

Police in BiH



EUPM Organises CSI Training

A murder has just been committed. The victim has been shot four times. He is lying on the sofa in the living room. There is some writing on the window - it seems to be blood. The victim's apartment has been sealed off. Crime technicians are at work.

No. This is not an episode of CSI. This is a DNA gathering training session for crime technicians from across Bosnia and Herzegovina - 35 in total. Initiated and funded by the EU Police Mission, this three-day course aims to give them unprecedented hands-on experience.

The students are looking for any piece of DNA evidence - blood or hair - and carefully sealing it off. Others are making notes, taking pictures and making measurements.

Their trainers, two high-profile forensic experts, are carefully observing every single of their moves. Patricia Donlon, Training Coordinator at the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and Paul Buckbrough, Evidence Technical Advisor at the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Pro-

gram (ICITAP), have had a four-room apartment 'reconstituted' to make the exercise as realistic as possible.

They offer their students precious advice about the latest DNA gathering techniques and feedback about their approach to the various real-life exercises that have been tailor-made for them.

"It is the first time that BiH crime technicians get this kind of hands-on training in DNA gathering," explains Jonas Helgason. A EUPM Adviser dealing with so-called 'cold' cases, he gradually noticed that crime scene preservation was an issue.

"Crime scenes need to be sealed off and kept pristine," he says. "Evidence must be gathered and stored properly. If not, this can jeopardize the success of the whole investigative process."

Having closely monitored numerous crime scenes since he joined EUPM two years ago, Helgason noticed that shortcomings in DNA gathering or crime scene preservation in general were not due to negligence or a lack of good will, but rather to insufficient training and, in some instances, to a lack of experience.

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Editorial

By Mirko Lujic,
Director of the State Investigation
and Protection Agency (SIPA)

Dear readers,

Two months ago, when the 'Dare!' Campaign was launched, we all hoped that citizens would understand how important it is that they call Krimolovci and share information with the police about the crimes committed and their perpetrators.



The fact that out of the total number of calls made by citizens to 080 020 505 hotline, half came in during the campaign is not only encouraging, but also gives hope that all forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are determined to engage in the fight against all forms of crime.

The BiH State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), although the youngest and smallest police agency in the country has set the fight against organized crime as its absolute priority. We are also obliged to do this by the Law on the State Investigation and Protection Agency, which stipulates that we are in charge of preventing, uncovering, and investigating criminal offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the Court of BiH, with special emphasis on organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity and the values protected by the international law.

The results achieved so far, especially in connection with war crimes investigations and the fight against all forms of crime and organised crime, give me the right to say that SIPA has grown into a strong and professional police agency capable of implementing the law and responding to all tasks from its jurisdiction.

We are all aware of the fact that much can and must be done if we want our children to live safely in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will happen only if we realise that crime and the safety of citizens and their property, amongst other issues, are not only within the jurisdiction of the police, but that they also need an active engagement of all social actors.

We should not disregard the engagement of the International Community, especially the EU Police Mission in BiH, thanks to which we have successfully implemented a series of joint projects, including the 'Dare!' campaign.

We hope to continue our successful cooperation with representatives of the International Community in BiH, as well as with all local law enforcement institutions and citizens, because it is only in this way that the fight against all forms of crime can be successful. ■

This is why, together with Jane Steiner, the Coordinator of EUPM's Support/Donor Unit, he submitted a proposal to organize this training session.

"It is all a question of experience," says Steiner. "A crime technician in a small village has less experience than a crime technician in East Sarajevo, for instance. With this training, we hope to provide them with a unique opportunity to get practical experience."

Asked about crime technicians' equipment back in their respective locations, Helgason says it is very heterogeneous. Some have the fanciest equipment you can imagine. Some do not even have a decent camera.

"What we are trying to teach them is to be resourceful," says Helgason. "If they know the whole forensic process inside out, they can find ways out of these material shortcomings. Even cotton swabs can really make a difference."

The training session would not have been possible without the assistance of ICITAP and ICMP, which provided material and sent out some of their best experts.

"I really enjoy this training session," says Buckborough. "It is great to do something as practical as this."

