

OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network Newsletter

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Latvian Border Guard Training System

The State Border Guard College is the only higher vocational education establishment in Latvia which provides professional and vocational training for border guards.

Launched on 16 June 1992 as the Rezekne Border Guard Training Centre for obligatory military service staff, the College has successfully implemented a number of training programmes for different categories of personnel from the State Border Guard.

As an element of the structural reforms required during Latvia's preparations to join the European Union and Schengen Agreement in 1997, the Latvian State Border Guard (LSBG) was transferred under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior. At the same time, intensive work on the development of professional vocational training system for border guard personnel was initiated.

In May 1998, the Rezekne Border Guard Training Centre was transformed into the Rezekne Border Guard School and a new one-year education programme 'Basic Training for Border Guards' was launched. Having gone through the accreditation process, students currently graduate with a nationally accredited diploma.

In April 2002, the State Border Guard College was established on the basis of the Rezekne Border Guard School. Today the College provides training based on two educational programmes. One is a basic level vocational training programme 'Border Guarding' which is based on the Common Core Curriculum (CCC) for European Union Border Guards developed by Frontex. Upon completion of 1184 hours of training, the cadets received the qualification of State Border Guard Inspector.

The second educational programme – the first level higher vocational training programme 'Border Guarding' – was designed to provide education to LSBG junior officers. The length of the training is two years of full-time study or two and a half years of part-time study. Upon graduation, the cadets received the qualification of Junior Officer of the State Border Guard.



In addition to these programmes, the College portfolio contains 36 more professional development programmes which provide the LSBG personnel with an opportunity to improve their skills in travel document examination, forged travel document detection, use of LSBG data bases and programmes such as Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), among others.

The Dogs Breeding Centre of the State Border Guard College provides training to dog handlers and service dogs of the State Border Guard. This training is provided in such spheres as tracking, detection, drugs, explosives search and detention of suspicious persons.

The State Border Guard College actively develops international co-operation with, *inter alia*, border guards' educational institutions from Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. The personnel of the College take an active part in Frontex projects such as instructors exchange, forged travel document detection, common operations and the development of the Common Mid-level Curriculum for the European Union Border Guards.

One of the most important international co-operation activities is the organization of international research conferences by the College, during which instructors and professors exchange their experiences regarding innovative approaches, technologies and equipment in training border guard services personnel. ■

Romanian Border Police Training System

The training system of the Romanian Border Police (RBP) consists of first level initial training, second level continuous training and third level professional tutorship for officers and agents. RBP training centres provide education in such areas as travel document security and identification of false/forged travel documents; illegal migration; EU legislation in the area of border security and management and Schengen acquis provisions. At the same time, the RBP personnel also go through the specialized foreign language skills courses of different levels in the same educational institutions.

One can join the service having completed the initial training in one of the RBP training centres or can be recruited externally based on a higher education degree from other educational institutions.

Initial training for officers takes place at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy in Bucharest and takes three years of full-time study or four years of part-time study. In addition, other Romanian higher educational institutions train specialists to meet RBP requirements. Initial training for agents is conducted at the Avram Iancu Training School for Border Police agents in Oradea and requires two years of full-time study.

In cases when staff is being recruited externally, both future officers and agents are to receive 13 weeks

full-time training in one of the Romanian Border Police educational institutions.

Further on in their careers, RBP officers and agents receive second level continuous training at the Iași School for Initial and Continuous Training for Border Police Personnel, the Orșova Border Police Personnel Training School and the Avram Iancu Oradea Border Police Training School.

The Constanța School for Initial and Continuous Training for Border Police Personnel on maritime capacities is the only school intended for agents from the Border Police and from other institutions within the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

The Iași School for Initial and Continuous Training for Border Police Personnel is a member of the Frontex Partnership Academies Network.

Third level professional tutorship is a specifically designed and guided on-the-job training which takes one year for officers and six months for agents.

Starting from 2008, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Border Police has developed a basic e-learning application on the institution's internal site with standard questionnaires. Currently, the Romanian Border Police is trying to extend this application on a larger scale. In this regard, a more complex e-learning platform will be used for continuous training and for annual online personnel evaluation. In addition to the old application, the new platform will be dynamic and permanently upgraded in accordance with the Schengen acquis and other relevant EU and national legislation.■

The Training System of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus

In September 2010, the Belarusian State Border Committee (BSBC) launched the Border Staff College in Minsk as a new, independent, higher education institution designed to train BSBC officers (previously trained at the Belarusian Military Academy).

The College was created to ensure efficient scientific, methodological, educational and programmatic support to a multi-level training system, retraining and continuous training of BSBC personnel of all categories. It further aims to deliver

training on special subjects by highly experienced BSBC trainers; to conduct academic research on border related issues; and to train, on a contract basis, representatives of special and law-enforcement agencies of Belarus as well as of other foreign countries.

At the same time, the College is functioning as an umbrella institution for the following BSBC specialized training centres: the Brest Training Centre for Passport and Border Control Warrant Officers; the Smorgon Dog Handling and Training Centre; the Smorgon Training Centre for the Green Border Personnel; and the Pinsk Training Centre for Information Technology and Communication Experts.

The College does not only provide training to the specialists of the BSBC, but is also open to the personnel of the other Belarusian law-enforcement

and special-purpose agencies as well as for cadets from relevant national agencies of other countries. The duration of the full-time officer programme is five years.

