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### THE DIRECTOR’S CABINET

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*Sarajevo, 2016*
Dear all,

You have in front of you the new issue of BP BiH Brochure 2016. In it, you can read about activities realized in the previous period, enhancement of cooperation with BiH institutions and international partners in fight against crime, and for security of borders, how we cooperate with the citizens, as well as about our plans for future. In the introduction, I would like to say something more about current activities aimed at increasing efficiency of BP BiH, and to thank those without whom our progress wouldn't be possible.

For a long time, BP BiH has been responding to all tasks and challenges using the existing human capacities, but it is indispensable to employ more staff for further development of this agency, in particular aiming at BiH to become a member of the EU. What is encouraging is the fact that BP BiH will educate new generation of cadets in 2016. By changes to the Rulebook on Basic Training Duration for Border Police Cadets, level I and II, the training duration for cadets has been shortened.

In parallel, we are working on creation of a new Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH, aiming at modernisation of this police agency. Based on bilateral cooperation between German Federal Police and BP BiH, working groups have been formed, consisting of German experts and officers of the BiH police agency, to work on creation of the new Rulebook. For enhancement of search activities of BP BiH, it is particularly relevant to emphasise that the EU Delegation to BiH has approved the project of implementation of registration plate readers at border crossing points in BiH. The existing application for border checks has, in high percentage, enhanced search activities of this police agency in detecting persons or documents, wanted by competent BiH authorities or Interpol. By enhancement of the application, by which registration plates will be read automatically, search activities will be additionally enhanced, and traffic of people and transportation means across the BiH state border will speed up, which is in accordance with the EU standards. BP BiH has a new, more modern and transparent website, and in 2016, this police agency will be present on social networks, whereby we want to enhance communication with the citizens. We invite them to join us in fight against all forms of crime and corruption, and to report to our officers all information about criminal offences. I express my gratitude to all those who have supported work of BP BiH in the previous period. Along with those already mentioned in BiH, I particularly emphasise support of the Ministry of Security of BiH, Joint Commission for Defence and Security of BiH, and Independent Board of Parliamentary Assembly. I thank many international organizations that supported us, in particular FRONTEX, DCAF and IOM.

I would also emphasise the proven friends of BP BiH, Governments of Federal Republic Germany and the United States of America. In 2016, we want to strengthen criminal intelligence component of BP BiH, and due to increase in activities, we expect better results in detection of criminal offences in relation to illegal trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs. With bigger number of police officers, and resolved problems such as poor infrastructure at a number of border crossing points, I am convinced that the citizens, competent authorities and international partners can expect significantly improved results in all areas of work of BP BiH.
During 2015, state border of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been crossed by 41,980,986 persons, including 21,180,286 persons registered at entrance and 20,800,700 persons registered at the exit. Comparing to 2014, traffic of persons over the state border is increased by approximately five percent. In 2015, there were registered 3,009 crossings or attempted crossings of the state border of 1,270 persons for whom competent authorities announced warrants, searches, measures of forbidden crossing of the state border, and those security-wise interesting persons, which is by 16% more than in 2014. During 2015, 382 persons wanted by competent authorities of BiH, were arrested at the border crossings.

**Detected 757 foreign documents**

91 person were apprehended based on Interpol warrant, including persons convicted and suspected for the most serious crimes: murders, rapes, abuse of minors, joint criminal enterprise and terrorism. Moreover, 283 documents were found searched for upon different ground, or the competent authorities announced them annulled/invalid, i.e. stolen/lost. 757 foreign documents were detected based on Interpol searches, which is by 7.83 percent more than in 2014. As compared to the same period of 2014, number of foreigners that were not allowed to enter BiH was increased by 445 persons. Crossing of the state border was not

283 documents were found searched for upon different ground, or the competent authorities announced them annulled/invalid, i.e. stolen/lost.

"BP BiH detected 254 criminal offences that 306 persons were reported for.

Events
Prevented smuggling of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition to the EU states

In April 2016, at International Border Crossing Point Brod, officers of Border Police prevented smuggling of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition to the European Union states. The weapons and the ammunition were found during search of a passenger car Lancia, with BiH registration plates, at the exit from BiH. In the custom made bunker for smuggling, under the floor of the car, they found: five automatic rifles and four pistols with accompanying chargers for ammunition, 381 pieces of rifle ammunition and 75 pieces of pistol ammunition. Citizen of BiH was apprehended for reasonable doubt of committed criminal offence “illicit trade in weapons and military equipment, and dual use products”.

allowed for 6.291 means of transportation, which is by 21.07 percent more, as compared to 2014. During 2015, at border crossing points, in border area and inland, Border Police of BiH registered 254 criminal offences for which 306 persons were reported.

Apprehended based on searches

In February 2016, officers of BPU Bijeljina apprehended citizen of Republic of Serbia who was wanted by Cantonal Court Sarajevo for criminal offences “Genocide” and “Destruction of Cultural and Historical Monuments”. In March 2016, in the South of BiH, officers of BPU Neum apprehended citizen of Germany who was wanted by Interpol Ankara for criminal offence “unauthorized production and sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors”. Mid-December 2015, in the North-West, officers of BPU Gradiška apprehended a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina, having found by border checks that he was wanted by the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) for criminal offence “war crime against civilians”. At the end of January 2016, they apprehended a citizen of Slovenia, wanted by Public Security Centre Banja Luka for criminal offence “murder”. More persons were apprehended at Sarajevo International Airport, based on warrants issued by BiH competent authorities and courts, for criminal offences: “people smuggling”, “murder”, “unauthorized trafficking of narcotic drugs”, “complicity in production and sale of narcotic drugs”, “robbery”, “fraud”, “theft”, “violent behaviour”, etc.

Smuggling of goods

Officers of Border Police of BiH registered cases of smuggling of different goods in all parts of state border of BiH. Cigarettes, tobacco, textile, livestock, money, narcotic drugs, people, protected animal species, poisons etc., were subjects of smuggling. During 2015, BP BiH seized 17.895 packs of cigarettes - 86.499 KM estimated value, 320 kilograms of cut tobacco - 7.500 KM estimated value, four head of livestock - 12.500 KM estimated value, 2.050 pieces of textile products - 39.860 KM estimated value, 165.294 pieces and technical products - 62.564 KM estimated value, etc. The money, amount of 198.071 KM was temporary confiscated.

Passport control at Sarajevo International Airport

Prevented smuggling of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition to the EU states

Five rifles and four pistols seized

Numerous cases of prevented smuggling of cut tobacco
Networking against corruption

In mid-April 2015, BP BiH conducted operational action Mreža (Net-work) aimed at combating criminal offences of corruption and smuggling. 11 locations were searched and 11 persons were apprehended, including seven custom officers of Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH for reasonable doubt of committed crimes in order to gain illegal property: “conspiracy to commit a crime”, “abuse of service position or official authority”, “receiving gifts or other forms of benefits” and “smuggling”, as well as two citizens of BiH for reasonable doubt of committing criminal offences “smuggling” and “giving gifts and other forms of benefits”. For reasonable doubt of committed corruptive offences, two police officers of BPU Gradiška were apprehended too. Support to BP BiH in the activities of the operational action Mreža (Network) was given by Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH.

Detected marijuana plants

Working on prevention of unauthorized traffic of narcotic drugs, in the beginning of Jun 2015, police officers of BPU Doljani, detected 20 plants of marijuana up to 1,50 meters high. At the same spot, citizen of BiH and Republic of Croatia was apprehended for reasonable doubt of committing criminal offence “unauthorized production and traffic of narcotic drugs”.

Afghans were hiding in a leather transported from Bulgaria

In mid-May 2015, police officers of BPU Bijeljina, in cooperation with officers of Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH, detected three Afghans in the truck type Scania, with Bulgarian registration plates. Driver was transporting leather from Bulgaria, not knowing that there were illegal migrants in the vehicle.

Armenians and Turks attempted to cross the border illegally

In October 2015, officers of BPU Trebinje detected six citizens of Armenia illegally crossing the state border. The foreign citizens came to the area of BiH on foot from direction of Montenegro and were detected in border area of Bileća. Moreover, at the end of October, joint patrol of Border Police Unit Doljani and Borde Police Station Metković of MoI of Republic of Croatia, prevented illegal border crossing of eight citizens of Turkey from BiH into Croatia.
In July 2015, during the border check of the truck with BiH registration plates, police officers of BPU Zvornik detected 40 lambs without required documentation. The vehicle was controlled in border area of Drinjača in the area of Zvornik. In August 2015, police officers prevented smuggling of larger amount of goods from Serbia to BiH. The goods that smugglers were transporting by a boat over the Drina River, included cloths, construction material, forbidden pills, creams and bottles with vitamins.

Prevented smuggling of goods, pills and cattle

In mid-September 2015, police officers of Border Police Unit for Support and Control of Field Office North-East Bijeljina in cooperation with officers of Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH, prevented illegal traffic of larger amount of fruits without proper documentation required for an import. The goods were detected by border check of vehicle type minivan with BiH registration plates, in border area of Bijeljina.

Prevented illegal traffic of fruits

At the end of December 2015, at the International Border Crossing Klobuk, officers of Border Police of BiH prevented smuggling of four kilograms of marijuana. The drug was detected during border control of a bus travelling from Podgorica to Nevesinje in personal luggage of a citizen of Montenegro. He was apprehended for reasonable doubt of committed criminal offence “illegal traffic in drugs”.

Four kilograms of marijuana smuggled in the bus

In October 2015, at International Border Crossing Point Gradiška, at the exit of BiH, police officers prevented smuggling of cigarettes, by checking vehicle Renault with Austrian registration plates. In a modified part of the vehicle, which was driven by citizen of BiH, 2,700 packs of cigarettes, mostly Marlboro brand, were detected.

Seized 2,700 packs of cigarettes

www.granpol.gov.ba  |  Border Police of BiH  |  9
At the end of January 2016, police officers at Sarajevo International Airport, by screening check-up, detected larger amount of unreported money on flights to Belgrade and Istanbul. There were: 9,050 euros, 27,330 dinars, 9,000 forints and 190 KM in the bag of citizen of Republic of China. They also detected 19,570 euros in the trousers pocket of citizen of Turkey.

A few days later, officers at Tuzla International Airport prevented citizen of BiH in his attempt of illegal traffic of 12,150 euros.