As to ICMP, their Sarajevo-based DNA



■ BIH technicians received a hands-on training in DNA gathering

laboratory, which is at the centre of their DNA assisted human victim identification system, is the largest in the world and they

hence found it natural to offer assistance to the EU Police Mission in the form of their expert Patricia Donlon. ■

EU Affairs

UN Security Council Prolongs EUFOR's Mandate

The UN Security Council voted unanimously on 20 November to prolong the mandate of the 2,200-strong EU Stabilisation Force for another year, i.e. until 21 November 2009, to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement that ended the war in 1995.

The Security Council also authorized the continued presence of headquarters for NATO, which led the multinational stabilization force (SFOR) that handed over peacekeeping responsibilities to EUFOR in 2004, and recognized the right of both organizations to take all necessary measures to defend themselves from attacks or threats.

The Council reiterated that the primary responsibility for the further implementation of the Peace Agreement lay with the Bosnian authorities. Their compliance - in particular full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) - would determine the continued willingness of the international community and major donors to provide support, the resolution said.

The Council also emphasized its full support for the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Miroslav Lajcak, in monitoring the implementation of the Peace Agreement and recognized that he is the final authority in theatre regarding the interpretation of civilian implementation of the Agreement. ■



EUFOR Commander Major General Ignacio Martin Villalain will hand over to Major General Stefano Castagnotto, of the Italian Army, on 4 December 2008.

EUFOR said it expects that certain senior representatives of the EU, Spanish and Italian Governments will attendance the change of command ceremony. ■

Think You Are Funny? Think Twice!

Hoax Bomb Threat Increase: Finding An Efficient Answer

EUPM's Regional Office in Tuzla reported 24 bomb threats at schools throughout the months of October and November this year. In the light of this new trend, the EU Police Mission is looking into ways to help the BiH police tackle these threats in a more efficient way and raise young people's awareness about the dangers of what they may regard as just a funny joke.

Luckily the bomb threats in the Tuzla area all turned out to be hoaxes. In most cases, they were issued by juveniles who called the police to announce that a bomb had been placed in the vicinity of their school.

Nevertheless, it is reassuring that police take each bomb threat very seriously and proceed to the immediate evacuation of each targeted building. Although this may be the desired outcome for the juvenile who issues the threat, this mobilizes a considerable amount of resources and means which may not be available for other, more needed interventions.

In a recent survey carried out in the

United States, for instance, school districts reported a loss in excess of \$250,000 due to the evacuation and bomb search squad costs. Moreover, the adverse publicity surrounding hoax bomb threats affects all the community.

"We suggest that the BiH police use a new approach in tackling these threats," says Joosep Kaasik, Head of EUPM's Regional Office in Tuzla.

EUPM Tuzla suggests that the law should treat hoax bomb threats as severely as real bomb threats and that there should be little exception for juveniles. EUPM Advisers also believe that a tripartite approach, involving the BiH police, EUPM and schools, should be adopted, such as to work towards a structured and standardized response to bomb threats at schools.

This collective approach should include prevention and harm reduction measures on the one hand, and more efficient and realistic immediate responses to bomb threats.

EUPM Tuzla and the BiH police have begun working on this issue, assessing the



extent of the problem and gathering data for analysis.

"Once we have sufficient data we will help our counterparts set up a strategy," says Shaun McKee, who works as a Crime Adviser at the Tuzla Regional Office.

The project is still in its infancy. In the next few months EUPM Tuzla will assess the current situation, look at EU best practices and analyse the existing legislation in order to come up with a clear set of recommendations for their counterparts. ■

Forensic Centre Inaugurated

US Ambassador to BiH Charles English, BiH Federation Prime Minister Nedžad Branković, and European Commission representative to BiH Ferdinand Kopp ceremonially opened the building of the Forensic and Support Centre of the Federal Police Directorate's Crime Technical Department located at the Police Academy in Vraca, in Sarajevo, on 14 November.

Thanks to donations from the United States, Spain, the European Commission and the FBiH Government, the centre is equipped according to European standards and ready for immediate use. It is 1,500 m² and has 36 staff members.

