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**Project: Development of Reliable and Functioning Policing Systems
and Enhancing of Combating Main Criminal Activities
and Police Co-operation**

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**Strengthening police capacities
against serious crime in South-eastern Europe**

**SECOND
QUARTERLY REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD:
NOVEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005**

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1 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 beneficiary countries 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 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.

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).

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.

MODULE 1 - PROVIDE TOOLS AGAINST ECONOMIC AND ORGANIZED CRIME		MODULE 2 - DELIVER COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS, SMUGGLING AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION	
<p>Output 1.1 Develop a regional strategy on economic and organized crime</p>	<p>Output 1.2 Strengthen capacities for financial investigations aimed at confiscation of proceeds from crime</p>	<p>Output 1.3 Support effective use of special investigative means and intelligence</p>	<p>Output 1.4 Support the creation of effective mechanisms to protect witnesses of serious crime</p>
<p>Output 1.5 Strengthen capacities for international co-operation in criminal matters</p>	<p>Output 2.1 Develop and support a training strategy</p>	<p>Output 2.2 Develop and test training curricula and materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration</p>	<p>Output 2.1 Develop and support a training strategy</p>
<p>=> Analysis of the economic and organized crime situation</p>	<p>=> Implementation strategy for financial investigations</p>	<p>=> Implementation strategy to enhance the use of SIMS</p>	<p>=> Implementation strategy for the ratification and implementation of ETS 182</p>
<p>=> Benchmarks to meet European standards and practices on economic and organized crime</p>	<p>=> Training Materials on financial investigations and confiscation</p>	<p>=> Implementation strategy to enhance the use of intelligence</p>	<p>=> Training Materials on international co-operation in criminal matters</p>
<p>=> Regional strategy and review of progress</p>	<p>=> Information and experience exchange among FIUs</p>	<p>=> Training Materials on the use of SIMS and intelligence</p>	<p>=> Training curricula and materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration</p>

2 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

2.1 General project activities carried out during the reporting period

2.1.1 Overview

Besides the overall responsibility of the activities implemented under Module 1 which has followed the timing foreseen in the first quarterly report, the Project Management Unit (PMU) continued to ensure a proper coordination with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) regarding the implementation of Module 2.

The consortium partners, in particular under Module 1 - the Directorate for Anti-Mafia Investigations from Italy, the General Prosecution, the Office for Money Laundering Prevention and the Criminal Police from Slovenia and the Directorate General of Police from Spain – were closely involved in the implementation of a number of activities which took place between November 2004 and February 2005.

Furthermore, all consortium partners continued to be regularly informed by the PMU (through direct contacts such as the Advisory Board, through the “Newsletter” launched in December 2005 and the development of the website) on the development of the project and closely associated to the concrete implementation of a number of activities.

Since the end of the first quarterly report, the PMU pursued its efforts to associate other relevant international partners in the project’s implementation. Contacts have been further strengthened with among others the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Europol and CEPOL. These international partners are likely to be more associated to the project and take part in some activities in the coming months. One of the PMU’s main objective being to ensure consistency with the strategies developed at the regional level in the field of organised crime to favour synergies between the partners and avoid when possible any duplication.

2.1.2 Advisory Board meeting

The 2nd Advisory Board meeting took place in Strasbourg on 13 December 2004. Participants included all the Senior Representatives, Module 1 and 2 local coordinators from the project areas, representatives from all the consortium partners and observers (CEPOL, Europol, ICMPD, and the Stability Pact – UNODC was excused).

The objective of the meeting was twofold. Firstly, to present in details the main project’s achievements since last June 2004 and to receive an assessment of the results and share the concerns² from both the counterparts in the region and the project’s partners. Secondly, to share with the participants the implementation programme for the coming year. Senior Representatives were asked to commit their project areas in hosting a number of regional activities. The first feedbacks were promising and the work plan of activities for 2005 endorsed by the Advisory Board.

The observers institutions demonstrated a strong support towards the project: CEPOL showing its availability for a possible co-operation in training activities, Europol accepting to provide

² A special attention was given to some Senior representatives’ concerns on their capacity and sometimes lack of power to mobilise the relevant officials to participate in the project’s activities.

expertise in relevant seminars on an ad-hoc basis, and ICMPD confirming its readiness to co-operate with IOM on the elaboration of training materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration.

2.1.3 Communication and coordination between Module 1 and Module 2

The PMU and IOM's project and assistant project coordinators have reviewed on a regular basis the progress made under Module 2 activities. They have continued to ensure a proper co-ordination and facilitate co-operation with other projects and initiatives launched in the field covered by this module. The exchange of relevant information to support the coherence between both modules has been constantly sought by the PMU and IOM

2.1.4 Senior Representatives (SRs) and Module Coordinators

The co-operation and support received by the PMU with all project areas, with the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially with the Senior Representatives and module coordinators has to be praised. The nomination process of the participants to the activities as well as their excellent knowledge of the field and commitment is part of the success of numerous activities and has to be brought to the credit of the Senior Representatives and module coordinators.

Unfortunately, the PMU continued to observe that Bosnia and Herzegovina does not make full use of the opportunities offered by this project, and that the support provided by the Senior Representative has been far from optimal³. It has to be underlined that the PMU and its Local Project Officer (LPO) in Council of Europe's office in Sarajevo pursued their efforts to maintain regular contacts with the Senior Representative to encourage him to take the indispensable measures in order for Bosnia and Herzegovina to catch up its delay towards the other project areas.