During 2015 and at the beginning of 2016, officers of Border Police Unit Trebinje seized 29,440 packs of different brands of cigarettes with no required documentation. Cigarettes have usually been smuggled from Montenegro to BiH. The largest amount of cigarettes have been seized in border area of Trebinje and Bileća, and smaller amount at border crossings. Reports against persons who smuggled cigarettes were submitted to the Prosecution of BiH for criminal offence “smuggling”.

Prevented attempt of illegal money transfer

At the end of January 2016, police officers at Sarajevo International Airport, by screening check-up, detected larger amount of unreported money on flights to Belgrade and Istanbul. There were: 9,050 euros, 27,330 dinars, 9,000 forints and 190 KM in the bag of citizen of Republic of China. They also detected 19,570 euros in the trousers pocket of citizen of Turkey. A few days later, officers at Tuzla International Airport prevented citizen of BiH in his attempt of illegal traffic of 12,150 euros.

Serbian citizens arrested three hours after the robbery in Bijeljina

In April 2016, thanks to cooperation between officers of BP BiH and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska, two Serbian citizens, suspected of having robbed a jeweller’s shop in the centre of Bijeljina a few hours earlier, were apprehended at International Border Crossing Point Rača. During the robbery, they used firearms, whereby a large quantity of jewellery was stolen. They were controlled separately, in two taxis while exiting Bosnia and Herzegovina. The gold was detected during control of the Serbian citizens and their belongings.

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Citizen of Iraq with forged Greek passport

Mid-February 2016, Citizen of Iraq with the forged passport has been controlled as passenger in vehicle type Passat, with Bulgarian registration plates, at the International Border Crossing Rača at the exit of BiH. He was apprehended and, along with a report on criminal offence “forgery of a document” handed over to District Prosecutor’s Office Bijeljina for further procedure.

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**More than a ton of tobacco detected in Orašje**

At the end of February, within strengthened measures on prevention of smuggling of excise goods, and during search of a flat and other premises owned by a BiH citizen, officers of BPU Orašje found the following: 966 kg of dried tobacco leaves, 174 kg of cut tobacco and a cutting machine.

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**Cigarettes and tobacco detected in a Mercedes**

At the beginning of March 2016, in the area of Zenica, police officers of Border Police of BiH with assistance of officers of the Ministry of Interior of Zenica-Doboj Canton, prevented illegal traffic of 3,470 packs of cigarettes and 14.6 kilograms of cut tobacco, with no required documentation. The goods were detected during control of a Mercedes with BiH registration plates, in which two citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina were driving.

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**Three cases of smuggling cigarettes detected in one weekend**

Mid-April 2016, prevented smuggling of 4,730 packs of different brand cigarettes. In the first case, smuggling of cigarettes was detected in border area, place Međaši, when two persons transported cigarettes on a bicycle, having previously illegally transported them by a boat over the Drina River, to the territory of BiH. The second case was detected at the entrance to BiH at International Border Crossing Point Popovi, by border check of a Renault, with Slovenian registration plates. During the search, 1,760 packs of different brand cigarettes, with excise stamps of Serbia, were found in several bunkers made for that purpose. The vehicle was driven by a citizen of Republic Slovenia. Officers of BPU Hum seized 379 packs of different brand cigarettes, on the road Metaljka – Čajniče. The cigarettes were detected during border check of a Volvo, with BiH registration plates, driven by a BiH citizen.

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**Prevented smuggling of sweets and technical goods**

At the end of January 2016, officers of Support and Control Unit of the Field Office North-West Gradiška, prevented illegal traffic of new and used technical items, and a large quantity of sweets. The goods were found in border area of Gradiška.

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**Prevented border crossing with forged ID cards**

Police officers of Border Police Unit Brod temporarily seized three forged Romanian ID cards which Turkish citizens presented while crossing the state border. At the end of March 2016, these persons were controlled on a bus travelling from Sarajevo to Dortmund, at the exit from Bosnia and Herzegovina at International Border Crossing Point Brod.

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**52 kilograms of marijuana detected**

Mid-April 2016, officers of Border Police Unit Trebinje prevented smuggling of 52 kilograms of marijuana in the border area - place Jablan Do.
DRAGAN KULIĆ, HEAD OF FO NORTH-EAST BIJELJINA

WE ARE MONITORING CURRENT MOVEMENTS OF MIGRANTS IN THE REGION

Head of Field Office North-East Bijeljina, chief inspector Dragan Kulić has started his police career in 1995. He shared with us his experiences regarding adjustment to different positions, expectations from his officers and priorities in future work of the Office.

Interviewed by: Jasminka Mujić

How did your police career develop within BP BiH? What was your favourite position?

Prior to my assignment in BP BiH I was Station Commander in police station. In BP BiH I have performed duties and tasks at different levels. At local level I was Assistant Commander for Operation and Organization and at regional level I have performed duties of Head of Field Office. At central level I was Chief of Operations Center, Head of Operations Administration, Director’s Adviser and Head of Training and Development Office. Bearing in mind that these were outstanding positions, but at different levels of organization, each of them was professional challenge and implied great responsibility.

Biographical sketches

Dragan Kulić was born in 1966 in Bijeljina. Upon completion of Police Academy in Belgrade, in 1991, he got lawyers degree. Then he graduated from Faculty of Civil Defence in Belgrade (Faculty of Security Studies in Belgrade) and Postgraduate from Law Faculty in Bijeljina and holds a Master degree in law science. Within Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Srpska, he worked as commander of police station and in BP BiH he was in charge of organizational units at local, regional and central level. Along with his professional engagement, he deals with scientific and pedagogical work. Between 2001 and 2006, he participated in teaching process at High School for Internal Affairs in Banja Luka. Moreover, he teaches at courses and seminars for investigators for prevention and combating cross-border crimes. He published more than 20 scientific and expert works, about criminal justice and criminal police. He is married and has two children.
Could you tell us briefly about development, organization and area of responsibility of Field Office North-East?

Field Office North-East placed in Bijeljina was established on 28 December 2001, as the first basic organizational unit at regional level. It is comprised of five internal organizational units: Border Police Units Bijeljina, Brčko, Orašje, Brod and Unit for Support and Control. The scope of these units includes municipalities of Bijeljina, Orašje, Šamac, Odžak, Derventa, Brod and District of Brčko. This area is characteristic because of the state border with Republic of Serbia and Republic of Croatia that goes along the rivers Drina and Sava. Very frequent border crossing points are under the competence of this Field Office: Brod, Šamac, Orašje, Rača, as well as security issues, including different forms of cross-border crimes, primarily smuggling of excise and other goods, narcotics, consumer goods, documents forgery, etc.

Which activities from the last year were significant for FO North-East?

Last year was marked by organizational-operational measures undertaken in order to improve working results in all areas of work. When it comes to border checks performed in order to provide legal crossing of the state border of persons, transportation means and goods, a certain measures regarding rising efficiency were undertaken. These measures resulted in increased number of detected persons and documents that have been found wanted by competent authorities. Moreover, when it comes to prevention and combating cross-border crimes, increased number of detected criminal offences was registered. These are the most common criminal offences that we are facing with: “forgery of a document”, “unauthorized production and traffic of drugs” and “smuggling”. Special emphasize, in previous period, was on protection and surveillance of the border aimed at prevention of illegal migrations, in accordance to current migrant flows in the region and in neighbouring countries.

Since you have been performing different police activities, within different organizational units, which areas, according to your opinion, could be improved the most?
Within domain of human resources, it is possible to improve system of grading and evaluation of working results, and develop system for promotion based on management of competences and working effects. In domain of material and technical means, it is necessary to provide additional specialized equipment for border surveillance (video-surveillance system, thermo-vision cameras, sensor systems, etc.), as well as in domain of border checks (registration plates’ readers, equipment for vehicle inspection, for detection of live organisms, for detection of explosives, chemicals and precursors, etc.). In order to conduct the above mentioned activities, it is necessary to provide normative and legal preconditions.

**What will be your work priorities in the future period?**

Fulfilment of strategic goals that will be set up by BP BIH management before organizational units, and which primarily refers to continued improvement of efficiency of border checks and border surveillance aiming to increase level of security and state border protection while, at the same time, providing optimal traffic of passengers, goods and transportation means across the state border. Improvement of activities regarding prevention and combating cross-border crimes, with special emphasize on combating trafficking in human beings, narcotics, weapons, forgery of documents, etc. Improvement and development of partnerships and mutual cooperation with other police bodies and law enforcement agencies, citizens and mutual trust building and enhancement. In the next period it is necessary to pay special attention at intensified monitoring and analyses of the situation regarding mass migration flows, as well as to identification and analyses of risk indicators aiming to adequately respond to current migration crises in the region.

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Day of BP BiH to all employees, and to wish them much success in their professional and personal life.

**Along with your professional duties, you are also engaged in the scientific work?**

Professional challenges, as well as duties of police officers regarding continued professional improvement, and certain predispositions acquired during educational process, determined my involvement and engagement in the field of theoretic and expert work. Such activity, among the other things, includes attending scientific and expert conferences and symposiums where theoretical and professional works being presented, and then in accordance with standard procedures being published in Collection of Works and in Professional Magazines. As result of my work to date in the above mentioned area, I have published more than 20 scientific and expert works, on criminal justice and criminal police, as well as an expert publication titled “Actions aimed at obtaining evidence in the investigation under the supervision of the prosecutor and the legality of the collected evidence” published by High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**And at the end, what would be your message for policemen and policewomen regarding Day of BP BiH?**

I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the Day of BP BiH to all employees and to wish them much success in their professional and personal life. Also, I would recommend them to develop and affirm their own integrity, and in that way integrity of the institution they forked in, and to harmonize their actions and proceedings with the highest professional and ethical standards, what is in their own best interest and in the interest of BP BIH as whole.
These are the words of ceremonial oath spoken determinedly and unanimously by 20 cadets in the rank of “junior inspectors” in February 2016, at the Agency for Education and Professional Training in Mostar. The second generation of “junior inspectors” who were attending basic police training of the second level, was promoted at the ceremony. By passing the final exam, they fulfilled conditions for the rank of “junior inspector”.

**Educational process**

During the education which started in August 2015, cadets passed three...
phases of educational process: theoretical classes with practical exercises, practical training and systematization of teaching materials with final exam. Training of the second generation of cadets in the rank of “junior inspector” is completed in accordance with the new curriculum that has been harmonized with the curriculum for all police agencies and according to EU standards. Training had 955 classes. Upon the finalization of the first phase of theoretical part of educational process, practical-operational training was conducted, introducing cadets with system, functioning, competences and tasks of organizational units of BP BiH.

