



Regional Cooperation Council

SECURITY COOPERATION



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The Regional Cooperation Council is working towards

safe and stable South East Europe, part of the European and wider security architecture, able to take care of its own security and contribute to the security of Europe, supporting European and Euro-Atlantic integration process of the region

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

In safe, stable and secure South East Europe by working together on:

- Prevention and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters
- Further development of cooperation and coordination of all specialised regional security cooperation formats
- Result-oriented, aligned policy at regional and national levels in addressing security challenges in SEE
- Support and promotion of confidence building measures, exchange of experience and sharing of best practices





COOPERATION
AND COORDINATION



WHAT DID THE RCC DO SO FAR TO GET THERE?

- **Developed** the SEE **Regional Platform on Countering Violent Extremism and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (CVE-FTF)**, **established** the Group of National Focal Points for CVE-FTF, and created a specialised P-CVE website¹, under the Platform
- **Created specific recommendations** for countering terrorism and violent extremism in South East Europe, together with regional forces of law enforcement experts, public attorneys (prosecutors), academia and civil society
- **Commissioned and published** a Study on “Initiatives to Prevent/**Counter Violent Extremism in South East Europe**”, mapping the existing CVE efforts in the region
- **Coordinated and supported** regional security cooperation initiatives and actively cooperated with all relevant stakeholders

¹ The P-CVE website <http://www.rcc.int/p-cve/>

COUNTERING TERRORISM AND FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS REGIONAL SECURITY COORDINATE AND SUPPORT



REU
RESP



CONFIDENTIAL
BUSINESS

EUROPEAN
UNION

REGIONAL
RESPONSE



WHERE DOES THE REGION STAND NOW?

- Significant progress in **confidence building** and establishing **regular, more efficient security cooperation** has been made
- New RCC Participants from **SEE** have joined **NATO** and the **European Union**, while others are making progress towards membership
- **Regional response** and joint action is necessary to address the **newly emerged security challenges**



WHAT DO THE PEOPLE THINK?

According to the RCC-commissioned Study “A Waiting Game: Assessing and Responding to the Threat from Returning Foreign Fighters in the Western Balkans” in period 2012-2017

AROUND 1,000

individuals (men, women, children, elderly) from the Western Balkans traveled to Syria and Iraq, out of who

AROUND 300 RETURNED

MORE THEN

200

killed

SOME

400

remained

while some are considered missing.



Courts in the WB incarcerated
MORE THAN 70
individuals with sentences
totaling

OVER 380

years of
imprisonment.



APPROXIMATELY
7,500

EU citizens went to fight
in Syria, Iraq and
Interpol has published

140 **NOTICES**

for citizens suspected of
terrorism-related
activities there.



SEE citizens are more
concerned about crime in their
economies

16% than their
EU neighbours
11%



73%

of SEE citizens agree
that regional
cooperation can
contribute to the
political, economic or
security situation in
their societies



44%

of South East Europeans say
they are dissatisfied with the
level of security in their own
economy,

WHEREAS
27%

rate
themselves as
satisfied



WHAT THE RCC WILL DO NEXT TO CHANGE THIS?

The RCC will:

- **Strengthen its coordination role**, emphasising **prevention of and countering violent extremism (P/CVE)**, and continue with exchange of information and good practices
- **Keep** the regional web-based CVE information exchange platform **proactive**
- **Continue leading and enhancing** specialised regional security cooperation formats for military intelligence and national security authorities
- **Publish a Study it commissioned on rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and violent extremists** to help policy making grounding it in confirmed data
- Continue raising awareness and engage in practical activities on the role of education system and civil society in prevention of radicalization
- **Support creation and implementation of efficient measures** to address the **youth as most vulnerable to radicalization**



HOW?

Within the framework of Western Balkans Counter-Terrorism Initiative (WBCTi) of the EU's Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), we will:

- **Work more closely** in regional security architecture with national government agencies; think tanks and academia; international and regional organisations and initiatives; non-governmental organisations, especially in P/CVE area
- **Maintain and further develop** the existing regional security cooperation formats and structures in order to **maximize results**
- **Continue raising awareness** throughout the region on the threats of violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism and other common security challenges
- **Further develop its own Regional P/CVE-FTF** to better respond to changing trends in violent extremism and make it a practical P/CVE tool
- **Endorse creation of policies to respond to new security threats** and challenges for the SEE, especially policies for youth and returnees



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The Regional Cooperation Council serves regional cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to spark development in the region to the benefit of its people

**PREVENTION OF AND COUNTERING VIOLENT
EXTREMISM**

**REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF
FORMER TERRORISTS AND RETURNEES**

PREVENTION OF YOUTH RADICALIZATION

Good. Better. Regional.





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