After eleven months of implementation of the project, the PMU can only notice that nor the Module 1 coordinator, nor the members of the working groups have been nominated. This major concern had already been pointed out in the inception report and in the first quarterly report. The organisation of activities involving participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina has been difficult, to the point where some activities (e.g. study visits in Italy and Slovenia on special investigative means) took place without representatives from this project area which, of course, has a direct impact on the results of such activities. At the same time, the PMU was informed that experts from counterpart institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina are very eager to participate in the project's activities but suffer from a lack of coordination, initiative and responsibility by the Senior Representative. After consulting different partners, the PMU decided to propose some concrete actions to be taken at high level in order to remediate to this situation.

2.1.5 Local project officers (LPOs) and other staff issues

With the support of Council of Europe's offices in the project areas, the LPOs for Module 1 have had numerous coordination meetings with the relevant beneficiary institutions. Under the

³ It has to be mentioned that the SR from Bosnia and Herzegovina was the only one, among the members from the project areas, not to attend the 2nd Advisory Board meeting on 13 December 2004.

supervision of the PMU, they have been closely associated in the organisation and implementation of the activities held under module 1.

The LPOs have taken a special responsibility in facilitating the meetings of the working groups in their preparation of the implementation strategies to be delivered under outputs 1.1 to 1.4 of Module 1. Their active and positive support in this regard has been commended by several participants.

For each of their project areas, the LPOs continued to update the existing information on legal, institutional and operational aspects related to the different project's outputs. They were tasked to prepare twice a month a compilation of organised crime information which constitutes a useful tool for the PMU, partners and short-term experts associated to the project.

The PMU organised a two day coordination meeting with the LPOs on 16 and 17 December 2004 in Strasbourg. The objectives were to review the first six months' period of activities in each project area, to reflect on the project's achievements and to prepare the 2005 work plan. During this meeting, the LPOs were requested to further develop their contacts with the relevant institutions as well as with other international organisations involved in the field of organised crime to inform them about the project's progress. In addition, they were tasked to ensure that the European Commission Delegations or representatives receive regularly information on the status of the project's implementation in each project areas.

Following the resignation of the LPO in Croatia at the end of January 2005, the PMU has been able to count on the valuable support of the IOM Office in Croatia to advertise the vacancy. The interviews of short listed candidates were organised without delay. The newly recruited LPO will start working on 2 March 2005.

2.2 Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the project and next steps

The work plan and timetable foreseen in the inception report for Modules 1 and 2 and recalled in the first quarterly report have continued to be strictly followed so far. The original delay of about two months due to objective factors as stressed in the Inception report is likely to remain in 2005 considering the great number of activities scheduled.

The mobilisation by the PMU of all the partners in the region and communication on the project's objectives and "raison d'être" has delivered excellent results. This strategy will continue to be further strengthened through the direct involvement of regular activities' participants (mainly the working groups' members) in a networking which could foster the co-operation between the project areas in the fight against organised crime, the development of a close partnership with the working groups and the increasing use of performing tools such as the "Newsletter" and the web site.

The present phase of development of implementation strategies by the working groups in each project areas is of essential importance for the success of the project. The PMU estimates as particularly positive the commitment showed by the working groups in the recent weeks. It will continue to deploy many efforts to support them in this regard. Concerning the working groups' composition, it should also be underlined that the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will further associate, to the extent possible, local officials to the working groups' activities. This will certainly increase the long-term project's impact in the region.

As already stressed, the PMU remains particularly concerned by the challenge it is facing, since the outset of the project, to commit direct counterparts from Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate directly in specific activities but also to undertake concrete and essential work-related tasks (e.g. responding to relevant questionnaires and drafting implementation strategies). The formalisation of the membership within the 4 working groups in this project area should be given a high priority. There is a strong need for stable working groups.

The PMU will also continue to develop a flexible approach towards the project areas and their immediate needs related to specific outputs.

Following the adoption by the Advisory Board of the outline of activities for 2005, close co-operation with consortium partners and other initiatives and projects supported by international organisations in the region will continue to be encouraged in the coming months.

Next steps will see the finalisation of a draft situation report on economic and organised crime in South-eastern Europe, the development of a draft regional strategy on economic and organised crime, the development and support of an implementation strategy for financial investigations, special investigative means and intelligence, witness protection and the elaboration of implementation plans for co-operation in criminal matters among the countries of the region.

On the financial side, the situation continues to be in good standing. The PMU is finalising an extensive financial report which will allow the project to benefit from the second instalment from the European Commission. It will continue to manage the expenses in a strict way and to ensure a strict respect by all the partners concerned of the budget resources.

3 MODULE 1

3.1 Introduction

The PMU is of the opinion that the activities under Module 1 have been implemented according to the schedule and have succeeded to fulfil its proclaimed objectives. Those activities of which implementation had been delayed during the first reporting period (for reasons indicated in the previous quarterly report) have been successfully implemented in the present reporting period.