Ceremonial promotion

Director of the Agency for Education and Professional Training, Branko Vukoja handed certificates to cadets. Director of Border Police of BiH, Zoran Galić said, at the ceremony that only with professionally qualified staff, Border Police of BiH can handle rising challenges of state border surveillance and control and combat all forms of cross border crime. He addressed to new working colleges: “Today you will take the oath and I have no doubt in your determination and devotion to accept all professional challenges that stands before you. I am completely sure that you chose the right, but rocky road, which you will follow during your professional carrier and I wish you many success in your work, good health and happiness.”

Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dragan Mektić congratulated completion of the training and expressed his satisfaction with another generation of BP BiH cadets being trained. He promised that he will, within his competences, support police agencies in their work and recruitment of new cadets.

The best cadet

Since the middle of February, police officers in the rank of “junior inspector” are deployed to the positions within BP BiH. Haris Jaganjac, who is working in BPU Višegrad has been declared the best cadet of the second generation in the rank of “junior inspector”. “I am extremely well accepted by colleagues. Everybody showed readiness to share their valu-
able knowledge and experiences. By working at position of inspector for investigations, I got confirmation that this is the profession that I was looking forward to and that I see as my future job”, says Jaganjac. He emphasizes that during the training, he gained knowledge about police works, criminalistics science and law. He said that trainers were very committed and ready to help cadets during all phases of educational process. What is going to remind Haris of the training, to the end of his life, is the new friendships, because, as Haris said, these friendships helped them to be more efficient and productive in everyday tasks. “From the beginning we became friends and help each other in work and in studying. I believe that time we spent together resulted with great team-building. Significant factor in personal progress is to be sure in getting help from colleagues without hesitation and to build a trust”, Jaganjac concluded.

New skills

Unlike “junior inspectors”, 100 cadets of the seventh generation in the rank of “police officers” are still in the training. During 12 months, which is duration of professional education of attendants of basic police training of the first level, cadets will have 1.645 teaching and working classes divided in three teaching phases. The curricula is implemented for 14 subjects (in the field of: police jobs and code of conduct, handling weapons and shooting skills, criminalistics, traffic safety and driving police vehicle, special physical education, physical culture, constitutional order and state administration system, psychology, criminal law, misdemeanour law, criminal procedural law, informatics and communications, human rights and English language). At the Agency for Education and Professional Training in Mostar, they pointed out that future police officers, beside learning and gaining new skills, have to take care of everything. Cadets start day by getting up at six o’clock. The next are: gymnastic, breakfast, inspection of rooms and common premises done by mentors, line-up, classes, obligatory learning and maintaining the campus. Free activities come after dinner, but at 23 hours, it must be peace and quiet in the halls. Cadets shall conduct practical part of education within organizational units of BP BiH, implemented by Training and Development Office of BP BiH. After successfully completed training, the cadets will be employed on trial, for a period of 12 months. BP BiH has already educated six generations of cadets of the first level in the rank of “police officer”.

Training had 955 classes, and upon finalization of the first phase of theoretical part of educational process, practical-operational training was conducted
THE DAY AND THE 15th ANNIVERSARY OF BP BiH WERE CELEBRATED

SOLEMN ACADEMY

The most significant acknowledgements were handed to police officers, civil servants and staff members, as well as to agencies and institutions, which contributed to work and development of the first state level multi-ethnic agency.

15th Anniversary and the Day of Border Police of BiH were celebrated by a Solemn Academy on 11 June 2015 in Sarajevo, at which most significant acknowledgements were handed to police officers, civil servants and staff members, as well as to agencies and institutions which, through partner relations, contributed to work and development of the first state-level multi-ethnic agency. Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, addressed the invitees, talking about development of the agency, its fifteen-year journey, results and activities, and strategic objectives for the future period.

Minister Dragan Mektić handed Silver Police Badges to Milan Trapara, Josip Šako and Rasim Adilović.

BP BiH had achieved exceptional results in the past 15 years, but that this agency was facing many challenges, due to the fact that, by expansion of the Schengen Zone, BiH would become the guardian of the external border of European Union. At the Solemn Academy, Director Zoran Galić handed acknowledgements for special merits in work and explicit contribution to raising reputation of BP BiH, to radio-communication technician, Adi Džanović, independent administrator for technical support, Dragana Elez, independent administrator for personnel affairs, Mirza Bosović, and Head of Administration Department of BP BiH, Mustafa Ovčina.
Border Police of BiH expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Security of BiH

Minister of Security of BiH handed police medals for bravery to three police officers. One of the rewarded, steersman of Border Police Unit Brod, Niko Ćukić, demonstrated unselfish dedication during floods in BiH, while evacuating population from the flooded area for days, in times when his own family was evacuated and his house with outbuildings flooded. Minister Mektić handed police medal for bravery to border control police officer in BPU Hum, Vinko Pejović, for frequent engagement in helping citizens in emergency situations, and for participating in rescue actions during floods. Moreover, medal for bravery was awarded to Damir Topalović from Central Investigation Office of BP BiH, who rescued a ten-year old girl, who was life-threatened, from quicksand in the river Drina, in 2014 in Goražde.

Minister Mektić handed significant acknowledgements and Silver Police Badges to Milan Trapara, Inspector for Strategic Planning and European Integration, Josip Šako, former Head of Investigations Department at Central Investigation Office, and Rasim Adilović, who was by authorisation of the Director performing tasks and duties of the Commander of BPU Zvornik. Director Galić handed appreciation letters for long-term cooperation and contribution to work and development of BP BiH, to the representatives of: KM Trade from Sarajevo, Faculty of Criminalistics, Criminology and Security Studies, Ministry of Interior of the Federation of BiH, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Srpska, Service for Foreigners Affairs of BiH, Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH, Intelligence and Security Agency of BiH, Prosecution of BiH and Ministry of Security of BiH. A female music ensemble of Academy of Music in Sarajevo performed at the Solemn Police Academy.
In October 2015, Deputy Director of BP BiH, Zijad Srabović, met the UNDP Experts for Fight against Terrorism and Corruption, Philip Peirce and Filip Dragović, Head of Security and Justice Sector, Amela Ćosović-Medić, and Manager of the Program for the Rule of Law, Klaudija Kuljuh. The reason for the visit of UNDP Delegation was enhancement of cooperation in the area of implementing strategies for fight against terrorism, corruption and organized crime.

UNDP Delegation visited BP BiH

Meeting with the Internal Security Attaché of the Embassy of France in BiH

Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, and Head of Operations Administration of BP BiH, Predrag Radojičić, met the Internal Security Attaché of the Embassy of France in BiH, Eric Emeraux, in October 2015. The topic of the meeting was security situation in BiH, region and beyond. They also agreed on continuance of cooperation.

Meeting of delegations of Serbia and BiH in Bijeljina

At the end of November 2015, a meeting was held between delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic Serbia, at the HQ of Field Office North-East. They analysed implementation of mutual agreements on cooperation, and discussed the current refugee crisis in the region. They agreed to start initiatives before the competent authorities in BiH and Serbia, for conclusion of new agreements which would be harmonised with the EU standards.

UNHCR representatives visited BP BiH

At the end of January 2016, Director Zoran Galić, and Deputy Director Zijad Srabović, met at the Head Office with the Head of International Protection Department of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in BiH, Stephanie Woldenberg, and Senior Assistant for International Protection of UNHCR in BiH, Ljiljana Kokotović. They discussed UNHCR support in strengthening BP BiH. Modalities of further cooperation were agreed upon.
Handover of IBCP Bijača

Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, attended the ceremonial handover of IBCP Bijača, in February 2016. The third phase of works, after which IBCP Bijača has become one of the most modern border crossing points in the region, was financed by European Union investment of five million euros.

Representatives of the EU Delegation in BiH visited BP BiH

At the end of February 2016, management of BP, Zoran Galić, Zijad Srabović, and Slobodan Krstić, discussed with Head of Section of Justice and Home Affairs, and Public Administration Reform at the EU Delegation to BiH, Chloé Berger, and the Delegation Programme Manager, Brigitte Kuchar, future projects implemented with financial support of EU, in relation to competence of BP BiH. It was emphasized that the project of vehicle plate readers implementation at border crossing points in BiH was approved.

First visit of the Ambassador of Brazil in BiH

In February 2016, Director Zoran Galić met with the Ambassador of Brazil in BiH, H.E. Manoel Antonio de Fonseca Couto Gomes Pereira. This was the first visit of the Ambassador of Brazil in BiH, so they agreed on cooperation modalities of the two institutions for the next period.

Military-diplomatic representatives accredited in BiH visited BP BiH

In March 2016, Border Police of BiH was visited by military-diplomatic representatives accredited in BiH. Head of Operations Administration of BP BiH, Predrag Radojičić, introduced the military diplomatic representatives from Austria, China, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Russia, Turkey, USA, United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia, to organization, functioning and activities conducted by BP BiH.

Ninth CBRN National Focal Points meeting in Georgia

In April 2016, Head of Director’s Cabinet of BP BiH, Radiša Samardžija, participated in the Ninth CBRN CoE National Focal Points Meeting for South East and Eastern Europe, held in Tbilisi, Georgia. European experts and CBRN national focal points discussed regional needs and gaps on waste management.
The previous year 2015, and the beginning of 2016, were marked by a refugee crisis in the region and worldwide. In BiH, there were no arrivals to the border of large or small groups of migrants from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, registered.

Framework Plan

In accordance with the national
level Action Plan, BP BiH took all necessary measures and activities to adequately prepare for a possible infl ow of refugees to the BiH border. A Framework Action Plan of BP BiH has been enacted, for case of a mass migration infl ow to the territory of BiH. This Plan foresees redeployment of human, material and technical resources, in accordance with possibilities, to the parts of the state border where possibly required. The planned measures, inter alia, provide for human treatment of migrants/refugees, in accordance with legislation in the area of migration and asylum, and with international law. Moreover, cooperation has been intensified with all relevant authorities for the Middle East refugee issues, in BiH and in neighbouring countries, as well as at international level with FRONTEX and IOM. Apart from the aforementioned, BP BiH has actively participated in the BiH Ministry of Security Coordination Body for Migration Issues in BiH.

By closing the so-called Balkan Route, the focus is on possible mass illegal migration over the BiH territory. In relation to that, border surveillance has been strengthened, with maximum engagement of police officers on the state border protection, particularly in detected places, i.e. routes used for illegal crossings and smuggling. Officers of BP BiH survey the border with service dogs, and supported by specialist equipment, such as thermal vision cameras.

