capacity of customs and border services to rapidly detect suspicious goods containing chemical substances and bringing chemical identification capacity to the average European level, the project is expected to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking and organized crime at the borders.

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