



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



# 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 website<sup>1</sup>, 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

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





## 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 THAN 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.



**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,

SEE citizens are more concerned about crime in their economies

**16%** than their EU neighbours  
**11%**



**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



# RCC CONTACT FOR SECURITY COOPERATION



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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

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**PREVENTION OF AND COUNTERING VIOLENT  
EXTREMISM**

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

**PREVENTION OF YOUTH RADICALIZATION**

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**Good. Better. Regional.**





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