179 illegal crossings were registered

In 2015, 179 attempted illegal crossings of the state border were registered. Police officers detected in illegal crossing of the state border 43 persons at border crossing points, and 136 persons outside border crossing points. Among the detected persons, there were 77 BiH citizens, 35 Turkish, 14 Serbian, 13 Croatian, eight Albanian, eight Montenegrin, four Afghan, three Iraqi and three Armenian citizens, one Chinese, one Pakistani, one Finnish, one Hungarian and one Congo citizen, three persons from Kosovo area and six persons whose citizenship was impossible to identify. In accordance with the signed international agreements on readmission-admission of persons, 44 foreign citizens, who had illegally entered some of the neighbouring countries from our country, have been readmitted. Statistics indicate that these were individual and periodical illegal crossings of the state border, and are not much different than the statistics of the previous years.

BiH is not exposed to a mass infl ow of illegal migrants from the neighbouring and regional countries
During 2015 Border Police of BiH (BP BiH) intensified cooperation with institutions in BiH. 1,613 cases including 54 criminal offences and 1,313 misdemeanours were handed over to Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH and to inspection and police agencies. There were several significant meetings and visits during the second half of 2015.

Visits to BP BiH

In August 2015, Deputy Director Zijad Srabović participated at the meeting of Task Force for Fight Against Terrorism, chaired by Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office of BiH, Goran Salihović. Officials of State Investigation and Protection Members of Joint Committee on Defence and Security of Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and Border Police management

COOPERATION WITHIN BiH

MEETINGS AIMING TO DEVELOP BP BiH

New models of cooperation aiming to more efficient fight against cross-border crimes, corruption and terrorism

Minister and his deputy visited BP BiH

Zoran Galić and Vjekoslav Vuković discussed citizens’ complaints
At the meeting with representatives of Ministries of Internal Affairs of Republic Srpska and Tuzla Canton held in Bijeljina, it was discussed about enhancement of efficiency in operational actions in fight against all forms of cross border crime.
In January, Director of Border Police of BiH, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, and Assistant Director for Organization and Operations, Slobodan Krstić, met in Mostar with Director of the Agency for Education and Professional Training, Branko Vukoja, and his associates. At the meeting they discussed changes and amendments to the Rulebook on Basic Training Duration an Obligations of the Cadets during the Training, as well as to the Basic Training Curriculum for Border Police Cadets of 1st and 2nd level.

In February, management of BP BiH met at the Head Office with Second Deputy Chair of Independent Board of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly Mato Jozić, members Adisa Bećić and Miroslav Škorić and Secretary Ivana Lovrić. Director Zoran Galić especially thanked Independent Board of Parliamentary Assembly for their support that preceded Decision of Council of Ministers of BiH in regard to training of new generation of 170 cadets of BP BiH.

Illegal migration under control

In February, Director of BP BiH visited Service for Foreigners’ Affairs of BiH for the first time since Slobodan Ujić was appointed to the position of Director. At the meeting it was concluded that BP BiH and Service for Foreigners’ Affairs exchange information on every day basis and conduct joint activities, in order to timely act in case that migrant crisis spreads to BiH. It was concluded that the BiH agencies, thanks to cooperation, have put illegal migration under control, and that joint actions are necessary to respond to all security threats in future.

At the end of March, Director of Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, Head of Office for Professional Standards and Internal Control, Vladimir Popović and Head of Administration Department, Mustafa Ovčina met with Head of Public Security Centre Trebinje, Žarko Laketa. Activities in case of migration flow into area of operational responsibility of these two police institutions were agreed. Management of BP BiH visited Joint Centre for Police Cooperation between Serbia, Montenegro and BiH in Trebinje.

“Thanks to cooperation, BiH agencies have put illegal migration under control”
COOPERATION WITH FRONTEX

ENHANCED COOPERATION IN JOINT OPERATIONS AND RISK ANALYSIS

In 2015, officers of BP BiH for the first time participated in Joint Operation “Coordination Points Land 2015”, realised in August and September in BiH at International Border Crossing Point Zupci.

International cooperation of Border Police of BiH with European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (FRONTEX) is among priorities. It is realized based on Working Agreement on Establishment of Operational Cooperation between the Ministry of Security of BiH and FRONTEX. In 2015, officers of BP BiH cooperated with FRONTEX in the area of joint operational actions, trainings and risk analysis.

Training

At the end of September 2015, training of national trainers was realised in the area of fight against trafficking.
in human beings, in Vilnius (Lithuania), in which two officers of BP BiH participated. The newly-appointed Training Coordinator and Virtual Aula Assistant participated in the Annual Training Conference. Officers of BP BiH attended the Conference of Airport Commanders 2015 in Malaga, and Global Conference on Future Border Checks, under the auspices of FRONTEX.

**Joint operations**

In 2015, police officers of BP BiH for the first time participated in Joint Operation “Coordination Points Land 2015”, under the auspices of FRONTEX. It was realized in August and September in BiH, at International Border Crossing Point Zupci. Along with officers of BP BiH, the Operation was conducted by police officers from France, Bulgaria and Croatia. An officer of BP BiH participated in Joint Operation “Focal Points Land 2015”, at IBCP Bajakovo in Croatia. Operation “Focal Points Air 2015” was realized in September, at IBCP Brnik in Slovenia and at International Airport Sarajevo. An officer from Slovenia was deployed at the IAS, while an officer of BP BiH worked at IBCP Brnik with Slovenian colleagues. In preparation of BP BiH participation in Joint Operation “Coordination Points Land 2015”, several meetings with representatives of FRONTEX were held. At one of them, officers of BP BiH were trained for use of Joint Operation Reporting Application (JORA). At the end of 2015, two meetings were held, at which participation of BP BiH in FRONTEX trainings and joint operations in 2016 was agreed. Deputy Director of BP BiH, Zijad Srabović, and Senior Inspector for International Cooperation, Emir Šuman, participated in the Annual Bilateral Talks 2015, in Poland. Moreover, they participated in the meeting of FRONTEX Land Border Sector, in November 2015, in Warsaw.

**Risk analysis**

Officers of BP BiH participated in regular meeting of Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN). At the Annual Analytical Meeting, representatives of BP BiH presented data on illegal migration situation in our country. The data from BiH and other participant countries are used for drafting annual risk analysis in the area of illegal migration of the Western Balkans countries. Police officers also participated in irregular analytical meeting dedicated to the problem of unprecedented volume of migration movements on the Western Balkans Route, workshop on cross border crime indicators, and urgent meeting for establishment of intensive information exchange. Statistical reports were regularly submitted within the FRONTEX WB-RAN. Moreover, a system of daily reporting on the situation with migration flow on the Western Balkans Route was established.

**Joint Operation “Coordination Points 2016”**

In April 2016, Deputy Director of BP BiH, Zijad Srabović, and Senior Inspector for International Cooperation, Emir Šuman, participated in 1st Host Countries Network Conference of the Joint Operation “Coordination Points 2016”, under the auspices of the FRONTEX Land Border Sector. At the Conference in Warsaw, activities of the Operation in 2016 were agreed.
GIANLUCA ROCCO, SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS, AND HEAD OF IOM MISSION IN BiH

COOPERATION WITH BP BiH WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRIORITY FOR IOM

What we can expect in the future is to have small number of migrants trying to enter and transit BiH on their way to the EU also with the support of smugglers/traffickers.

The person who is very familiar with activities, functioning and development of Border Police of BiH, is IOM Sub-regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans, and Head of IOM Mission in BiH, Mr Gianluca Rocco. During his 12-year work in the Western Balkans Region, he often cooperated with managers of BP BiH, and the results of that cooperation are successfully realised projects for operational strengthening of this agency.

Can you, in short, present IOM Mission?

IOM established a Mission in Sarajevo in 1992 within the Koševno Hospital, setting up MEDEVAC Programme to evacuate war-wounded individuals who could not be treated locally. Following the end of the war, IOM expanded its activities to return of refugees from abroad and to assist BiH citizens and refugees resettling to third countries. Today, IOM programmes are mainly focusing on support to the relevant BiH authorities on migration management, prevention of irregular migration and trafficking of human beings, as well as strengthening capacities of BiH institutions to cooperate at the regional level.
You have been facilitating the work of BP BiH for a long time. How do you assess development of this police agency?

The BiH Border Police is a very well established and respected agency. Over the years it has grown into a well-functioning institution that is also playing an essential role within the Western Balkan region. Considering the budget constraints, officers of this agency are well trained and equipped to perform most demanding tasks of securing the BiH borders. Additionally, the BiH Border Police management has very clear long-term goals of EU integration, and cooperates with EU institutions such as Frontex.

Can you, in a few sentences, sum up your view of cooperation between IOM and BP BiH?

IOM has nourished this partnership since the establishment of the State Border Service. The BiH Border Police is a very important strategic partner in migration management. We are ready to work together and to provide our assistance and support. Our partnership included support to the resettlement of refugees, assisted voluntary return for irregular migrants returning to their country of origin as well as support for victims of human trafficking. Currently we implement together national and regional activities in the area of joint border patrols with neighbouring countries and the setting up of the first Trilateral Police Cooperation Centre of BiH, Serbia and Montenegro, located in at the premises of BP BiH in Trebinje. It has also to be mentioned that within some of those projects BP BiH staff was engaged as trainers to share with colleagues their experience.

How has IOM supported work of Joint Police Cooperation Centre of BiH, Serbia and Montenegro?

The Joint Police Cooperation Centre in Trebinje is the first trilateral centre in this region. It is only thanks to the BiH commitment and efforts that it was possible to have three countries agreeing on such initiative. The Centre will allow fast and secure exchange of information and better planning of joint operations, thus significantly contributing to the regional cooperation in border management. IOM supported negotiation process and preparation of the relevant Protocols. It also organised study visit to the EU Police and Customs Cooperation Centre between Austria, Italy and Slovenia in Tarvisio – Thörl-Maglern. Moreover, it donated equipment for the Centre. I would like to thank the UK Government and IOM Development Fund for their financial support for this initiative.

One of IOM Projects, in which BP BiH participates, is “Capacity Building and Strengthening Cooperation between Law Enforcement Agencies from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Serbia”. You have been facilitating the work of BP BiH for a long time. How do you assess development of this police agency?

