



Cooperation between Norway, Slovakia and Ukraine to prevent smuggling of hazardous materials

The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, the Slovakian Presidium of the Police Force and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine have cooperated for enhanced detection and interception of illicit Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear materials on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border as a project under Norway Grants.



Well-trained personnel at the border region are the key to a safer environment. Photo: Roland Kovacs, NRPA.

Goals and objectives of the Project

The goal of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the Police Force Presidium of the Slovak Republic and the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine at the Slovakian-Ukrainian border concerning combating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats, through exchange of experience, best practices and capacity building.

Through the project “SOS-Alert Solution – Cross-border cooperation project for enhanced detection and interception of CBRN materials on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border”, the partners improved the security situation in relation to CBRN threats on the Slovakian-Ukrainian border and in the border

regions. The focus was to combat illicit trafficking at the so-called "East – West criminal route", which runs from Ukraine through Slovakia to other countries in Western Europe, thus strengthening security measures at the entry to the Schengen area.

The project had a budget of 1.1 million euros, of which the Norway Grants covered 85% and 15% covered by Slovakia.

The project started in June 2015 and was completed in April 2017.

Project partners

- Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Presidium of the Police Force, Department for detection of hazardous materials and environmental crime (PPF)
- State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS)
- The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA)
- International Security and Emergency Management Institute (ISEMI)
- Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine (STCU)

Main project activities

- Initial working meeting at the Slovakian-Ukrainian border
- Procurement of technical equipment for Slovakia and Ukraine (Equipment for educational and training activities and exercises)
- Joint evaluation of threats at the Slovak-Ukrainian border (3 workshops)
- Development of a Joint Operational Concept (3 workshops)
- Joint education and training of SBGS and Slovak Police Force members, customs officers, other competent authorities, prosecutors and rescue units (17 training courses)

- Study visits to Iceland, Norway and France in order to establish new contacts and capacity building with relevant actors in the CBRN safety and security field and to exchange experience and best practices
- Joint CBRN exercise
- Final conference

Results

The project has enabled the SBGS and the PPF to acquire the special detection equipment and personal protective equipment for training and all subsequent activities of specialized security forces of Ukraine and Slovakia. The project also funded the extensive education of Ukrainian and Slovakian security forces employees in the field of CBRN security to prevent illicit trafficking. This project resulted in better detection capabilities and jointly trained personnel from both sides of the border.

More information available at:

- http://cbrn.sk/about_the_project.html
- <http://eeagrants.org/project-portal/project/SK08-0001>



Norway Grants helps the partners to learn best practices from other countries. From the final conference in Slovakia. Photo: Martin Kšiňan, ISEMI