Since the inception of the project, the PMU in cooperation with project's consultant and long-term adviser, experts from consortium and non-consortium countries, and with the support of our Local Project Officers (LPOs), and Senior Representatives, managed to implement a substantive number of specific activities:

- **13 regional events – seminars & workshops**
 - *of which 3 were implemented during present reporting period;*
- **7 study visits** for the members of different local working groups to selected EU countries
 - *of which 4 were implemented during the present reporting period;*
- **18 in-country workshops & seminars**
 - *of which 6 were implemented during present reporting period.*

Activities under Module 1 in this reporting period could be divided into three main areas:

1. *regional and in-country activities aimed at intermediate output – preparation of implementation strategies;*
2. *preparatory work related to identification of training needs and preparation of training materials;*
3. *preparatory work for further assistance in review and revisions of legal framework.*

Activities under (1) are coming to closure. Almost all regional and in-country activities as well as study visits aimed at exposure of members of local working groups (WGs) to good European practices and assisting them in identification of gaps and opportunities in line with European standards with aim of preparing implementation strategies under specific outputs have been implemented to date. The PMU considers that the theoretical and practical knowledge acquired during these activities should enable the WGs to successfully reach of the intermediate objective. Accordingly, the focus in the following weeks will be on the WGs – facilitating their work on the draft strategies via our LPOs and, when necessary, support of the short-term experts. However, the final success depends on the commitment of the members of the WGs and support afforded to their task by their institutions.

Activities under (2) have been initiated already in November 2004 – by devising the internal work plan and identifying the pool of experts. Starting in February 2005 a series of regional seminars will be held for relevant outputs under Module 1 with the objective to review training needs and opportunities and agree on the regional and country-specific elements of the training modules. The seminars will consist of:

- presentation of good practices in training in the area of financial investigation aimed at confiscations (presentation of two or three training approaches to financial investigations aimed at confiscation in selected European countries);
- discussion of common (regional) elements of training modules;
- discussion of country-specific and target-group specific elements of training modules;
- review of country-specific training needs and opportunities;
- brainstorming the approach to draft and compile target-group specific training modules;

- distribution of roles and obligations of the stakeholders in the process of the preparation of training materials.

Activities under (3) present a flexible element of the project. Depending on requests from project areas we will continue (as we did in the past with success) to provide support in the form of expert opinions and ad-hoc in-country workshops and meetings on questions related to a legislative framework.

Next steps under Module 1 will continue to follow the programme implementation work plan as presented and adopted in the December 2004 Advisory Board Meeting.

3.2 Output 1.1

3.2.1 Specific activities carried out during the reporting period

The following specific activities under Output 1.1 (development of a regional strategy on economic and organised crime) have been implemented after the inception phase to date **[activities implemented during this reporting period (November 2004 – February 2005) are highlighted]**:

ACTIVITY 1.1.1: PREPARE AN ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC AND ORGANISED CRIME SITUATION

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date:</i>
1.1.1.1	Regional meeting to establish a working group of crime analysts and intelligence officers, to review the current state of knowledge on the economic and organised crime situation in South-eastern Europe (including corruption), to train participants in new methodologies, and to agree on the framework for a regional in-depth analysis	Completed [during inception phase]
1.1.1.2	Albania: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working groups in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working group in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	Croatia: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working group in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working group in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	Serbia and Montenegro: In-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working group in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	Serbia and Montenegro: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.2	Serbia and Montenegro: in-country visit by short-terms experts to assist the working in the analysis of country-specific data	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.1.1.3	Follow up regional seminar for the members of the working groups for further training and to work on the regional analysis	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.3.2.2	Study visit for analysts and intelligence officers on criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis and pro-active policing as well as data protection, in view of country-specific implementation plans	Completed 1-3 December 2004 London, UK

<u>1.3.2.2</u>	Study visit for analysts and intelligence officers on criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis and pro-active policing as well as data protection, in view of country-specific implementation plans	Completed 18-21 January 2005 Madrid, Spain
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The study visit to United Kingdom's National crime Intelligence Service (NCIS) in December 2004 involved analysts and senior law enforcement officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro) and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The three days study visit involved an extensive course on the principles of crime analysis and threat assessment, with a detailed overview of the NCIS approach and a distinction between operational and strategic analysis. On the last day of the course, the participants were given an opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills to the material they brought from their project area. In addition, the participants were also presented with organisational structure and operation of NCIS in order to familiarise them with EU standards and practice in institutional requirements for crime data and intelligence management. They expressed very positive views on the study visit.

The study visit to Spain, a consortium country, in January 2005 was organised in co-operation with the Spanish National Police (General Commissariat of Judiciary Police and International Coordination and Co-operation Unit). 11 analysts and intelligence officers from Albania, Croatia, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro) took part in the activity. The study visit was very successful and well appreciated by the participating experts. The contributions of the experts of the UCIC (Unidad central de Inteligencia Criminal), the UDYCO (Unidad de Drogas y Crimen Organizado) and UDEV (Unidad de Delincuencia Especializada y Violenta) enabled the participants to strengthen their knowledge in the fields of collection of information, co-ordination, data protection, the use of SIMS. As a result, steps were taken by one delegation in view of discussing a possible future bilateral co-operation and exchange of experience with Spain in this field.

ACTIVITY 1.1.2: ESTABLISH BENCHMARKS IN TERMS OF MEETING EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND PRACTICES ON ECONOMIC AND ORGANISED CRIME

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.1.2.1	Regional meeting of experts from consortium partners to determine requirements under relevant European and other international instruments with regard to the priority fields of crime and tools	Completed [during inception phase]
1.1.2.2	Setting-up indicators and adoption of a template for the country compliance reports	Completed
<u>1.1.2.2</u>	Short-term experts to assess the current level of compliance by countries with these instruments on the basis of existing reports	on-going [in-house]
1.1.2.3 <u>other</u>	Regional seminar to establish benchmarks and agree on the indicators and a template for the country compliance reports Short-term experts and PMU to finalise the benchmarks	Completed [during first reporting period] Completed December 2005

Following the a regional seminar held in Durres (Albania, 3-4 November 2004) where **the amendments to the table of benchmarks and proposed methodology for compilation of compliance reports** have been adopted, the short term experts have finalised the table benchmarks, which had been translated into local languages. Currently the preparation of the assessment of the level of compliance of project areas with the benchmarks is underway.