Biographical sketch

After completing his studies in International Law and having served with the United Nations in Africa, Gianluca Rocco joined the OSCE Mission to BiH working on Election issues in BiH, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. At the end of 1999, he joined IOM. Since 2013, Mr Rocco has been working as a Sub-regional Coordinator for the Western Balkans. During his professional career, he has worked on assisting different government institutions with capacity-building and technical cooperation activities as well as on issues related to border management, refugees, asylum seekers, assisted voluntary return, counter-trafficking, elections and migrants’ rights.
Macedonia and Serbia: Can you present this Project which will be finalised at the end of 2016?

The objective of that initiative, which is funded by the Swiss Government, is to enhance the fight against irregular migration and cross-border transgressions within the region, in order to directly contribute to enhanced security in the Western Balkans and Western Europe. This will be achieved by preparation of the specialised and tailored training curriculum on joint patrols and cross-border cooperation and Regional Transnational Crime Manual. IOM will also support strengthening of cross-border coordination, sharing of information, joint patrols, and joint investigations at the bilateral, trilateral, and regional level. It will all bring operational capacities of Border Police officials of Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia to be further harmonised with the EU/IBM standards. Contribution of BP BiH Border Police has been essential for the success of the project.

How do you assess the situation with the current migration crisis and the so-called Balkan Route?

The BiH Border Police has certainly been taking the right steps to prevent a possible in-flow of migrants, in accordance with the contingency plan that was prepared by the Ministry of Security with the support of IOM and UNHCR. As we all notice, the so-called southern route that could have potentially interested Albania, Montenegro and BiH, has not become extremely active and the numbers of persons transiting through BiH has been limited. With the closing of the Balkan route it seems that the chances of having large number of migrants entering BiH are much lower. However, things might change again and it is important for BiH and BP BiH to have developed such contingency plan. What we can expect in the future is to have small number of migrants trying to enter and transit BiH on their way to the EU also with the support of smugglers/traffickers. For BP BiH, counteracting these criminal networks and managing irregular crossings can be considered as part of their regular activities. I am sure that officers of this police agency will continue to perform well in that area. However, the fact that some of these migrants are vulnerable and in need of protection makes those actions even more complex, and BP BiH will have to ensure a good balance between security and protection of borders with human rights issues and right to asylum.

The new project under the auspices of IOM, in which BP BiH participates, is implemented with an aim to strengthen capacities of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre (JRAC), in which BP BiH also participates. Can you, in short, present the project and its importance, as well as participation of BP BiH in it?
Joint risk analysis centres are key elements in the EU mechanisms for border/migration management. In that context the aim of the Project is strengthening the structure that BiH had already established some time ago, starting with a study to determine existing capacities and activities of the JRAC, especially in relation to analysis of smuggling activities. Building on this study, tailored capacity building training was delivered to analysts at the JRAC on strategic risk analysis concerning smuggling of migrants, goods, drugs, weapons, and stolen vehicles.

In 2015, Border Police of BiH continued intensive cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), through active participation in Border Security Programme. Practical cooperation, under the auspices of the DCAF Programme, aims at the BiH accelerated regional path towards the European Union membership, and joint cooperation in the area of European Integration. In 2015, there were several workshops and meetings held, aimed at experience exchange, education and creation of new regulations, as well as enhancement of the existing ones.

**Common and concrete response**

The first meeting of the heads of cabinets and of border services of South-Eastern Europe countries was held in May 2015 in Belgrade. The participants reviewed the previous progress and concrete results, as well as the outcomes of the three Border Security Programme Components (Schengen Integration, Education and Training, and Coordinated Operational Measures in the Western Balkans Region). During the meeting, Director Zoran Galić pointed out readiness of Border Police of BiH for cooperation in the Programme, and further enhancement of capacities.

The second meeting was held in December in Belgrade, aimed at defining elements of the Regional Action Plan of the DCAF Border Security Programme for the period 2016-2020. They discussed common and concrete response to the current security challenges in the Region. An irregular meeting of the heads of ministries and police services responsible for migration was held in Dubrovnik. The delegations reviewed needs in border and migration management, discussed elements of possible regional response to current security threats, including serious

**In relation to the process of EU integration, but also considering the challenges related to the migration crisis, the cooperation with BP BiH will continue to be priority for IOM**

In relation to the process of EU integration, but also considering the challenges related to the migration crisis, the cooperation with BP BiH will continue to be priority for IOM to enhancement of the exchange of non-personal information in the region and humanitarian border management. Moreover, the project will give the opportunity to BP BiH to interact with their colleagues in the border polices of the region, as well as with representatives of EU institutions, such as Frontex and EASO, and UN Agencies like UNHCR.

**How will cooperation of BP BiH and IOM develop in the following period? Could you announce joint projects?**

In 2015, Border Police of BiH

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**Operational actions**

In 2015, Operational Actions were conducted, based on the Annual Plan of the DCAF Border Security Programme 2015 and conclusions of the "Meeting on Facilitation of Common and Coordinated Measures in the Western Balkans Region under the DCAF Border Security Programme". Operational Action "Vardar", aimed at detection of illegal migrants at the green border, was conducted in May, on the part of the border between Macedonia and Greece. Coordinated Operational Action "Hedera" was aimed at detection of counterfeited and invalid documents, used for crossing of the state border. It was conducted in August and September, at the airports in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro. Border Police of BiH was the bearer of the Operation activities in BiH, which was conducted by police officers at International Airport Sarajevo. During the Action, entry to BiH was refused to 19 foreign citizens, who were controlled in second line checks. Seven foreign citizens were also found staying in BiH without required permits. During the Action "Koštana" in September and October, police officers of BP BiH demonstrated high professional level, while interviewing a large number of refugees crossing the border from Macedonia to Serbia. The Action "Rosa" was conducted in December, simultaneously in five countries: Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and BiH. It was conducted in our country at five Border Crossing Points - Orašje, Gradiška, Karakaj, Zupci and Izačić, targeting second line checks of travel documents. In 2 657 cases, police officers of BP BiH conducted additional second line border checks of documents. Entry to BiH was refused to nine persons from Belarus, Serbia, Moldova and Kosovo; an ID card wanted by Interpol and an invalid BiH travel document were detected. Moreover, a Hungarian citizen was found staying in BiH without required permit, and 115 pcs of sports equipment were detected, for which the owners had no required customs documentation. This Action also confirmed that police agencies of the Western Balkans countries were capable and ready to cooperate and achieve operational results.

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COOPERATION WITH DCAF

**ADOPTED BORDER SECURITY PROGRAMME 2016 - 2020**

In 2015, several workshops and meetings were held, aimed at experience exchange, creation of new regulations, and enhancement of the existing ones.
Biographical sketch of the Chief

Radiša Samardžija was born in 1961, in a village Grab in Trnovo. He graduated as a lawyer in 1985, at the Faculty of Law in Sarajevo. After the studies, he worked at the High Public Prosecution in Sarajevo. After that, he worked as the secretary of the management authorities in Military and Building Institution "National Hero Karlo Batko", then as the Court President and a judge in the Minor Offence Court of the Municipality of Srpska "Stari Grad-Crepoljsko", and as the Head of Service for Personnel, Legal and General Affairs of the Factory of Special Vehicles in Istočno Sarajevo. Since 2000, he has been the Chief of the Director's Cabinet of BP BiH.

He participated in many seminars and workshops in management, leadership, human resource management etc. As a member of expert working groups, he took part in creation of several legal acts and by-laws, of which the most important ones are: the Law on BP BiH, the Law on State Investigation and Protection Agency, the Law on Police Officers of BiH, the Law on Surveillance and Control of Crossings of the State Border (along with creation of all by-law regulations), the Law on Independent and Supervisory Bodies of Police Structure of BiH, the Law on Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and on Agencies for Support to Police Structure of BiH. He actively participated in the work of Legal Reform Working Group of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), and he also participated in ten ministerial conferences on border security in South-eastern European countries. He was the President and a member of the BP BiH Disciplinary Commission for police officers. He is the Chef Editor of the BP BiH Website Editorial Office. In 2008, he was awarded acknowledgment of the BP BiH Director for particular merits in work and explicit contribution to raising the reputation of the service. He is married and has two children.
THE MANAGER WITH THE LONGEST EXPERIENCE IN THE SERVICE IN BP BiH

By the length of service in this institution, I am currently the oldest employee working in BP BiH, i.e. I started working on 15 February 2000. My work practically started right after the enactment of the Law on State Border Service of BiH (SBS), and after the Presidency of BiH had appointed the Director and two Deputies. Looking back to the beginnings of work of BP BiH, and comparing it to nowadays organisation and functioning, I can say that a great progress has been made. In times of foundation of this institution, beside the Law, there were no other implementing regulations, systematic laws, nor the Ministry of Security of BiH, which made the work significantly harder. During the previous 16 years, many decisions were made relevant for the work of BP BiH. Which decisions or events could you particularly emphasise?

Since I was at the source of almost all information that marked the work of this institution, I can mention some events and decisions as very important. During the first two years of work, in parallel with the establishment of the service, activities of border control were taken over from the Entity and Cantonal ministries of interior, which was almost unthinkable in those times right after the war. There was scepticism that representatives of all three nationalities can work together in one institution, or that all groups and border patrols can be multi-ethnic, that a Serb works in Kladuša, a Croat in Višegrad, and a Bosniak in Trebinje. The decision of the Presidency of BiH that the first Director of SBS be a Serb, and that the temporary HQ be in Istočno Sarajevo (Lukavica) induced

He was awarded Director’s acknowledgement in 2008, and three years later, the collective reward “Relief Emblem” for the work of the Director’s Cabinet.

Interviewed by: Jasminka Mujić

In view of the 16th Anniversary and the Day of Border Police of BiH, we talked to the Chief of the Director’s Cabinet, Radiša Samardžija. Since he is the employee with the longest experience in the service in this police agency, we looked back at his previous work and development of Border Police of BiH (BP BiH), and also talked about the future plans.

You are among the first ones to start working in BP BiH. How do you assess the previous period?

By the length of service in this institution, I am currently the oldest employee working in BP BiH, i.e. I started working on 15 February 2000. My work practically started right after the enactment of the Law on State Border Service of BiH (SBS), and after the Presidency of BiH had appointed the Director and two Deputies. Looking back to the beginnings of work of BP BiH, and comparing it to nowadays organisation and functioning, I can say that
different and contrary reactions. Of the important events that marked the development of BP BiH, I would like to mention: the first awarding of ranks, enactment of the Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH, moving to the new building, change of name SBS to Border Police of BiH, police reform, development strategy of BP BiH...

