

Regional conference on law enforcement/judicial services and state attorneys / prosecutors in dealing with terrorism and violent extremism –connected crimes

Tirana, 30 May 2018

The conference aims at:

- Exchanging views and experiences of dealing with the cases of terrorism in different judicial practices across the region Identifying clear referral mechanism risks at borders and gaps in exercising operational measures in order to prevent movements of FF
- Developing common understanding and solutions in judicial practices in dealing with cases of violent extremism and terrorism in judicial procedure;
- Improving cooperation between judicial and law enforcement authorities and agencies in cross-border CT cases;
- Exchanging experiences, views and ideas in dealing with procedures of document classification and de-classification at courts of justice. How these conditions are legally defined in different jurisdictions and what is the best European practice in that sense

The conference/workshop will gather representatives of prosecutor's offices and courts from the Western Balkans who are dealing with issues of violent extremism, radicalisation and terrorism and experts/practitioners for the legal procedures in dealing with procedures of document classification and de-classification at courts of justice. Representatives of EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and European Judicial Training (EJT) along with the representatives of the RCC's WB WG on Justice will also be invited.

Target group:

EJTN – Judges and Prosecutors from the Western Balkans dealing with fighting terrorism, extreme violence, radicalization.

Financial support:

This conference is organised and implemented as component part of a DCAF Project/Programme: IISG/WBCTi "IPA II 2016 Regional Action on P/CVE in the Western Balkans"

Background information:



The more prevention-focused CVE approach has become a policy priority for many countries. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 denounces violent extremism and recommends that states work within the international legal framework to curtail the mobility of foreign terrorist fighters. The EU Initiative on the Integrative and Complementary Approach to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans (WBCTi) received significant support from EU institutions (European Commission, Council of the EU and the European External Action Service as well as the Office of the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator) from the initial stages, and was subsequently endorsed by the Council of the EU at the level of ministers in late 2015 in the form of Council Conclusions , accompanied by a first multi-annual WBCTi Integrative Plan of Action (iPA) for the period 2015-2017 . The Council Conclusions invite EU actors (relevant EU institutions, agencies and 28 EU Member States) to coordinate and cooperate planned actions by means of WBCTi, in order to effectively identify and fill identified gaps by engaging in a more rational use of resources, joining expertise and by creating synergies – as opposed to overlapping of efforts in the region due to a lack of coordination witnessed so far.

Having that in mind and being a part of the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), the RCC worked together with partners on shaping up WBCTi Action Plan 2018-2020 which puts strong emphasis on the whole of society approach in dealing with detrimental phenomenon such is violent extremism, radicalisation that is leading to terrorist acts.

The whole of society approach presupposes efficient work and networking of the law enforcement institutions, especially courts of justice and correctional measures and facilities. Judges, prosecutors, prison and probation staff are therefore the main professionals who are supposed to enable implementation of coherent legal and judicial response to the violent extremism, radicalisation that is leading to terrorism.

This conference also offers the possibility to all participants to discuss the training needs in courts, prosecution offices, prisons and probation services concerning the specific nature of cases of violent extremism, radicalisation and terrorism.

As the organisation whose security portfolio is guided by the main principle of the EU regional security cooperative order approach, the RCC organises this event in timely manner and with main aim to address important questions pertinent for efficient, more coherent and better harmonised with EU standards legal and juridical procedures in cases of violent extremism and terrorism.



Structure of the conference

The prelude is a get-together dinner on the evening before the conference. Participants will have an opportunity to touch upon a range of topics related to the overall conference.

In a working day long plenary sessions, there will be two panels with up to four panellists each.

The first thematic panel: **“Legal and law enforcement practice in dealing with cases of radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism”** will discuss judicial practices in some WB countries as well as addressing some shortcomings and necessities for improvement. We will ask the EJM representatives to share with participants cases of the best judicial practices from the EU. After four presentations participants will be having opportunity for further discussion on this topic.

The main questions to be discussed at this panel:

-Do we have in place appropriate legislation for the prevention and suppression of violent extremist?

-Do we have established and functional referral mechanism for judges and prosecutors to deal with specific cases of violent extremism?

-Which are the gaps and avenues to enhance multi-agency approaches and interventions? What are the policy and practical challenges for such collaboration and how do they interact?

-What measures are needed to improve the cooperation between law enforcement, security agencies and state attorneys / prosecutors, in order to counter violent extremism more efficiently?

-What is the role of community leaders and other governmental and non-governmental entities?

-What can and should be done at the regional level (in the Western Balkans) to better fight violent extremism?

The second thematic panel **“Procedures of document classification and de-classification at courts of justice and in particular related to the cases of violent extremism and terrorism”**



In the second panel, the debate should be guided by the following questions:

-What are different practices in dealing with sensitive issues of dealing with classified information in criminal cases brought to a court of justice? If certain categories of citizens (like: highest state dignitaries, judges and attorneys at law) are to be given privileged access to classified information, it should be legally very precisely defined, but no solutions is unproblematic?

-Conditions for declassification of classified information related to serious crime such is violent extremism and terrorism should be precisely legally defined. Declassification of only relevant parts of documents should be considered?

-Exploring possibilities and models of close cooperation and coordination between judicial institutions and other government agencies that are dealing with security and intelligence.

Importance of these issues is particularly highlighted by the practitioners and expert who are working with National Security Authorities (NSA) and participating at the RCC platform South East National Security Authorities (SENSA). The RCC will invite members of this platform to also take part at this conference.