The newly opened centre is now ready to perform criminal expertise, chemical and toxicological expertise, biological expertise, including DNA analysis, ballistic and tool mark expertise, dactylographic identification and expertise, as well as work related to sanitary-biochemical and ecological protection.

Zlatko Miletić, the Director of the Federal Police Administration said that the total value of donations amounts to KM 5 million, out of which KM 2.7 million were donated by the European Commission through EU CARDS, KM 1.3 million by the FBiH Government, KM 500,000 by ICITAP, another KM



500,000 by the Federal Police Administration and KM 70,000 by the Spanish Government.

While the premises were arranged and equipped, staff members were trained how to use the purchased equipment by the Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia, the FBI, EUPM, the European Commission and ICITAP. ■

Improving Work Conditions to Boost Efficiency

The EU Police Mission's Regional Office in Mostar covers a vast area that crosses the inter-entity border line, encompassing three cantons in the Federation, namely the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, the West Herzegovina Canton and Canton 10 (Livno) and the Trebinje Public Security Centre in the Republika Srpska. In the last few months this area has repeatedly hit the headlines.

In August the Trebinje Public Security Centre spearheaded the now famous 'Leotar' operation, the most spectacular and successful operation of this kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting in the dismantlement of a cross-border organized crime network.

Achieving EU Standards

Alan Hayes, the Head of EUPM's Regional Office in Mostar attributes the success of his team to their multidisciplinary approach.

"We are actively engaged in many aspects of policing, from serious and organized crime to issues of accountability and public confidence, right across the whole area of policing," he says. "We are deeply committed to all these aspects and enjoy a great level of trust and cooperation with our counterparts."

In order to help their BiH colleagues fight organised crime effectively, it is crucial that the Regional Office constantly takes the pulse of what is happening on the field. In this regard, close coordination with EUPM's Field Offices in Mostar, Trebinje and Livno is key.

"Support to the fight against organized crime is the main thread throughout our work," says Yves Arcana, Deputy Head of the Regional Office in Mostar. "While the Field Offices focus on specifics, the Regional Office mainly works on more strategic issues, such as police reform and follow-up activities to inspections."

At the moment, for instance, the Mostar Regional Office is looking at the capability and capacity of their counterparts in terms of forensic awareness and special investigative measures.

"We expect to identify specific training



■ EUPM's Mostar team provide advice and exchange experience with their counterparts

needs and then we will liaise with the EUPM Headquarters to plan some form of training whenever needed," says Arcana.

Asked whether they encounter regular obstacles in their daily work, the members of the Regional Office mainly mentioned the lack of cooperation amongst police agencies in their area of responsibility, i.e. the reluctance of some police agencies to share information or intelligence with other law enforcement agencies. Moreover, local police commanders often face a significant lack of the financial and other resources necessary to complete their tasks as effectively and professionally as possible. This is where the role of the Regional Office is irreplaceable. By virtue of their mentoring, monitoring and inspection activities, they help their counterparts overcome these challenges, improve their working environment and provide a better service to the public.

Currently, for instance, EUPM participates in discussions with the Commissioners of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and the West-Herzegovina Canton in order to help restructure their respective organiza-

tions and fight a number of local issues, including drug trafficking, more effectively.

"From an operational perspective, we will positively consider any plans aiming to use police resources more effectively on frontline policing duties, and thus increase public safety and confidence," explains Hayes.

In order to keep assisting and supporting their local counterparts in the best possible way, the Regional Office is currently developing its regional objectives for 2009.

"We will emphasize the importance of our mandate with regard to the establishment of sustainable, professional and multiethnic local policing agencies that live up to common EU and International Standards," says Hayes. "Subject to an agreement with our Head of Mission, we hope to continue our efforts in terms of police reform, professionalism and accountability and support to the fight against organized crime."

A Winning Team

To reach all these ambitious objectives the Regional Office needs competent and committed people. Chief Adviser Hayes is convinced that he has a winning team.