**What is the organisation of the Director’s Cabinet like? Are you satisfied with the results achieved?**

The Director’s Cabinet is basic organisational unit, with no internal units. It is a bit odd, and unthinkable in our institutions, that I have been at the head of the Director’s Cabinet for 16 years. The organisational unit that I am at the head of is a very important service and tool for one manager to perform his role and competence, in order to achieve legality and transparency of work. The presumption that you have to be responsible and professional in your work, that you have to possess certain moral and character features, gives it significance, especially when your name is Radiša. A good organisation is made by the quality personnel that works in it. There are in the Cabinet, apart from three drivers, ten women working, and when you work with women, it isn’t difficult to manage. After all, the decision of the Minister of Security of BiH, in 2011, to award collective reward “Relief Emblem of BiH” to the Director’s Cabinet for work, says a lot about the organisational unit, which I am at the head of.

**How do you see BP BiH today?**

I have already emphasised that this institution had made significant progress in development. It has become a recognisable and respected institution, maybe more within international circles than the local public. We want to be an equal and reliable partner to all agencies, in BiH and surroundings. We strive to be ready to fight against all forms...
of cross border crime and illegal migration. Organisational structure, with some difficulties related to lack of staff and material and technical means, achieves rather solid and measurable results. This agency is the only one in BiH with exclusive competence for border protection. Certain standards have been established in conducting border control and surveillance of the border which are, to a large part, compatible with the Schengen and European border police standards. What is also practice of this police agency, is permanent training and professional development in all areas, since that’s the only way modern flows can be followed.

**Creation of the new Rulebook of BP BiH is ongoing. What novice can we expect?**

At the end of 2015, this police agency signed a Bilateral Agreement with German Federal Police on Cooperation, and Joint Framework Plan for Development and Gradual Implementation of the Project of Modernisation of Management of Border Police of BiH. The mentioned documents, *inter alia*, aim at increased efficiency of the entire organisation, which will result in enactment of the new Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of Work Positions. There were several meetings held on this topic with the experts from German Federal Police, including Kick-off Conference in Mostar. In view of activities foreseen by the Reform Agenda, reform of public administration, and of this institution, is expected. All this will aim at more efficient BP BiH in border protection. The objective is to reach the standards to fulfil conditions for taking over responsibilities emanating from the BiH status as a candidate for full membership in the EU.

**BP BiH lacks a large number of officers. What is the staffing situation in the organisational unit you are at the head of?**

According to the current systematisation, all positions in the Cabinet are filled. It has no internal organisational units, which doesn’t mean that there won’t be any with the enactment of the new Rulebook. By the reform of this institution, we can expect transformation of this organisational unit, and harmonisation of its structure with positive regulations that regulate this area. We are still to see in which direction it will be realised, but I don’t think it will be possible to remain in this organisational form. After all, just like the entire institution, this organisational unit shall aim at increase of efficiency and functionality.

**What are future plans?**

One of the important segments in functioning of any institution, is achievement of transparency in work, for which it is crucial to have developed cooperation with the media representatives. Generally, cooperation with the media is exceptionally fair, to the mutual satisfaction, we strive to give correct and objective information within 24 hours. After all, our activities are very specific and, along with news on detected all forms of cross border crime and on cooperation, we also strive to give some service information from border crossing points, for faster traffic of people and goods. We have improved public relations by redesigned Website, and by establishment of the Website Editorial Office. But, in the public relations, we cannot neglect one relevant factor, which is police work in the community. In the following period, we shall strive to attach more attention to this segment.
International cooperation

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

CONTINUOUS SUPPORT IN EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Since the establishment of BP BiH, the USA have donated equipment worth more than nine million KM.
The US Government has continuously supported operational strengthening of Border Police of BiH (BP BiH). In the previous period, several meetings were held to continue cooperation and support to BP BiH. The first meeting with the Security Attaché of the US Embassy in BiH, Nathan Al-Khazraji, was held in October 2015. In March 2016, Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, and Head of Director’s Cabinet, Radiša Samardžija, met with the Attaché Al-Khazraji and Tomislav Cvitanušić, from the US Embassy, at the Head Office of BP BiH. On this occasion, the Security Attaché handed over informatics equipment to BP BiH, as donation of the US Government Antiterrorism Assistance Program. At the meeting they discussed current security challenges in BiH and the world, and ways of efficient fighting them, with a particular accent on fight against terrorism as global phenomenon, and all forms of organised crime.

Cooperation with the US Department International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). With the ICITAP Program Manager, Charles W. Bennett, several meetings were held, and at the end of 2015, he presented the new ICITAP Adviser for BP BiH and Service for Foreigners Affairs of BiH, Aurora Castillo. At the meetings they discussed continuation of cooperation, realised through providing technical and material support, and organising trainings under the auspices of ICITAP, attended by officers of BP BiH.

At the end of February 2016, Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, and Head of the Operations Administration of BP BiH, Predrag Radojičić, had a meeting with Regional Adviser of the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program of the US Government Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Jeffrey Outlaw. Darko Ivić and Marija Balać, Regional Coordinators of the US Government EXBS Program for BiH, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, also participated in the meeting. New specialist trainings for officers of BP BiH in 2016, and a donation of 240 uniform sets and four ATVs for border area surveillance were agreed.

Current security challenges in BiH were discussed, as well as the ways of efficient fighting them, with a particular accent on fight against terrorism.
Training for ATV drivers
In mid-2015 on Vlašić, under the auspices of the EXBS Program, officers of BP BiH and Ministry of the Interior of Republic Serbia attended basic training for ATV (All Terrain Vehicles) drivers. The training participants achieved practical knowledge on security rules and technical maintenance of vehicles. They were also trained for drive on terrain with obstacles, and under extreme conditions. They were trained on the locality of Devečani on 1.780 metres of elevation, in bad weather conditions, poor visibility conditions and rain. The final exam was a drive to the top of Vlašić (1.933 metres of elevation), during which even water obstacle were overcome. During the training, the ATVs donated by the EXBS Program were used. The training was conducted by instructors of the Border Police Centre for Specialist Training from Lubań (Poland).

Search of commercial vehicles
As organised by the EXBS Program, in March 2016, in Bijeljina, training was realised on “Searching hidden compartments in large commercial vehicles”. The training was attended by officers of border polices and customs from BiH, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro. It is the result of the EXBS Program Project “Three Countries Initiative”, which will, after a long time, be expanded to Montenegro. With supervision of the US advisers, the training was conducted by certified instructors of border polices and customs from BiH, Croatia and Serbia.
COOPERATION WITH GERMAN FEDERAL POLICE

PROJECT ON MODERNISATION OF BP BiH ADMINISTRATION

The aim of the Project is enhancement of the Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH, to ensure the achieved standards, and to respond in future to all challenges and tasks.

The Government of Federal Republic Germany has been a great friend to development of Border Police of BiH, since its establishment. In the past 16 years they have supported many trainings and donated specialist equipment. Germany has helped rebuild IBCP Šamac which was destroyed in the floods in 2014. At the end of 2015, Federal German Police announced...
intensified cooperation with the BiH police agency, as well as a joint project aimed at administration modernisation and operational strengthening of BP BiH.

**Cooperation Agreement**

In December 2015, Director of BP BiH, Zoran Galić, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, and Head of the Office for Professional Standards and Internal Control, Vladimir Popović, visited German Federal Police. At the meeting at the Presidency of German Federal Police in Potsdam, the President, Dr Dieter Romann, and Director Zoran Galić, signed agreement announcing intensified cooperation of the two police agencies. For the first time, a liaison officer of German FP was appointed, only for the BiH area. The BiH delegation was presented the liaison officer, police officer Oliver Hass, by

At this moment, BiH is not burdened by the refugee crisis that has shaken the region, but safekeeping the BiH borders is the safekeeping of FR Germany security

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**Review Conference**

In mid-March 2016, under the auspices of German FP, in hotel "Mepas" in Mostar, a Review Conference of the Project on Modernisation of Border Police of BiH Administration was held. The Ambassador of Germany in BiH, H.E. Christian Hellbach, also attended the Conference. He emphasised that this Project was very important for the German Government in several security aspects. "At this moment, BiH is not burdened by the refugee crisis that has shaken the region, but safekeeping the BiH borders is the safekeeping of FR Germany security", said Ambassador Hellbach, and added that the German Government shall continue supporting work and developmental of BP BiH. On this occasion, Deputy Minister of Security of BiH, Mijo Krešić, promised support to BP BiH in operational strengthening, as well as in development of legal frameworks. The Chairman of the Joint Committee on Defence and Security of BiH, Sifet Podžić, said that the Committee shall, within its competence, support anything that leads to modernisation of BP BiH. Representatives of German FP, Joint Committee on Defence and Security of BiH, members of Independent Board of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, representatives of OHR, FRONTEX, IOM, DCAF, ICITAP and BP BiH, also participated in the Review Conference in Mostar.
the President Dieter Romann at an appropriate ceremony. They agreed at the meeting upon the elements of the two-year plan of measures, to define the support of German FP to BP BiH in equipment and training, as well as on the obligations of the BiH police agency. Realisation of the first phase of the Project on Modernisation of BP BiH Administration started immediately after the Potsdam meeting. The aim of the Project is enhancement of the Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH, to ensure the achieved standards, and to respond in future to all challenges and tasks, in particular in taking over obligations deriving from the BiH status of a candidate state for full EU membership. Joint working groups of experts from German FP, and BP BiH officers, were formed.

The Project

The workshop held from 19 to 21 January 2016 on Bjelašnica, was the first Project task. The management of BP BiH attended the presentation of working group, on framework assessment of the territorial reorganisation of BP BiH, within creation of the new Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH. The workshop conclusions were presented by Head of Operations Administration of BP BiH, Predrag Radojičić. The presentation was also attended by the Project Leaders, Head of the Office for Professional Standards and Internal Control of BP BiH, Vladimir Popović, and Christian Mainzinger from German Federal Police.

Director Zoran Galić about the Project

Aware of the fact that expectations of us every day are ever greater, we have recognised the need for comprehensive modernisation of the agency. In this, we have support of FR Germany and in the previous period, working groups have been formed with officers of BP BiH and German experts, to work jointly on creation of a new rulebook. Apart from territorial reorganisation, we plan to cut down the number of managerial staff, and to increase the number of specialists for certain areas in BP BiH. By the reform we want to transfer the accent from the Head Office in Sarajevo to the border, it being the base of our work. We aspire to approach the EU standards. These are unpleasant reforms carrying fears and resistance, but I am confident that, with the experts from German FP, we shall manage to overcome all obstacles and reach the final aim, which is: BP BiH – respectable and recognised agency, not only in BiH, but worldwide.

