



„Implementation of PRUM decisions. Preparation for the joint police operations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland“

POLICE OFFICERS ARE BEING TRAINED TO USE ONE OF COOPERATION TOOL OF THE PRUM DECISION - JOINT POLICE OPERATIONS

When on the 23 June 2008 the European Parliament and the Council adopted a decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime (hereinafter called as Prüm decision) it incorporated into the EU law almost in full scale the Prüm treaty, therefore law enforcement institutions of the EU Member States acquired new instrument in the fight against crime.

In accordance to the Prüm decision Member States of the EU grant each other access rights to the DNA analysis files, automated dactyloscopic identification systems and vehicle registration data

Furthermore the ability to use the instrument of cross-border operations, which allows for the seconding of police officers to another state with regard to maintenance of public order and security and prevention of criminal offences especially during mass events. One of the most important aspects of the Prüm decision is that it allows the EU Member States to confer executive powers to police officers of other EU Member States seconded to participate in the joint operation.

Seeking to prepare for the appropriate implementation of provisions of Prüm decision **Lithuanian Police leads the Project “Implementation of PRUM decisions. Preparation for the joint police operations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland” HOME/2010/ISEC/FP/C2/4000001445 (hereinafter called as “Project”)** under the Specific Programme “Prevention of and Fight against Crime” (ISEC) which is being implemented together with police institutions from Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Poland.

Project is being financed by the contributions of the EU, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The main aim of this Project is to contribute to the security of European Community by strengthening the capacities of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland police officers to perform joint police operations within the frames of the Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime.

The Project has started on the 1 June 2011. It is planned that in total 467 participants will take part in the Project (60 - in conferences, 12 in the study visit and 395 - in trainings). All in all, 119 Lithuanian, 111 Latvian, 111 Estonian, 111 Polish, 11 Finnish, 2 German and 2 Swedish police officers will participate in the Project. Whole period of the Project implementation is 26 months.

In the Project 5 types of activities are organized: conferences, study visit, trainings, development of common curricula together with study material, preparation of informational handbook on the procedures of organizing joint police operations and administrative events.

The management of the Project is duly served by the Project Steering Group (hereinafter called as – “PSG”), which consists of Project Administrator, Assistant of Project Administrator, Project Financial Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Assistant of Program Coordinator and Project Events Coordinators (1 coordinator per each Partner country except Finland).

The implementation of the project started with the opening conference which was held in Trakai (Lithuania) in June 2011. 30 participants from all partner countries as well as with German and Swedish law enforcement representatives took part in the event. Right after the conference the workshop of the Project Steering Group (hereinafter called as “PSG”) on general Project management matters and organization of training activities took place.

The preparation of training programmes for instructors and the organization of training events have been sparked. In the year 2011 the training course on professional English language and workshops for the preparation of national instructor training programmes were held.

Instructor training courses took place in February – May 2012. The main aim of the instructor training activities was to prepare 16 instructors (4 from each country), who would be aware of the peculiarities of the legislation and organization of joint operations in all partner countries and be able to render their knowledge to their national police officers. During the events the instructors were cleared the way for the gathering of theoretical and practical knowledge on the organization joint police operations in the neighboring states. During the training events instructors were made aware of the tactics and equipment used by the respective public police units of the Project partners with regard to maintenance of public order and security.

With a view to get acquainted with the Nordic countries in the organization of joint police operations a study visit to Helsinki (Finland) was organized in April 2012. Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish police officers (3 from each country) together with Finnish partners participated in the event. Delegations from Executive level police officers from Project partner countries were acknowledged with the experience of the Finnish police in maintaining public order and security during mass and sport events as well as in pursuing cooperation with foreign police forces.

In May 2012 a workshop of the PSG on general matters was organized in Pärnu (Estonia). During the event Project activities of the first 12 months were concluded. Members of the PSG discussed on the setting of frames and elaboration of the upcoming Project activities in the year 2012-2013. The preparation of high quality and structurally integral training programme and material for the training of police officers was stressed. It was agreed that training programme should consist of information on the cross-border joint police operations and on the regulation of joint police operations and practical aspects thereof in the Project partner countries.

Joint police officers training programme and its complementing training material were completed in September 2012. Therefore soon after that the national police officers trainings have started. These national trainings for Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish police officers take place from October 2012 till February 2013. During the 8 training events (2 in each country) in total 160 police officers (40

from each country) will be trained to plan and perform joint operations. Trainings are conducted by the instructors prepared in the course of previous Project activities.

In June 2013 it is planned to organize large scale practical trainings to perform joint police operations. This event will confer the opportunity to put into practice the acquired theoretical and tactical knowledge. It is foreseen that in the 2 day the training event in total 140 police officers (35 from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland), 16 instructors and 15 observers from all Project partner countries will participate.

It is planned until May 2013 to prepare the Handbook, which will consist of systemized and brief information on legislation and practical peculiarities of organization of joint operations in each Project partner country. It will be distributed in 400 copies to police officers of all countries taking part in the Project. The Handbook would ensure the continuity of the results achieved during the implementation of the Project and strengthen international cooperation.

This Project provides for excellent possibility to set up an international network of police instructors, to share experience and to shape advanced practice in organizing joint police operations.

The Project is estimated to be concluded in July 2013. The closing ceremony will be held to conclude the implementation of the Project. Participants from all countries taking part in the Project as well as German and Swedish police representatives will be present at the event.

This Project is essential not only for the sake of enhancing particular international cooperation instrument, but also with regard to formation of progressive practice in planning and performing joint police operations, incorporation of essential innovations of international police cooperation into EU legal system and ensuring mandatory application of provisions of Prüm decisions in all EU Member States.



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