"The current make-up of the Regional and Field Offices in the Mostar area brings a wealth of professional know-

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ledge and backgrounds, and varying years of experience in EU or UN policing missions," he proudly says. "Each of us, with the tremendous support of our national staff members, is determined to work effectively together for the benefit of the local population. We never give up in the face of setbacks or misunderstandings."

Joseph Delaney, an Adviser with 28 years of policing experience, came to Bosnia and Herzegovina because he felt that as an Irish police officer he had a small insight into post-conflict situations and policing matters in an ethnically divided society.

"I also hope to learn a lot here and enhance my experience so that I can perform my duties even better when I return to my home country," he says.

His Italian colleagues, Advisers Marco Zappone and Giuliano Gallina, and the Regional Office's Political Adviser,

Valentin Nikolov, who has been serving EUPM since its early days, also stress that they came to Bosnia and Herzegovina to provide advice and exchange experience with their local counterparts and other international police officers. It is a two-way process of giving and receiving.

All international police officers and civilians working at the Regional Office praised the quality of the work of their national colleagues. Most of the national staff members have worked for EUPM since its launch and said that they are happy to contribute to such an important Mission. They all seemed to share the same enthusiasm and commitment towards the Mission.

"This country has certainly gone through many difficult issues, and I believe that EUPM can make a difference," says Aleksandra Obradovic, who

works as an Assistant. "I truly believe that we can have a real impact, and that is why I am here."

Her colleague, Arnela Buzaljko, stressed EUPM's role as an important 'facilitator' of good relations between the local police and the local community. She welcomed the recent 'Dare!' campaign, which was jointly implemented by the Mission and BiH law enforcement agencies.

"There has been a lot of community policing initiatives, awareness-raising activities and campaigns since the arrival of EUPM in Bosnia and Herzegovina," she says. "These activities really make a difference. I have heard many people talk about the 'Dare!' campaign in very positive terms."

"People used to be scared of interacting with the police, but when they see big billboards asking them to help out and say what they know anonymously, they will do it," she continues. "I think that these campaigns are amongst the best things established by the EUPM." ■

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Police in BiH

Canton Sarajevo Police Get Pay Raise

Following the Sarajevo Government's recent adoption of a reviewed budget for the year 2008, the salaries of all Sarajevo Canton police officers are soon to be raised.

"Pay raises will be attributed in accordance with each police officers rank," explains the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton Dragan Miokovic. "All police officers up to the rank of independent inspector will receive a 15 percent pay raise, while higher ranking police officials will receive a 20 percent pay raise."

Pay raises should be paid retroactively, starting as of September this year. However, police officers' salaries are only one of the two main issues in the collective agreement that has been advocated by the Trade Union of the Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton for the last few months.

"Besides pay raises, this collective agreement should clarify all issues regarding work during the night or on holidays," explains Miokovic, adding that the Trade Union requested this



agreement to be implemented as of 1 January 2009.

"Both issues should have been solved as part of the same package," Miokovic continues. "That is why the Trade Union

of the Canton Sarajevo Ministry of Interior intends to carry out an analysis in mid-January to assess what has been done by then. All further activities will depend on this assessment." ■

EUPM and SIPA Launch Crime Stoppers Website

Mirko Lujic, the Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), and Commissioner Stefan Feller, the Head of the EU Police Mission, today officially launched the Krimolovci.ba website. The website offers BiH citizens one more platform to share information with the police about planned or already committed crimes.

"The success of police work very much depends on cooperation with citizens," said Feller upon inaugurating the website. "Without witness statements the hands of the law enforcement agencies are tied. The police are in need of information that citizens often have."

Four years after the launch of the Krimolovci hotline in 2004 and the creation of the television show *Unsolved Cases (Nerijesen Slucaj)* in 2005, Krimolovci.ba, which was launched within the framework of the 'Dare!' campaign, completes the Crime Stoppers system.

Director Lujic stressed the success of the 'Dare!' campaign in prompting citizens to join the fight against crime: "Half of the total number of calls that have been made to the Krimolovci hotline since its very launch in 2004 were



■ EUPM Commissioner Stefan Feller and SIPA Director Mirko Lujic at the launch of the Krimolovci.ba website. Krimolovci.ba is a modern and user-friendly tool in fight against crime

made since the launch of the campaign on 19 September this year."

