

“Cooperation among SEE Countries in the field of anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism”

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Mijo Golub

Deputy Head, Financial Intelligence Unit
State Investigation and Protection Agency
Bosnia and Herzegovina

INTRODUCTION

- New sovereign states created by dissolution of Yugoslavia
- The region was engulfed in wars (1991-1995)
- The disordered political system was favourable for money-laundering and financing of terrorism.
- Large quantities of illegal weapons.

COOPERATION

- Bosnia and Herzegovina launches the initiative for stronger cooperation among former Yugoslav countries
- First meeting of Heads of FIUs of former Yugoslav countries in Banja Luka (2005)
- Albania and Bulgaria
- Protocols on Cooperation among FIUs signed in 2005

First steps

- Second meeting in Podgorica (Montenegro) in 2008
- Platform for analysis of cooperation in the past and additional exchange of information

2nd Meeting Continues (2008)

- Typologies of money-laundering in the region.
- IT experts need to cooperate on improved protection of data and advanced mechanisms to exchange information and data
- Initiative to establish a formal body of FIUs in the region
- This practice shared with MONEYVAL, EGMONT Group, EC.

Third meeting

- Croatia (2009)
- Legislation in focus
- Harmonization with international standards
- Warsaw Convention
- Efficiency in data exchange
- Feedback to obliged parties

Fourth meeting

- Serbia (2010)
- Practical aspects of cooperation
- Identification of best practices.
- Reports on the transportation of cash across the border.
- Seizure of criminal property.

Fifth meeting

- Slovenia (2011)
- Trends, typologies, feedback.
- Strategic analysis.
- New payment-methods and emerging threats.
- Implementation of provisions and prevention of terrorist financing (legislation, case study).



Next steps

- Thematic conference
- Joint work plans
- Harmonization of statutory legislation.
- Expansion of membership.