ACTIVITY 1.1.3: DEVELOP THE REGIONAL STRATEGY AND REVIEW PROGRESS MADE

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.1.3.1	Short-term experts to assess activities underway in the countries of the region in fields covered under the present project in order to avoid duplication and seek synergies	on-going [permanent task]
other	Work on the draft template and main elements of the regional strategy	on-going

3.2.2 Conclusions and next steps

Activities under 1.1.1 during this reporting period have build on the high cadence of in-country workshops implemented during the previous reporting period. The theoretical and practical knowledge acquired in both in-country workshops and during the first regional seminar have been upgraded by the exposure of the members of the working group to good practices in crime analysis and threat assessment of the United Kingdom and Spain during the study visits to the respective countries. The PMU considers that all those activities will enable a successful reach of the intermediate target – a preparation, for each project area, of a preliminary report on the situation of economic and organised crime. A regional seminar to finalise the preparation of a situation report on economic and organised crime in South-eastern Europe is scheduled 14-15 March in Strasbourg. In advance of the seminar the short term-experts and LPOs will continue to work with the local working groups.

As far as activities under 1.1.2 are concerned, it is also our assessment that they are well on track and have reached their goals. The improvement of the draft benchmarks accomplished in the period reviewed by in-house advisers and external short-term experts with the support of the project areas predicts to constitute, with the preliminary situation reports, a solid basis for the development of a regional strategy against economic and organized crime.

3.3 Output 1.2**3.3.1 Specific activities carried out during the reporting period**

The following specific activities under Output 1.2 (strengthening of financial investigations capacities aimed at the confiscation of proceeds from crime and experience exchange among the financial intelligence units in the region) have been implemented after the inception phase to date [**activities implemented during this reporting period (November 2004 – February 2005) are highlighted**]:

ACTIVITY 1.2.1: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.2.1.1	Regional thematic seminar to review relevant European and other international standards and reach agreement on the approach to financial investigations for confiscation	Completed [during inception phase]
1.2.1.2	Albania: decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of working groups "financial investigations"	Completed 22-24 November 2004
1.2.1.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina: decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of working groups "financial investigations"	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.2	Croatia: decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of	Completed

	working groups "financial investigations"	14 January 2005
1.2.1.2	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of working groups "financial investigations"	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.2	Serbia and Montenegro: decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of working groups "financial investigations"	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.2	Serbia and Montenegro: decision maker seminar in view of the establishment of working groups "financial investigations"	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.3	Albania: technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed 22-24 November 2004
1.2.1.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina: technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.3	Croatia: technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed 14 January 2005
1.2.1.3	"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia": technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.3	Serbia and Montenegro: technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.3	Serbia and Montenegro: technical level seminar to identify gaps and opportunities in legislation (back-to-back with decision-maker seminars)	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.4	Study visits on financial investigations	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.1.4	Regional workshops for members of the working groups in view of developing implementation strategies for each country	Completed [during first reporting period]
other	Harmonised template for the national implementation strategy on financial investigation with guidelines for its drafting prepared by the short-term experts and advisors to the project, vetted by the countries and adopted	Completed [during first reporting period]

During this reporting period **in-country visits** in Albania and Croatia in the form of a workshop and a roundtable with decisions makers that were delayed in the previous reporting period took place. A mission to the only remaining project area, Kosovo (Serbia & Montenegro), is scheduled for early March 2004. A regional workshop for members of the WGs in view of developing implementation strategies on financial investigations is scheduled for 5-6 April where draft implementation strategies will be presented and finalised. In advance of this activity, LPOs and short-term experts have been (and will continue) facilitating and supporting local WGs on financial investigations in the process of drafting the implementation strategies according to the adopted guidelines.

ACTIVITY 1.2.3: FACILITATE INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE AMONG THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNITS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.2.3.1	Regional seminar for members of the FIUs of the region to review problems and opportunities, as well as training requirements, with regard to information exchange among them	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.2.3.2	Regional training seminar for staff of FIUs on information	Completed

	exchange, in particular in view of Egmont Group and other relevant standards and practices	[during first reporting period]
1.2.3.3	Regional training seminar on information exchange among FIUs in view of Egmont Group and other relevant standards and practices and reach an agreement on a draft MOU on information exchange	Completed 10 – 11 February, Zagreb, Croatia

The second training seminar held in Zagreb was organised in partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Croatia, the Anti-Money Laundering Department and the Croatian Institute for Banking and Insurance, as well as with the Office for Money Laundering Prevention of Slovenia. It gathered 35 experts of financial intelligence units from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, UNMIK, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

In addition to the training sessions on principles and best practices regarding information exchange, experts have discussed, on the basis of examples of existing bilateral memorandum of understanding, the issue of developing a regional memorandum of understanding on information exchange, as well as the effects of such an agreement on information exchange. Discussions have confirmed the conclusions that were previously developed during the first Training seminar (Brdo, Slovenia, 18-19 October 2004), namely that existing cooperation and information exchange among the FIUs of the region showed that such cooperation is not dependent on the conclusion of a regional Memorandum of Understanding. An update of the chart on information exchange shows that countries of the region are already linked through a network of memoranda of understanding or exchange information on the basis of reciprocity:

