

OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network Newsletter

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Education and Training Series

OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC)

The OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC), hosted by Tajikistan, seeks to serve as a single point of knowledge delivery for international standards and best practices concerning all aspects of border security and management – from strategy to technology. The College objective is threefold: to deliver a staff course for senior and middle level managers of the OSCE participating States' border security and management services, to function as an OSCE Research and Development Centre on border security and management issues, and to conduct OSCE outreach activities in the sphere of border security and management.

Launched on 27 May 2009, the BMSC has conducted a number of training activities to promote and support cross-border dialogue and inter-agency co-operation. To date the BMSC has conducted nine seminars and workshops for the benefit of 152 participants from 17 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

Recently, 16 Afghan border police and four customs officials participated in a seminar on travel document security held at the BMSC. Four of them also had the chance to participate in a second seminar on Land Mines and Border Security Issues. This was only the beginning of the Afghan participation expected by the BMSC in the future.

In parallel, the BMSC management continues to prepare the first Staff Course, which is to take place from 15 November to 10 December this year. The Staff Course has been designed in close consultation with the international organizations affiliated to the College through its Academic Advisory Board (AAB).



The AAB advises the College Principal on the core curriculum, assists in identifying expert lecturers and contributes to the development of training materials. The first meeting of the Academic Advisory Board was held in September 2010 to finalize the practical modalities of the first Staff Course.

To provide for a coherent approach in delivering best practices and using the most up to date educational methodologies, the BMSC will convene a Consortium of National Border Security and Management Training / Educational Institutions. The first meeting of the Consortium will take place in October 2010.

The BMSC will continue its efforts to deliver additional training courses and seminars to border security and management officials. In addition to the Staff Course, events such as a seminar on Human Rights and Border Control, Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Travel Document Security and Precursor Training for Afghan officials are to be conducted this year ■

Frontex Training Unit

Training represents an indispensable element of Frontex's commitment to promote uniform and high standards across all of the EU's external borders. Since 2005, when the responsibility for harmonized training passed to Frontex, the creation of a Common Core Curriculum for basic-level border guard training (CCC) – which lays out the groundwork for a standardized set of skills and knowledge for entry-level border guards (BGs) – and development of common training standards, have been at the vanguard of the unit's activities.

Each EU Member State and Schengen-Associated Country has its own strengths and priorities. Across the board, however, there are certain skills and practices that should be consistent throughout the EU, and this is particularly true when Member States are working together on Frontex missions at the external borders. BGs from different countries and working traditions need to 'speak the same language' both literally and figuratively. And this has been one of Frontex's most significant achievements to date – the CCC, now in use across the EU, has become recognized as the Union's first curriculum for BG vocational training. Launched in 2008, the CCC was devised and refined by representatives of Member States in order to take the best of all possible worlds while retaining the flexibility necessary to make it universally applicable. This common approach to the development process was essential in laying

the groundwork for a Europe-wide ethos of 'border guardship' and in creating the atmosphere in which the CCC could find acceptance and flourish.

To complement the original CCC, which covers all aspects of border guard work, a common core curriculum for mid-level officers is currently being developed as a Bachelor degree study program. In the future, Frontex also intends to launch a Master's level qualification for high-level officers. Based on the Bologna Process, both curricula are being developed as part of second degree university education programmes specializing in the field of border policing and management.

However, for a training strategy to be a fully functioning element of the EU's Integrated Border Management philosophy, it needs to be ongoing. Therefore Frontex started to develop common training standards to further enhance interoperability between border guard officers from Member States. These training programmes cover a comprehensive range of specialized skills from language training for specific tasks, to air-crew training (including night flights and tactical skills), to sea and mountain survival, dog handling and training for return-flight escort leaders. Once again, by involving experts from Member States at every stage, as well as utilizing its network of Partnership Academies across Europe, Frontex has managed to develop and implement common standards in border guard training activities.■

Border Guard School, Lithuania

This year, the Lithuanian Border Guard celebrates the 90th anniversary of the establishment of its Service. Throughout this period, a key element of Lithuania's border management strategy and development has been the education of personnel in the Border Guard.

The decision to establish a training centre for the Border Guard Service under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania in the town of Visaginas was taken in October 1991. Following this, a two week program for conscript soldiers began in 1992; in 1993 a three month long curriculum was introduced; in 1995 a six month long curriculum for basic training of border police officers was established; and in 1999 the training centre was restructured to offer a two year vocational training based on the National Basic

Core Curriculum for Border Police approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

After the Border Police Department was restructured as the State Border Guard Service in 2001, the school was renamed 'Visaginas Border Guard School'. In 2002, an English Language Training Centre of the then Visaginas Border Guard School was established in Medininkai (30 km from Vilnius), where the Border Guard School was moved after reconstruction in 2007.

Today, the Border Guard School is a vocational training institution offering academic and practical primary professional education. The program is based on the Common Core Curriculum (CCC) for European Border Guards developed by Frontex.

The major objective of the school is to provide advanced training courses for border guard officials, who are obliged to take at least one such course every two years of service. For secondary

school graduates, the education lasts 18 months and covers training at the Border Guard School (1,560 hrs), a traineeship period within the State Border Guard Service field units (480 hrs) and the final qualification exam (40 hrs.).

