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## Activity Overview

### “The workshop on Enhancing Implementation of Articles 3 & 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in South East Europe: the country coalition concept” CSE-A8-W-17

RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Croatia  
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**Dates** 11 – 14 June 2017

**Venue** Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, HR-10437 Bestovje, Croatia

**Background:** The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions is a legally binding international treaty that comprehensively prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years, and clearance of contaminated land within ten years. It recognizes the rights of individuals and communities affected by the weapon and require states to provide assistance. The Convention also obliges countries to assist affected states to fulfil their obligations.

Cluster bombs have killed and injured thousands of civilians over the last 70 years and continue to do so today. In all of the conflicts where these weapons have been used, they have left a predictable pattern of human suffering. It is this unacceptable harm that the Convention on Cluster Munitions was created to prevent.

As of April 2017, 119 states have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions, of which 100 are States Parties, and the remaining 19 are signatories that have yet to ratify. Thirty- four out of forty-nine European countries have joined the treaty, demonstrating the continent’s strong commitment to the objectives of the Convention. Only 1 country in the region is a signatory state. In 2016, the second United Nations General Assembly resolution on the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions was supported by 141 countries. 34 European countries voted in support of the Resolution.

**Purpose and Objectives:** The workshop is being co-organized by RACVIAC with the Permanent Representation of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament in its capacity as the President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). It is co-funded by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany with the support of the Implementation Support Unit of the CCM (ISU-CCM) and RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss future developments impacting the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). It will focus on the concept of establishing “country coalitions” (i.e. with a country specific focus) as a means to enhance international cooperation and thus support the implementation of specific aspects of the Convention in South-East Europe.

A coordinated approach concerning destruction and clearance (including mapping and securing of contaminated areas) of cluster munitions and assisting victims, involving donor states and operators will support States Parties to fulfil their commitments under the Convention. Lastly, a country specific approach is required to help ensure progress in implementation of the CCM.

Against this backdrop the concept of establishing “country coalitions” as a means to enhance international cooperation and ownership by RACVIAC members which are State Parties to the CCM seems to have considerable potential.

The South-East Europe region is the location of the heaviest cluster munition contamination in Europe. It includes both States Parties and Non-States Parties to the CCM, including countries who are addressing contamination, stockpile destruction. The Centre offers the possibility to also host representatives of some selected African and American countries with implementation difficulties in order to facilitate cross-regional exchange of information and experiences.

**Participation:** The representatives of South East European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia. Spain, Turkey, as well as Germany, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine will be invited. Kosovo\*\* will also be invited to participate. Also invited will be representatives of selected States Parties from different regions with CCM obligations: Afghanistan, Chad, Cuba, Guinea Bissau, Iraq, Lebanon and Peru. Additionally, the representatives of implementing organisations such as MAG, Norwegian People's Aid and HALO Trust. Also represented will be other cooperating partners, notably potential donor countries as Australia, Canada, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America. The expected 30 participants will include government officials, International organization representatives and non-governmental experts.

**Methodology:** The working language of the workshop will be English and will consist of four sessions. In each session, two or three speakers will lead off the discussion with remarks of 8-10 minutes. Some will use power-point presentations, which will be distributed later. The chair of each session, who may also wish to contribute personal views, will act as timekeeper and moderator of the ensuing discussion, to which all participants are encouraged to participate. The discussion part of each session will last about an hour, allowing for a substantive exchange amongst all the participants.

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\*Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

\*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)