	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Serbia (S&M)	Montenegro (S&M)	Kosovo (S&M)	“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	Slovenia
Albania			MOU	MOU	MOU		MOU	MOU
Bosnia and Herzegovina			Info exchanged	(draft MOU)				Info exchanged
Croatia	MOU	Info exchanged		Info exchanged (draft MOU)	Info exchanged (draft MOU)		MOU	MOU
Serbia (S&M)	MOU	(draft MOU)	Info exchanged (draft MOU)		MOU		MOU	MOU
Montenegro (S&M)	MOU		Info exchanged	MOU		MOU	MOU	MOU
Kosovo (S&M)					MOU			(draft MOU under negotiation)
“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	MOU	MOU	MOU	MOU	MOU			MOU
Slovenia	MOU	Info exchanged	MOU	MOU	MOU	(draft MOU under negotiation)	MOU	

However, experts took note of the Presidency statement at the EU-Western Balkans JHA (Brussels, 3 December 2004) regarding the regional fight against organised crime, in particular the conclusions related to the development of national central information and intelligence systems for criminal information, and the establishment of an effective exchange of information among Financial Intelligence Units through the signing and implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding.

3.3.2 *Conclusions and next steps*

It is our assessment that activities under 1.2.1 are on track. Local WGs have mostly been consolidated and the main focus in the following weeks will be on facilitating and supporting the local working group on financial investigations to draft the implementation strategy according to the adopted guidelines in advance of the regional meeting in April at which the draft strategies will be presented, discussed and finalised. While some WGs have already begun with the process (e.g. Croatia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) others might require additional facilitation by the PMU, LPOs and short-term experts.

As for activities under 1.2.3, it is also our assessment that they are on track. It is worth mentioning that the FIU of Bosnia and Herzegovina was recently established, and as a result the representatives of the newly established FIU attended the training seminar. In addition; during the regional seminar, the FIUs of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and of Bosnia and Herzegovina took the opportunity to sign a bilateral memorandum of understanding on information exchange.

Following discussions held during the second training seminar, experts have agreed that the regional seminar to facilitate the drawing up of an agreement on further cooperation among FIUs would be held in Ohrid (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) during the 4th week of March 2005 . Prior to the seminar, a questionnaire would be sent for completion to each FIU on possible issues which could be dealt with through a regional Memorandum of Understanding and to the extent possible, a draft Memorandum of Understanding would be elaborated to serve as a preliminary basis for discussions during the regional seminar.

3.4 **Output 1.3**

3.4.1 *Specific activities carried out during the reporting period*

The following specific activities under Output 1.3 (use of special investigative means and intelligence in accordance with human rights standards) have been implemented after the inception phase to date [**activities implemented during this reporting period (November 2004 – February 2005) are highlighted**]:

ACTIVITY 1.3.1: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY TO ENHANCE THE USE OF SIMS

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.3.1.1	Regional thematic seminar to review relevant European and other international standards and reach agreement on the approach to the issue of special investigative means	Completed [during inception phase]
1.3.1.2	Establish working group SIMS	Completed
other	Updating information on the institutional and legal framework governing SIMS in all project areas	Completed [during inception phase]

<u>1.3.1.2</u>	Study visits for members of working group on the use of SIMS	Completed 15-17 November 2004 Rome, Italy
<u>1.3.1.2</u>	Study visits for members of working group on the oversight mechanisms over the use of SIMS	Completed 25-27 January 2005 Ljubljana, Slovenia
<u>1.3.1.3</u>	Short-term experts to support project groups in the drafting of implementation strategies	Completed 8 January 2005 Ljubljana, Slovenia

The two study visits in two consortium countries (Italy, Slovenia) – one focusing on undercover activities and the other one on oversight mechanisms over the use of cover measures – were implemented during this reporting period for members of the WGs on SIMs.

The first study visit was organised in co-operation with the National Anti-Mafia Directorate. 10 participants from Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” took part in this activity⁴. It focused on good practices regarding the use of undercover agents and involved Italian experts from the Special-operations section (ROS) of the Carabinieri, the Central Direction for Anti-drug Services (DCSA) and the National Anti-Mafia Directorate.

In December 2005 a **detailed questionnaire in institutional and legal framework governing SIMs** has been send to all project areas and was completed by local WGs on SIMS in advance of the Ljubljana regional seminar which was used to discuss gaps and opportunities and main elements of the implementation strategy. **The study visit** in Ljubljana was organised in co-operation with the General Prosecutors Office of Slovenia and focused on oversight mechanisms over the use of cover measures. Amongst others topics of the study visit included: the supervisory role of the prosecutors in relation to the police in the application and implementation of covert measures, internal police oversight in the process of execution of covert measures and parliamentary control over the use of covert measures. Speakers included a number of prosecutors from the Group of Prosecutors for Special Matters, Head of the Police Department for Special Investigations and the Chairman and members of the Parliamentary Committee for the oversight over intelligence and security services.

The study visit was followed by a **regional workshop** to discuss gaps and opportunities and main elements of the implementation strategy on SIMs. Around 20 participants from Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” took part in both the study visit and the regional seminar⁵. The results of the analysis of the questionnaire and the conclusions of the Ljubljana meeting will determine further activities in 2005 under this output – in the field of training as well as legislative support. Immediate attention will be given in the support for the preparation of the implementation regulations and internal guidelines for SIMs, and in particular handling of undercover agents and informers (something which currently all, but one project area lacks).