Study visit to the State Border Service of Lithuania

In April 2016, within the Project of Modernisation of BP BiH Administration, Deputy Director, Zijad Srabović, Assistant Director for Organisation and Operations, Slobodan Krstić, and Head of the Office for Professional Standards and Internal Control and the Project Leader, Vladimir Popović, were in a study visit to the State Border Service of Lithuania. Along with the representatives of BP BiH, Project Leader from German FP, Christian Mainzinger joined the study visit. Apart from the meeting at the HQ of the State Border Service of Lithuania in Vilnius, a visit to police school in Medininkai, field office and border crossing point between Lithuania and Belarus, was organised.
BODO KAPING, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN FEDERAL POLICE

PROJECT FOR A MORE MODERN AND STRONGER BORDER POLICE OF BiH

The road that BP BiH has crossed so far, and its development, are very important and worthy of respect. We shall continue supporting development of this agency.

You have been cooperating with BP BiH for years. Has this police agency proven to be a reliable partner in bilateral cooperation?

German FP has supported BP BiH since its establishment. From the beginning, we concluded that work in BiH was professional, committed, passionate and under difficult conditions. The road that BP BiH has crossed so far, and its development, are very important and worthy of respect. It is because of this, that it is important and very pleasant for us to cooperate with the officers of BP BiH. We shall continue supporting development of this agency.
What are the key areas of German FP support to BP BiH?

Border surveillance and border checks. They are the two pillars of BP BiH. We give support by advising and donating equipment. Moreover, it is significant for us to support BP BiH in training and educating staff, since we consider qualified staff as the heart and the base of a functional border police. The third segment of cooperation is based on development of Joint Police Cooperation Centre between BiH, Montenegro and Republic Serbia in Trebinje. We are convinced that the Centre has a very important role in the network of the EU police agencies. I can add that the development of the Centre in the previous period has been satisfactory.

How do you assess suppression of illegal migration over the territory of BiH?

Border surveillance and prevention of illegal migration are the biggest challenges in border police work. It is illusion that a police agency of any country can resist these challenges alone. As we can see, supressing illegal migration involves many institutions, local polices and customs, and cross border cooperation with other countries is also very important. BP BiH has made significant steps, but every cooperation must be developed. Future border protection is a big challenge. A modern police agency, equipped and trained, must be based on laws and regulations harmonised with the EU standards and practice. Thus it is very important that officers of BP BiH work with enthusiasm and readiness for changes. That is the guarantee that the Project we are working on will be successful.

Is your opinion similar to that of the German experts working in BiH?

I have aligned my position with the opinion of my colleagues who work in BiH. They are very satisfied with the previous realisation of the Project. They emphasise that their expectations have been exceeded. According to them, officers of BP BiH talk about problems in a transparent manner, and more importantly, they have plethora of ideas for their solution.

What are the key changes to be made in the new Rulebook on Internal Organisation of BP BiH?

Investing in manpower and qualifications of the employees. Creation of good working conditions. Equipping with sophisticated equipment. As very important, I’ll emphasise delegation of responsibilities. Responsibility should be brought down to the local level - the border. That’s what German FP did in the implemented reforms. These are the positive practices that I have witnessed, and for which I guarantee to be progressive. In relation to this, it is important that managerial staff communicate with the colleagues, throughout the Project realisation, reference its objectives and purpose. Therewith I don’t mean only the management of BP BiH, but department managers at all levels, who should explain to the employees which changes are introduced and why. All employees of BP BiH must be familiarised with the content of the reform.

Based on what you have seen, at what level is BP BiH in relation to working conditions at the border?

I have seen very well and modern equipped border crossing points, but I am aware that working conditions at many others are exceptionally poor. It is important to continuously work on enhancement of working conditions and working environment. It takes time and money. I shall repeat that enabling better working conditions is the right and long-term investment.
Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a responsible factor of the international community, attaches importance to participation on peacekeeping missions and operations, thus actively contributing to strengthening of international security and peaceful crisis solutions. Border Police of BiH is one of the leading agencies in our country, by the number of deployed police officers on UN missions. Since 2006, 20 police officers of Border Police of BiH have participated in UN missions - in Sudan, Liberia and Cyprus. Many of them had prestigious functions, which has continued until nowadays.

Four officers on missions

There are currently four police officers of Border Police on missions: Draško Ćetojević and Mario Opačak in Cyprus, and Zvjezdana Aranđelović and Irena Mareš in South Sudan. They told us how they were preparing themselves for going there, and what their expectations were. What they have in common is that they think of peacekeeping mission as a new experience to promote our country and Border Police of BiH, to improve their skills and knowledge, and to meet police
officers from other countries and get to know their modus operandi. Draško Četojević, Operational Duty Inspector of Field Office North-East Gradiška, has been on peacekeeping mission UNFICYP in Cyprus since October 2014. Thanks to his expertise and professionalism, in short time he became Commander of the BiH Contingent in UN mission in Cyprus. At first he was a Patrol Officer in buffer zone, then in position of Patrolling Activities Coordinator, and currently he is Deputy Police Commander in Sector 1. Going on peacekeeping mission has been his personal wish and decision, ever since the period when international police was present in BiH. My role here is to represent, in a dignified manner, myself, the police agency and the country I come from, as well as to acquire new, and improve the existing knowledge and skills – says Četojević. Coming to a new ambience and working environment was not easy for him since, as he says, everything was different, from driving on the left side, communication in English and different type of activities, as compared to those in BiH. There is not much time for us to adapt to staying on missions. After a one-week training following arrival, they deploy us immediately in stations where we begin our regular duties. This has been the first international experience and work in different conditions for me. It is important to mention that everyone was provided great solidarity and support by contingents from BiH, Serbia and Montenegro – says Četojević. Being a Patrol Officer in buffer zone at the beginning, Četojević compares to work of officers of BP BiH in sectors, but with different mandate and power to act, which are mainly focused on finding the best and easiest way to communicate with the civilians and to remove them in a non-violent manner from the buffer zone. His current activities are to manage and organise work in the Sector, to monitor, plan and conduct police operations, to communicate with other components on the mission and to maintain permanent contact with officers of local police forces in implementing the UN mandate. He says that one of the most difficult questions for him is the one about how his family has accepted the fact that he’d be absent from BiH for some time, since he is married and has two children, therefore separation is very hard for them. He emphasises that he has big support from his family, without which it would be hard for him to be committed to work and life on the mission.

The management support

In May 2015, police officer Mario Opačak went on peacekeeping mission UNFICYP in Cyprus, from Airport Sarajevo. Having arrived on the peacekeeping mission, during the period of
adaptation, Opačak worked as a patrolling officer in Police Station in Athienou. Several months later, he assumed the position of Chief of Police Station Pila, which is the largest UN police station, and by the issues it deals with, the most complex one. He says that he got used to the new living and working conditions in Cyprus quickly, and that he was well accepted by his colleagues. This was, certainly, contributed by his long-time experience in the International Cooperation Department, and experience of his colleagues who were on mission in Cyprus before him, helped as well. Support of the Border Police management cannot be left out, in relation to procurement of specific equipment appropriate for the climate there, bearing in mind very hot summers.

Ambassadors of the country

As I worked in patrols, I prevented illegal entry, stay and activities in the buffer zone, controlled persons and alike. Pila is the only place on the island where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live together, and where local police cannot act without the presence of the UN Police. Now, as I work as a Station Chief, I analyse and prepare reports for the Sector Commander, draft patrolling plans, go around my station responsibility zone, and if necessary, go in patrols myself. I communicate daily with the local population, because it is my objective, as a UN police officer, to contribute to peacekeeping and reintegration of society - says Opačak.

He emphasises that ever since 1988, while he was a student at military academy, he has wanted to go on a peacekeeping mission, and that this one means a lot to him.

To work on a peacekeeping mission

Draško Četojević

My role in Cyprus is to represent with dignity myself, the police agency and the country I come from

Mario Opačak

I got used to the new living and working conditions in Cyprus quickly, and my colleagues accepted me very well

Pre-Mission trainings

Sector for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Security of BiH organises preparatory trainings for police officers of BiH, to introduce them to the UN peacekeeping missions procedures, as well as to the working and living conditions within the missions. In March 2016, yet another training for future UN police officers was completed in the Training Centre for Peace Support Operations of the Armed Forces of BiH in Butmir. Police officer of Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo, Edvin Bajramović, was declared the best, among 32 students.

Police officer Zvjezdana Araranković is one of the teachers in pre-mission training, i.e. United Nations Police Officers Course (UNPOC), which lasts for two weeks. Police officers first take a test in English language. After that, candidates are selected based on number of points in English, agency, national and sexual representation. The training consists of theoretical and practical parts. After the completion of the course, police officers are awarded certificates for successfully finished training, thus fulfilling conditions to apply for a peacekeeping mission - says Araranković, who was on a two-year mission in Sudan. At the end of March, she went to South Sudan as a trainer to teach the local police officers.
is a great honour, responsibility and commitment. Wherever we go, the first question is where we are from. I wear on my oversleeve the insignia of the country and the agency I come from. Officers of the BiH contingent are respected on the mission in Cyprus, as professional police officers and as good comrades, among the UN colleagues and the local population, as well. BiH has no Embassy on the island, but we are all ambassadors of our country - says Opačak. Separation from the family wasn’t easy for him, just like it wasn’t easy for others. To our question how they have accepted this fact, he says: I believe that separation isn’t easy to any family. Even with personal wish and professional ambition, the family carries the big burden of my leave. During my stay on the mission, my father died. I wasn’t with my father in the last moments of his life, and I came to the funeral in the last minute. Those are the things that no money in the world can buy - concludes Opačak.

Unlike them, police officer Irena Marelja is on a mission in South Sudan. She says that coming to South Sudan was a slight shock for her. You enter the country that came out of civil war, in which there are heats, malaria, tribal way of living and many other things. Simply, a country where you come across many challenges and where every day is a challenge. Life here largely depends on how you accept, experience and organize it yourself, as well as on the area you are deployed in. I work in the capital city Juba, in a camp where around 30.000 refugees live. Life in the capital city is easier than in other towns. I live in the UN camp and you live inside it, since going out is limited - says Marelja, adding that work in the refugee camp is different and a new story every day. She also says that the present mandate of the mission is protection of the civilians, thus UNPOL works only inside refugee camps, and that cooperation with the colleagues from other countries is excellent and interesting.