Upon graduation, personnel will be qualified as foreign language speaking managers with a specialty in one of the following four fields: operative work and investigations, green border service, border control and ideological work.

DCAF Border Security Programme

As the single most important result of the nine years of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) existence, the DCAF Border Security Programme has provided the milestones for the overall progress of the South Eastern European (SEE) countries in the EU and Schengen integration process.

It constitutes a joint project bringing all participating countries closer to achieving full implementation of best EU practices and recommendations in order to fulfil Schengen requirements.

This work has resulted in the establishment of a common process where responsibilities and obligations are clearly divided and implemented under the guidance and supervisory mechanisms set up for the maximum benefit to the citizens of participating countries.

The success achieved in the visa liberalization process has once again reaffirmed the correctness and usefulness of the chosen path. The DCAF Border Security Programme has been recognized as one of the dominant factors for such extraordinary achievements.

The established working groups on leadership and management, legal reform, logistical support, risk analysis, education and training and the Task Force on EU Integration provide a unique possibility for the participating countries to analyze specific topics in the sphere of modern integrated border management as well as routine processes in their daily work.

Additionally, their members work on strategies and other documents related to the specific operational environment and organizational structures. The possibility to study lessons learned by the services of neighbouring countries is one of the main benefits of the working group approach.

The College will provide training of personnel with specialist, master and research degrees through specifically designed full- and part-time programmes.

Although the College temporarily resides in the premises of the Military Academy of the Republic of Belarus, a project to construct its own modern campus with relevant infrastructure has been already launched.■

The regionally-developed DCAF Border Security Programme should be seen as a tool for the functioning of each of the respective services as an equal and trustworthy partner in sharing responsibility in the international arena. It should guide the professional development of service personnel towards high qualification, right orientation, strong motivation, wide erudition and reliable intuition.

Through the well-tailored and objective-specific meetings of the above mentioned working groups the DCAF Border Security Programme has brought together all SEE border services in a unique matrix of operational co-operation and experience sharing. The programme's development enabled notable improvements in each specific area through the implementation of professionally designed action plans as well as through continuous diligent review of service performance.

In spite of previously identified scarcity of resources, continuous self and organizational development at each respective service and the creative performance management and monitoring have proven to be fundamental preconditions for success. The rational use of resources is, nevertheless, addressed as an important issue and arrangements are made with the objective of reaching full cost-effectiveness.

The DCAF Border Security Programme contains a wide scope of competence building options. Dissemination of acquired knowledge, skills and experiences by participants of the working experiences by participants of the working meetings to other border service employees, is an established way of achieving success in the field.

This approach will not only motivate employees at relevant services to do their best to achieve common goals, but also to encourage new, innovative thinking and contribute to the building of new teams/relationships. It will also have a cumulative effect in detecting hidden problems and resolving them in an open, transparent and analytical manner.■

CEPOL Training Activities

The CEPOL – European Police College was established as an agency of the European Union in 2006 (Council decision 2005/681/JHA). European Union Agency CEPOL contributes to European police co-operation through learning to the benefit of European citizens.

CEPOL aims to be acknowledged by allied agencies and authorities in the policing and educational world to be the primary source of learning and development in the field of education and training for enhanced co-operation and policing in Europe.



The CEPOL Secretariat is based at Bramshill in the United Kingdom, approximately 70km from central London.

Through its training activities launched in 2001, CEPOL brings together senior police officers from across Europe with the aim of encouraging cross-border co-operation in the fight against crime, maintaining public security as well as law and order. The implementation of activities takes place in the Member States and covers a wide-range of topics.

The draft 2012 CEPOL Work Programme is in line with the Stockholm Programme, which sets out the EU's priorities for the area of justice, freedom and

security for the period 2010-14, and the CEPOL strategy. Greater emphasis is put on longer duration and more intensive modular courses, such as the new "Policing in Europe – Legal and Operational Aspects of International Police Co-operation" rather than on quantity.

This new multi-modular academic level course aims notably to provide added value to national police education in the field of international police matters at an academic/professional level by organizing learning opportunities designed to improve competences in the field.

Priority topics for courses, seminars, conferences will consist of police co-operation, the fight against terrorism/extremism/radicalism, organized crime, management/leadership/policing methods, corruption, forensics, language development, internet-related crime, juvenile crime and others including common curricula implementation seminars.

In addition to this, CEPOL will continue to finalize common curricula in topics such as Civilian Crisis Management. Implementation of already existing CEPOL Common Curricula will be continued in the Member States.

With its high quality products and services, CEPOL attempts to meet tomorrow's European law enforcement/police environment needs. By developing a new comprehensive planning approach, CEPOL plans to better focus its training activities and to further develop its core business, namely co-operation through learning, by implementing ambitious projects such as the new CEPOL Exchange Programme.

Another highly relevant aspect of CEPOL's future activities is the implementation of important European projects. The EuroEast project and the European Police Service Training Project (focussing on police mission preparation training) are CEPOL's current challenges for 2011. CEPOL has to continue to show its capacity to be acknowledged as the cornerstone of law enforcement training in the EU.■

Upcoming events:

31 May - 1 June 2011 (Vilnius, Lithuania): Seminar on Applied Issues in International Land Boundary Delimitation/Demarcation Practices

1- 3 June 2011 (Vilnius, Lithuania): Annual OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network Meeting

16 - 17 June 2011 (Vienna, Austria): Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Border Security and Management in OSCE Area