⁴ Though the activity included funding of the participation of 3 experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, such a participation was not ensured, as the relevant institutions did not reply to the invitation.

⁵ Though the activity included funding of the participation of 5 experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, such a participation was not ensured, as the Senior Representative failed to ensure a proper nomination of the participants. The delegation from “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” could not attend at the last minute due to difficult weather conditions.

ACTIVITY 1.3.2: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY TO ENHANCE THE USE OF INTELLIGENCE

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.3.2.1	Regional thematic seminar to review relevant European and other international standards and reach agreement on the approach to the enhance of the use intelligence	Completed [during first reporting period]
<u>1.3.2.2</u>	Study visit for analysts and intelligence officers on criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis and pro-active policing as well as data protection, in view of country-specific implementation plans	Completed 1-3 December 2004 London, UK
<u>1.3.2.2</u>	Study visit for analysts and intelligence officers on criminal intelligence systems, crime analysis and pro-active policing as well as data protection, in view of country-specific implementation plans	Completed 18-21 January 2005 Madrid, Spain

Current and past activities under this output are closely associated with Output 1.1.1.

3.4.2 Conclusions and next steps

Main activities under 1.3.1 were scheduled for 2005 and it is thus hard to assess progress in this area. Nevertheless, initial activities -- in particular the analysis of the replies to the SIMs questionnaire and first meeting with members of the WGs on SIMS following a study visit in Ljubljana in January -- have identified clear targets for activities in 2005 which will commence in March 2005: review of current legislation by short-term experts with recommendations for revisions; immediate support for the preparation of the internal guidelines in the area of implementation of SIMs; preparation of comparative review of oversight mechanisms (for some project areas).

3.5 Output 1.4**3.5.1 Specific activities carried out during the reporting period**

The following specific activities under Output 1.4 (creation of effective mechanisms to protect witnesses of serious crime) have been implemented after the inception phase to date [**activities implemented during this reporting period (November 2004 – February 2005) are highlighted**]:

ACTIVITY 1.4.1: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR WITNESS PROTECTION MEASURES IN EACH COUNTRY

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.4.1.1	Regional seminar to review relevant European and other international standards and reach agreement on the approach to witness protection	Completed [during inception phase]
1.4.1.2	Establish working groups on "witness protection"	Completed
1.4.1.2	Study visit for members of the WG on specialised witness protection units	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.4.1.2	Study visit for members of the WG on specialised witness protection units	Scheduled for 14-16 March 2005 Merckheim, Germany

<u>1.4.1.3</u>	Albania: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed 29-30 November 2004 Tirana, Albania
<u>1.4.1.3</u>	Bosnia and Herzegovina: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed 15-16 November 2004 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
1.4.1.3	“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.4.1.3	Serbia and Montenegro: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed [during first reporting period]
1.4.1.3	Serbia and Montenegro: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed [during first reporting period]
<u>1.4.1.3</u>	Serbia and Montenegro: in-country workshop to support the working group in the development of implementation strategies, in particular in view of the creation of specialised witness protection units in each country	Completed 8 – 9 February 2005 Pristina, Kosovo
Other	“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”: short-term experts prepare a written expertise on the draft Witness Protection Law on the request of the Government.	Completed [during first reporting period]
Other	Serbia and Montenegro/Serbia: short-term experts prepare a written expertise on the draft Witness Protection Law on the request of the Government.	Completed [during first reporting period]

During this reporting period the **three in-country workshops** which implementation was delayed during the previous implemented phase were successfully implemented and the remaining study visit hosted by the German Witness Protection Unit is scheduled for 14-16 March 2005.

3.5.2 Conclusions and next steps

It is our assessment that activities under 1.4 are well on track. All in-country activities have been completed and the forthcoming study visit to Germany in March will also be used to discuss with the members of the WGs on Witness Protection the progress on the preparation of the national implementation strategies. It noteworthy that during the present reporting period three project areas have established specialised Witness Protection Unites and passed laws in this field (both Serbia and Montenegro, and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”). The challenge now is to make those units operational in line with European standards and to enhance regional cooperation. Bilateral contacts of local practitioners established during the implementation of past activities have proved highly beneficial in this regard and we will continue to support – on request by the countries – additional bilateral short-term expert visits and exchange of experience. We also highly appreciate the support of EUROPOL which has assisted us with expertise in implementing some activities under this output. To further support the objectives under this output in June 2005 a regional seminar to promote co-operation for witness protection is scheduled in Podgorica (Serbia & Montenegro).

Finally, even with the establishment of the Witness Protection Units now in most project areas, procedural protective measures and ordinary police-type protection measures remain weak in most project areas. This will remain to be the focus of our activities in year 2005 – in the field of training as well as legislation.

3.6 Output 1.5

3.6.1 Specific activities carried out during the reporting period

The following specific activities under Output 1.5 (strengthening of capacities for co-operation in criminal matters) have been **implemented after the inception phase to date [activities implemented during this reporting period (November 2004 – February 2005) are highlighted]**:

ACTIVITY 1.5.1: DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR THE RATIFICATION AND ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2ND ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (ETS 182)

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
1.5.1.1	Regional seminar on opportunities offered by ETS 182	Completed [during first reporting period]
<u>1.5.1.2</u>	Review by short term experts of the gaps and opportunities in legislation and institutional capacities for the ratification and implementation of ETS 182	Completed⁶ September – February 2005
1.5.1.3	Regional seminar to on strategies for the ratification and implementation of ETS 182	Scheduled for 24-25 February 2005, Belgrade, S&M

Following the first regional seminar on opportunities offered by ETS 182 (Pristina, Serbia and Montenegro, 2 - 3 September 2004) a questionnaire was developed in order to be used for the review exercise. The questionnaire was sent in each project area to the relevant officials for completion.