As a matter of fact, the campaign has boosted the number of calls to the Krimolovci hotline by 300 percent. Until today, the Krimolovci call centre has received 2,712 calls - more than in the first nine months of this year, before the launch of the campaign. From these calls 634 were actionable by the police. The website will initially be managed by the EU Police Mission in support of the BiH police. All information will be treated confidentially. After a test period Krimolovci.ba will be handed over to SIPA. ■



EU Affairs

EULEX To Go Operational in December

The Head of EULEX Kosovo, Yves de Kermabon, has confirmed that the Mission will become operational at the start of December. "EULEX will be ready to start implementing its mandate throughout Kosovo from the beginning of next month," de Kermabon said.

His comments came while on a visit to the Mission's newly-acquired Camp Laszlo, on the outskirts of Prishtinë/Priština, where some of EULEX's Special Police Units will be based.

"With around 1,300 internationals and several hundred local staff, we will have

the critical mass for initial operational capability," said the EULEX Head of Mission. The mission should be fully operational by the end of the winter.

The Mission will have what is called 'initial operating capability' to start with, and will become fully operational by the end of the winter.

EULEX Kosovo is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

The announcement follows a statement by the United Nations Security Council on 26 November. Whilst EULEX will work within the framework of UN Resolution 1244, it will have a unified



■ EULEX KOSOVO Head of Mission, Yves de Kermabon, on tour in Camp Laszlo

chain of command to Brussels and its legal basis remains the EU Joint Action of February 2008. ■

The Driving Force Behind the Mission

"As drizzly Sarajevo morning draws strange shapes on your dusty EUPM Volkswagen, you realize that it might be high time for a car wash. Pulling up at MTO, you are greeted by the morning rush within that department, led by fast-talking and fast-walking Chief of Transport, Francesco Zurlo. A face known to everyone, this Neapolitan has been with the Mission from the very beginning."

This is how we started our last interview with Francesco, in one of the first issues of the Mission Magazine. Little has changed since then, except that your dusty Volkswagen is now likely a brand-new Skoda, and that since November 2007, Francesco carries the double burden of being the Chief of Logistics and MTO.



■ Francesco Zurlo and his MTO team take a camera break during the winter driving preparations of new EUPM cars

It's a balancing act. In the past, these used to be two separate units. They were merged after the restructuring and I took on the obligation to be the head of what was now one large department. So, at present, I have about 19 national staff members who are on one hand taking care of all the travel requirements for EUPM, and on the other of all logistical needs of the mission, including 25 field locations. In general, it's a lot of responsibility. However, my staff is very capable and I can always rely on them, especially my Mechanic Assistant Nijaz Cosic, who more or less runs MTO tasks. So usually, things run smoothly. One example is our present project with new cars for EUPM.

Can you tell us more about this project? What happens with the old cars?

At the beginning, it was planned to sell the 74 written-off vehicles - 50 Golf, 23 Nissan and one VIP Audi - and use the funds

to cover part of the budget for purchasing new cars. But the problem occurred that Kosovo, as a huge mission, needed cars urgently, so the decision was made in Brussels to send the cars there. MTO then performed a full check on all vehicles and prepared them for shipping. With the last week of November, we will start sending ten cars to Kosovo every Tuesday and Thursday, and we hope the whole process will be finalized before Christmas. In the meantime, EUPM received new cars, 23 Volkswagen Touareg, 50 Skoda Octavia - all 4x4 -n and one Audi A6 3.0 Quattro for the Head of Mission.

As for all current EUPM cars, both old and new, MTO is finalising the preparations for winter driving conditions, changing the tires, antifreeze and similar. This will soon be done, but really it's an ongoing process

which lasts until spring, as we do regular checks of all vehicles.

So the cars are ready for the ice and snow...