In addition, the School provides two to 15 week training programmes for graduates of higher educational establishments, who have expressed the desire to enroll in the Border Guard Service and therefore need to complete an introductory training course.

The Border and Coast Guard Academy, Finland

Within the Finnish Border Guard, the Border and Coast Guard Academy (BCGA) directs the border management studies included in the basic and advanced training of border guard officers and other Finnish border guard personnel. Academic studies for officers are co-ordinated and organized under the guidance of the National Defence University, where border management studies are included in the basic degrees of Military Sciences (Bachelor and Master of Military Science) and in the post-graduate studies curriculum for officers (General Staff Officer Degree).

The BCGA is a national and international networking institution for border security and management as well as maritime education and research. The education centers are located in Espoo and Imatra, Finland.

The main tasks of the BCGA are: to plan and further develop the border guard education system; to plan and provide basic, advanced and further training for the personnel of the Service; to

Based on bilateral co-operation agreements and annual co-operation plans, the School collaborates with the border guard training institutions of the neighbouring countries through short-term exchanges of trainers and students, common development of new training tools, conduct of joint training activities, and sports competitions. Since May 2006, when a Partnership Declaration was signed with Frontex, the School has been part of the Frontex Partnership Academies Network.■

provide and develop training in search and rescue leadership, border control (border checks and border surveillance), crime prevention, tactical border security, situation management and dog operations; to provide Special Border Jaeger (elite light infantry) training, to develop Border Guard conscript training; to carry out research and development related to border guard activities; and to co-operate nationally and internationally in the field of border security and management education.

The BCGA's research activity in the field of border security and management is to produce a database of accurate scientific materials on various border security and management matters. Such research is conducted in co-operation with relevant security authorities and research institutes both nationally and internationally.

The BCGA is a Partnership Academy of Frontex. The Academy participates in planning and organizing border management and control training and research co-ordinated by Frontex. The special responsibility of the Academy is to train instructors and Schengen Border Evaluators.■

Specialized Border Guard Training Centres, Poland

In Poland there is one unified, professional, properly equipped and armed force responsible for state border protection and the security of external borders of the EU – the Border Guard (BG). The Border Guard was created in 1990 in the process of the reorganization of Border Protection Force. Since 1990, the Border Guard has undergone deep structural reforms related to preparations to join the EU and to participate in the Schengen Treaty. The Polish Border Guard educational system consists of the three training centres conducting tasks on behalf of the BG: The BG

Centre for Specialized Training in Lubań, the Central BG Training Centre in Koszalin, and the BG Training Centre in Kętrzyn.



Recently the BG training centres, just like the whole service, have undergone thorough modernization to adapt to the current BG needs. The wide range of training conducted in the centres includes basic training for young officers, advanced officers' training, and training specifically for non-commissioned officers and junior warrant officers.

Thus, the BG Centre for Specialized Training in Lubań conducts training on immigration and migration concerns, training for in-country officers, for border section officials, specific courses for mountaineers, canine training, and training on inter-agency co-operation. The Central BG

Training Centre in Koszalin provides training for BG executive management, as well as for border personnel working in logistics, communication and naval matters. The third BG Training Centre, in Kętrzyn, trains pyrotechnic and detection sensor experts as well as border and airport officers.

The BG training centres conduct a wide range of education activities with outside partners such as border forces of other countries and international organizations. Last but not least they maintain constant co-operation with scientific institutions like universities, training centers and high schools of various specializations.■

Development of Future Customs Professionals

World Customs Organization

The customs manager of the 21st century must be much more than an expert in customs. The demands of globalization, security, resumption of services following social and natural crises, together with expectations for modernization, require a greater understanding of the political, economic and trade environment in which customs are expected to operate.

In meeting these demands, the World Customs Organization (WCO) continues to develop and apply new management techniques and technologies. Recognizing the importance of knowledge and education in the field of customs, the WCO initiated a series of meetings with universities and other academic institutions during 2005, which resulted in the launching of the WCO Partnerships in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) programme in 2006.

The PICARD programme initiative is a means of collaborating with customs universities and research centres around the world in order to raise global standards and provide guidance to the various centres of capacity building for the training future customs professionals.

In parallel, through PICARD, academic institutions created the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI) and a rich vein of research in the field of customs has emerged, particularly through the World Customs Journal.

The WCO, in partnership with the INCUI, has developed a set of professional standards necessary for operational and strategic customs managers to meet the requirements of the 21st

century strategic environment. Several INCUI institutions are using these standards to develop their educational programmes, which provide professional qualifications for customs staff from Bachelor to Masters level. The professional standards can also be used as the basis for the benchmarking of current in-house training programmes and developing recruitment strategies. The WCO has designed and delivered its own residential format WCO Management Development Program, consistently with the professional standards.

The WCO is supported by six Regional Offices of Capacity Building and 22 Regional Training Centers (RTC). A major part of their role is to build regional platforms to co-ordinate capacity building activities and promote use of the WCO blended learning programmes (e-learning modules followed by a face-to-face session). The RTCs also promote implementation of the key modernization concepts of Human Capital Development through the adoption of the "learning organization's" characteristics. Some RTCs are also establishing themselves as worldwide Centres of Excellence on strategic customs topics.■