The review of the gaps and opportunities in legislation and institutional capacities for the ratification and implementation of ETS 182 started as soon as the completed questionnaires were received by the PMU. 3 experts from Belgium, Slovenia and United Kingdom took part in the review exercise, and reports were elaborated concerning Albania, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. The conclusions of the review will be discussed during the forthcoming regional seminar, scheduled to take place on 24-25 February 2005.

3.6.2 Conclusions and next steps

The PUM considers that despite the delays experienced, activities under 1.5.1 are well on track. It was previously reported that the deadline for the submission of the replies to the review questionnaire by the participating project areas had to be extended due to difficulties experienced by national experts to provide comprehensive or complete answers. In certain cases the quality of the replies and of the information provided required that the PMU undertake

⁶ With the exception of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

further research and proofreading and the questionnaire had to be translated into local languages. Given that the review exercise has been extended until early February, the regional seminar aiming at elaborating implementation plans for each country was scheduled to take place the last week of February 2005.

To date, officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina did not return the completed questionnaire and consequently, no review will be done for Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, a delegation of 6 experts was invited to take part in the regional seminar and an alternative activity (e.g. a separate review on the capacities for ratifying and implementing the mother convention (ETS 030) and the additional protocols) will be proposed by the PMU to the Bosnian authorities.

It is expected that during the forthcoming regional seminar (Belgrade, 24-25 February 2005), national experts and short term experts will discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the reviews, as well as the comments provided in each analysis. They will agree upon the common elements of an action plan for the implementation of ETS 182 and further streamline the necessary country-specific measures to ensure its implementation. Finally, they will develop country-specific recommendations for further legislative developments and institutional capacity-building and will agree on the workplan for specific support activities to be implemented in 2005.

4 MODULE 2

4.1 Introduction

In the reporting period, the planned activities were carried out successfully and in accordance with the project time plan. The Module 2 working structures were strengthened and institutionalised, and the results of the analysis of training standards in the Western Balkans to combat trafficking in human beings, smuggling, and illegal migration, which will be carried out on a continuous basis throughout the project time span, present a solid basis for the development of a regional training strategy as well as regionally applicable training material and modules. The training strategy and training material as well as the academic curricula are currently being produced by the pool of short-term experts, who are in regular contact with each other and the project management team through meetings and correspondence.

In all of the contacts and meetings the project coordination team has held with the partners in the project areas, there was great enthusiasm for the CARDS Regional Police Project (CARPO), as it was emphasised by the partners in the region that it is indeed perceived to be an essential tool facilitating the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in Justice and Home Affairs in the Western Balkans on their way to accession to the European Union. Concerning module II, the interlocutors welcomed the development of academic curricula for migration-related crime phenomena which include separate modules on trafficking and smuggling of human beings for the use in higher education institutes for leading managers in law enforcement (police colleges/ academies and universities).

Moreover, it was frequently emphasised that there is a great need for regionally applicable training material as far as illegal migration and smuggling are concerned. At the same time, it was confirmed throughout the region that the need for training material or events concerning trafficking in human beings is much less pronounced, as this subject has been well covered by national and international trainers in recent years and months. IOM has therefore taken the initiative of organising a coordination meeting between all actors delivering counter-trafficking training in the Western Balkans. The purpose of this to achieve a clearer picture of the individual counter-trafficking activities carried out to date, and to determine synergies among the organizations involved in view of maximising the efforts to achieve the commonly shared goals.

4.2 General activities carried out during the reporting period

- ***14-day visit to the Western Balkans (meetings and events in Tirana, Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje, Pristina, and Pula), November 3-5, 2004 and November 15-26, 2004***

Between 15 November 2004 and 26 November 2004, the module II project coordination team visited the individual project areas, where they were able to confirm the preliminary results of the training needs analysis and to discuss in detail the individual country situations concerning law enforcement education and the fight against organised crime with the relevant interlocutors in the project areas. Without exception, all interlocutors warmly welcomed the upcoming production and edition of training material for law enforcement officers to combat illegal migration and smuggling of human beings, as these are subjects which have received much less attention than the issues related to trafficking in human beings.

A large number of individual in-country meetings and working sessions were held with representatives from the Ministries of the Interior, Ministries of Justice, Prosecutors' Offices, Police Academies, universities, police forces, and Council of Europe counterparts in the

Western Balkans project areas. The main topics of discussion included the promotion of the project in the countries, relations with the European Commission and donor countries, political developments in the countries – in particular new legislation and measures to combat organised crime, restructuring of police forces and reform of police education - and the possible implications for project implementation, inter-ministerial coordination in the implementation of the project activities, training activities and contents and structure of law enforcement training material and university curricula on organised crime and illegal migration.

A general feeling often voiced by Senior Representatives, Module 2 coordinators and LPOs in the reporting period concerned the fact that due to the high number of projects in the region aimed at improving the project areas' capacities to combat organised crime, there is an especially pronounced need for high visibility of the CARDS Regional Police Project. The newly created project "Newsletter" is a welcome step towards addressing this need, and further measures to this effect will be warmly welcomed.