The cars are; I hope the drivers are as well. Driving in winter conditions is very demanding and drivers are expected to be very careful on the road and follow all the rules. They need to remove all ice and snow from the windows, mirrors and lights, and clear the roof, engine and luggage compartment hood after a heavy snowfall, paying special attention to clearing snow from all grilles, to ensure airflow. People should know to always allow the glow plug heater 'coil' light on dash board to go off before starting diesel engines.. This should minimise the issues during driving in winter conditions.

We will also soon have a new tracking device installed in cars, which will allow us to know where every car is at any point in time, and help us when immediate assistance is needed.

Speaking of winter driving, not many people know that you travel a lot between Sarajevo, where you work, and Zagreb, where your family lives.

I have too many obligations to go there as frequently as I would like to, as my work is very demanding. The kids are growing up fast; Barbara has already started school, and Marcello will join her soon, so there are obligations on their side as well. But I work for them and am prepared to sacrifice to provide them a good life. I must say I am very happy to be working in one of the best EU missions and the work is very rewarding to me. ■



Finnish Independence Day

The Deputy Head of Mission, Ari Sarjainen, together with the other members of the Finnish contingent, cordially invites all members of staff to a reception on the occasion of the Finnish National Day on Friday, 5 December 2008 at 7 p.m.

The Finnish declaration of independence was adopted by the Parliament of Finland on 6 December 1917. It declared Finland an independent and sovereign nation-state rather than an autonomous Russian Grand Duchy.

Independence Day is the most noticeable of the national holidays in Finland. There are parades -such as the university students' torch parades - medals are awarded, and festive functions are held.

During the early decades of independ-



ence, this day was a very solemn occasion marked by patriotic speeches and special Church services. From the 1970s onwards, however, Independence Day celebrations have taken on livelier forms, with shops decorating their windows in the blue and white colours of the Finnish flag, and bakeries producing cakes with blue and white icing. ■

Sports

Sarajevo's long-awaited Olympic Swimming is now open to the public.

Address:

Bulevar Mese Selimovica 83 b -
71 000 Sarajevo

Opening Hours:

every day, from 7 to 11 p.m.

More information:

<http://www.olimpijskibazensarajevo.ba/>



Travel

Sarajevo International Airport: No More Cancellations Due to Fog?

Six weeks ago the Sarajevo International Airport was closed for four days due to the installation of a new navigation system. It was worth waiting, as our notoriously foggy airport now uses a high-tech Instrument Landing System (ILS) called Localizer, which enables air traffic even in the worst weather conditions.

"We have not changed the whole system, since it was more or less an upgrade of the system we already had at the airport," remarks the Director of the Federal Aviation Directorate Amadeo Mandic.

ILS Localizer is a ground-based system that provides precision guidance to the plane as the machine is approaching a runway, explains Mandic, adding that the system uses a combination of radio signals and high-intensity lighting arrays to enable a safe landing in difficult weather conditions, such as low ceilings or reduced visibility due to fog, rain, or blowing snow. Antennas installed near the runway are sending data which are being received by the system in the cockpit and enables the pilot to land a plane almost regardless of the weather conditions.

"This is the so-called instrumental landing," says Mandic.

The flight control crew at Sarajevo International Airport, who are licensed by the International Organisation for Civil Aviation, attended special training sessions in Prague, in the Czech Republic, in order to learn how to operate the system.

"Members of our crew in charge of flight control are fulfilling all international standards," notes Mandic.

Still, the claims that airplanes can now land regardless of the



weather conditions are untrue.

"Although pilots are now able to land almost without visibility, Sarajevo International Airport's runway as such is limited due to other conditions, such as surrounding mountains and the vicinity of neighbouring settlements," confirms Mandic.

The new navigation system at Sarajevo International Airport should also increase the level of safety and improve the quality of services at the airport.

"The changes we have undertaken are most of all aimed to increase the safety conditions at the airport," says Mandic, adding that the airline companies, whose planes are landing on BiH airports on daily basis, demanded that safety conditions be constantly increased, to constantly increase the safety conditions.

In the coming winter months the decision to land will be made depending on the type of plane and how well the pilots are trained. Moreover, contracts have been signed for the same system to be installed at Tuzla and Mostar Airports. ■



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