The interlocutors welcomed the project as a significant stepping stone towards reaching the justice and home affairs acquis for eventual EU membership. In particular, all interlocutors welcomed the project plan to make the material available in the local languages as a welcome innovation, as this will ensure that the real experts in the field are assigned to test and introduce this material in local police training and education once it has been produced.

4.3 Specific Output 2.1 activities carried out during the reporting period

The following specific activities under Output 2.1 were implemented in the second reporting phase:

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
2.1.2	Short-term experts to carry out detailed analysis in terms of training needs of countries and target groups and capacities of existing training institutions and training activities	Completed
2.1.3	Short-term experts to compile information on existing good practices in the European Union as well as in South-eastern Europe which could be reflected in training materials	Completed
2.1.4	Regional seminar to finalise needs analysis and adopt a training strategy	9-10 March 2005 Budapest, Hungary

An analysis of training needs and best practices in the EU member states and the countries of the region has been carried out both at the local levels in the project areas (LPOs, Module 2 coordinators) and at central level (Project Coordinator and Assistant Project Coordinator). On the basis of this analysis, a regional training strategy and training modules to combat trafficking in human beings, illegal migration and smuggling is currently being developed in accordance with the project plan. As mentioned above and following the conclusions from the training gaps analysis, there will be a strong emphasis on the development of training material to combat illegal migration and smuggling. To further enhance counter-trafficking police capacities in the Western Balkans Building, IOM will build on the knowledge and techniques which have been developed in the region following the numerous training events and the existing broad base of counter-trafficking training instruments developed by the regional IOM offices, ICMPD and the Stability Pact and other expert organisations active in the Western Balkans.

In three of the project areas (Croatia, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”), informal WGs have been set up under the leadership of the Module 2 coordinators and project officers in order to facilitate the coordination among the ministries, institutions and organisations involved in the project implementation. The results have been very encouraging, as the information flow as well as general coordination between the different ministries, agencies and IOM offices benefits greatly from this. The closely-knit network of IOM missions and infrastructure in place in all project areas in the region as well as in the consortium partner countries has greatly facilitated the communication with the relevant interlocutors actively engaged in the implementation of this project.

4.4 Specific Output 2.2 activities carried out during the reporting period

The following specific activities under Output 2.2 (develop, test and make available for further training curricula and training materials on trafficking in human beings, smuggling and illegal migration) were **implemented to date**:

<i>Activity:</i>	<i>Description:</i>	<i>Status / Place / Date</i>
2.2.1	Short-term experts and consultants to develop modules for law enforcement training on trafficking, smuggling and illegal migration	on-going
Other	Building a pool of short-term experts to participate in project activities	Completed
2.2.2	Study visits for train trainers from the region: 1st study visit 2nd study visit	Completed 13-15 April 2005 (venue and date tbc)

Regarding the Study Visit activity 2.2.2, in co-ordination and agreement with the main contractor Council of Europe, the initial five-day visit has been divided into two separate events.

On 28-29 October 2004 and on 13-14 January 2005, the short-term experts developing the training modules and regional training strategy for law enforcement on combating illegal migration and smuggling held working sessions to determine the structure, contents, layout and general teaching strategy of the training manual. Each chapter of the manual was discussed in depth and edited accordingly. The first draft will be presented at the Second Regional Seminar in Budapest. The group will convene again in mid-March to incorporate comments and suggestions from the Budapest Regional Thematic Seminar. Between meetings, the experts have submitted new sections and communicated their proposals and comments by e-mail. The drafting work on this manual is steered on a central level by the Project Coordinator.

On 17 December 2004, the research and drafting group of experts on academic curricula on migration-related organised crime was constituted and held its first meeting. This group of experts is to design teaching modules for higher education institutions for members of the law enforcement. During a weekend workshop on 29-30 January 2005, the experts decided on the general structure of the curriculum and the individual teaching modules, as well as the overall goals, learning objectives, and teaching resources for the individual modules. The drafting of this curriculum is being coordinated by the lead researcher of the research and drafting group in close coordination with the Assistant Project Coordinator.

The core team of experts is therefore now complete for both drafting groups, and it is working in close co-operation with the Module 2 Reflection and Advisory group. Where useful and

necessary, these groups are also joined by outside experts and train trainers from the project areas for advice or thematic input on specific modules or chapters.

4.5 Conclusions and next steps

During the reporting period, all activities were carried out in compliance with the project planning as well as the budget planning. The project teams in the region have established excellent and sustainable working relationships with the responsible officials in the ministries, training institutions and universities involved in police education. IOM's excellent contacts and working relationships with the relevant authorities in the project areas have significantly contributed to the ease and efficiency with which cooperation for this project is currently being carried out. The expectations for the project results remain high and all project partners in the region as well as the consortium partners have been most forthcoming in cooperating and supporting the individual project activities.

Next steps:

- A Coordination Meeting involving the organisations developing counter-trafficking training material in the region is to be held in on February 15, 2005. The objective of this meeting will be to review current and past activities, share experience and engage in a joint analysis of the existing training needs and gaps, in order to maximise the general strengthening of law enforcement capacities to combat trafficking in human beings in the Western Balkans
- The next Regional Thematic Seminar, at which currently existing draft training and education materials are to be presented and discussed with all project partners, is to be held in Budapest 9-10 March 2005
- Following this event, the research and drafting groups will convene in March and April in order to review the material following the input and feedback given by the participants of the Budapest meeting

The next steps will be planned in close consultation and coordination with the consortium partner countries and the Council of Europe.