There is almost the whole world in one place. In my team, there are currently police officers from Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Brazil, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nepal and BiH. Working language is English, but every day you learn something new in some other language. Those language barriers can be very interesting and humorous, thus jokes are made in the moments when working days are very hard, exhausting and demanding - emphasises Marelja.

New experiences

We also asked her what it was like to be a police officer in South Sudan. She said that being a police officer was the same, regardless of where you were. It is a duty of police officers to protect human lives, maintain and raise safety and security, and many other things that police officers come across in their daily work. I love being what I am, and I love my job. At the beginning, my role models and great support were the very women, police officers, who played an important role in police career, of which I’m very proud. I work as a Police Advisor in South Sudan. It is an honour and pleasure for me to represent my country and the police agency I come from, and in which I have been since the beginning of my career - emphasises Marelja, for whom the peacekeeping mission is a new life and professional experience that she expects to be able to use in her future life and career.

At the end of the conversation, she says that her family wasn’t too happy about her going on a peacekeeping mission, but that she has their support. They understand her vocation and her wish to improve knowledge and experience in policing, to acquire new acquaintances etc.

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Irena Marelja
Eight teams with 24 police officers participated in shooting competition. The first place in individual competition was won by Alija Bajrica from Field Office for Airports, the second place was won by Danijel Tursunović from FO North-East, and the third by Smail Hodžić from FO North-West. In team competition, the first place was won by FO for Airports, the second by FO North-East, and the third by the Head Office. The most successful competitors were handed rewards at the Head Office, by Director and Deputy Director of BP BiH.

Indoor football tournament

The 11th Indoor Football Tournament of BP BiH was held on the stadium of HNK Branitelj in Mostar. After a whole day competition in a fair sports atmosphere, the first place was won by the FO South team. The second
The 11th Indoor Football Tournament of BP BiH was held on the stadium of HNK Branitelj in Mostar

Indoor football winners
In September 2015 in Poland, the International Police Association (IPA) Section in BiH team won the first place at the 15th World Indoor Football Tournament for police officers. The team, in which officers of BP BiH and other BiH police agencies participate, achieved good results at the Tournament in the previous years. Inter alia, in 2008 in Ukraine, they won the second, and in 2010 in Brussels, the first place. In 2016, the IPA Section in BiH will be the organiser of the 16th World Indoor Football Tournament, to be held in August in Sarajevo.

place was won by the FO for Airports team, and the third by the FO North-East team. The best scorer of the tournament was Damir Livaja, and the title of the best goalkeeper was won by Dobrislav Koprivica, both from FO South.

Hutovo blato
On the day of the tournament, a visit to Nature Park Hutovo blato was organised for all BP BiH employees, with financial support of the BP BiH Trade Union. Those who did not participate in the football competition enjoyed sailing in boats, getting to know the BiH nature pearl. In 2015, BP BiH employees had several team buildings to remember. At the end of August 2015, they participated in rafting in the canyons of the Tara and the Drina. Socialising was organised on the occasion of religious holidays, New Year and Women’s Day.
Independent Inspector, Fahrudin Ibrić, has been the Commander of Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo since September 2015. Before his arrival to Border Police of BiH, Ibrić was the Chief of Police Administration Srebrenik of the Tuzla Canton Ministry of the Interior for eight years. Since May 2002, in BP BiH he was the Commander of the following Border Police Units: Airport Tuzla, Brčko, Velika Kladuša and the Support and Control Unit of the Field Office North-East Bijeljina. His colleagues esteem him as a professional and a good leader.

We talked to him about leadership, but also about BPU Airport Sarajevo which has been achieving ever better results in all segments of work.

**Present us the Unit you are leading. What are its specificities, as compared to the others you have worked in?**

Border Police Unit Airport Sarajevo, in my opinion, is very demanding, complex and specific organisational unit of BP BiH. Work in this Unit does not imply only usual issues of border checks, but also large number of arrivals and departures of VIP delegations realised at the International Airport Sarajevo (IAS). Sarajevo is the administrative centre of BiH, and the IAS is the first and the most frequently used airport in BiH. Work in it is more complex than in other airports or units of BP BiH. Along with daily tasks performed by officers of other units of BP BiH, we must continuously secure arrivals and departures of important delegations.

**Following this, how different is your function than the previous ones?**

It is different in the sense of daily engagement and overall dedication to the job, and also in the sense of duties and tasks specific to this Unit. If you want to perform quality work, achieve good results, maintain cooperation with the community and other services at the IAS, every day you must be involved in work to the maximum, and you must know the procedures and regulations applied at the Airport.

**Are those procedures harmonized with the EU standards?**

All procedures and regulations, from...
security aspect, implemented by officers of BPU Airport Sarajevo and Public Company Airport Sarajevo, are harmonized with international standards prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and other agencies regulating civil aviation security.

Which VIP delegations visits do you emphasise as particularly demanding for the Unit, in 2015 and beginning of 2016?

When talking about planning, organising and securing arrivals of VIP delegations to the IAS, and their departure from BiH, I must emphasise the Pope visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as arrival and departure of numerous delegations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the suffering of people of Srebrenica. From security aspect, very demanding was the visit of the Serbian Government delegation, led by the Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić. The beginning of 2016 was marked by visit of the Emir of Kuwait to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Which results of BPU Airport in 2015 do you underline?

We achieved quality and extensive results in investigative and searching activities, as well as with offences. 294 persons and 44 documents, wanted by BiH authorities and Interpol on various grounds, were detected. 32 forged documents were forfeited. They are mainly basic documents for crossing of the state border: passports and personal ID cards, visas or residence permits for the EU states. We detected 19 criminal offences, of which 12 criminal offences of document forgery. BPU Airport Sarajevo also had results in detecting criminal offences of corruption. Our officer reported criminal offence “giving gifts and other forms of benefits”. Fight against corruption within our own ranks is not just a cliché. In cooperation with the Central Investigation Office of BP BiH, we processed and proved commitment of criminal offences “abuse of office” and “giving gifts and other forms of benefits”, by police officer of the Unit. I’d emphasise that a small number of citizens’ complaints about the work or conduct of officers and, which is important, none of them was grounded. As the Commander, I put a special emphasis on communication with passengers, i.e. citizens, since officers of BPU Airport Sarajevo represent the first image of BiH as you enter our country.

All procedures and regulations are harmonized with the EU standards

We have achieved quality and extensive results in investigative and searching activities, as well as with offences.
I can proudly emphasise that the results in 2015 were enhanced, in quality and quantity, as compared to those in 2014. I would add that in 2015, 148 offences were registered. Moreover, 130 offences were ceded to other authorities, mainly to the Police Administration Ilidža, the Indirect Taxation Authority and inspection authorities. In 46 cases we detected attempts of illegal taking money out of BiH. We temporarily seized around EUR 367,000, USD 281,000, GBP 10,000 etc. We prevented an attempt to bring in a Rolex watch, worth EUR 15,000, with no required customs documentation. Let me mention two cases when we, in cooperation with officers of the Central Investigation Office of BP BiH, temporarily seized 122 kilograms of narghile aroma. Among special activities of the Unit is police work in the community. In 2015 only, we realized 21 visits of students, secondary school pupils, primary school pupils and pre-school children, who had opportunity to get familiarized with work of police officers at the IAS, and with passport control procedure.

**What do you consider your own contribution to the results achieved in the previous period?**

In leadership, it is essential to have direct contact with your first associates, as well as with police officers who work at the Airport. Without daily analysis and anticipation based on that analysis, you cannot achieve quality work. I am glad that I responded to the principle of cooperative leadership in the units I worked in. Such leadership is challenging and demanding, since it gives wideness to your actions, and those of your first associates who can independently make decisions, but also are responsible for them.

**Apart from the Unit of BP BiH, Public Company Airport Sarajevo is also responsible for security at the IAS?**

Security sector of the PC Airport Sarajevo, together with us, conducts security measures at an exceptionally high level. The fact that we haven't had serious security threats at the Airport confirms that assertion.

**Officers of BPU Airport Sarajevo frequently check the abandoned luggage.**

That is a daily routine at all airports worldwide, thus passengers often, mainly out of negligence, leave their luggage at the IAS. What is good with all the cases of luggage checks is that no objects that might threaten the IAS security were found. All objects were removed, or afterwards handed to the passengers who had abandoned or lost them. It is important to underline the 24 hour-presence of Anti Bomb Team, which is mobile, equipped and trained to respond to any emergency situation.

**How is the Unit equipped?**

The Unit was recently visited by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The inspectors confirmed that we had sophisticated equipment used at the airports worldwide. That gives us the right to say that we have a quality equipment for border checks and maintenance of security at the IAS. It is important to note that the equipment must be continuously renewed.

**What are further plans?**

The previous work of the Unit has been satisfactory. However, there are so many challenges at the IAS and space for work and results to build continuously. I'd say that the previous success is a good base for further enhancement of quality of work and state of the Unit.
Thanks to understanding and support of the BiH institutions and authorities, BP BiH possesses adequate material and technical equipment for border control, harmonised with the EU standards. In the previous period, with our own budget for capital expenses, considerable funds were spent on procurement of service vehicles, along with procurement of police equipment, devices for document check, thermal-vision cameras, service dogs and other equipment.

**Field vehicles**

BP BiH currently possesses 314 service vehicles. In 2015, 2,175,934 KM was spent on procurement of vehicles, out of the capital expenses budget. 26 vans, five jeeps and one medium-class vehicle were bought and distributed to the basic BP BiH organisational units in the field, for surveillance and control of the state border. Within the budget of BP BiH for 2016, the amount of 1,200,000 KM was planned for procurement of vehicles. Among the transport vehicles used in daily work, of particular value are those with thermal-vision communications, particularly in enhanced border checks application. Information system of BP BiH has been intensively developed in the past five years. It has become a modern and respectable system, primarily thanks to sensibility for development in this area of the BP BiH management, as well as big efforts and knowledge of the employees of the Informatics Department of the Operations Administration of BP BiH.

**New technologies**

Considerable funds were invested in information technologies and communications, particularly in enhanced border checks application. Through border checks application, 87 million persons were registered in the past five years. New Website

BP BiH has new Website www.granpol.gov.ba, technologically and by design harmonised with modern website creation trends. It is informative and enables the visitors easier access to information within the competence of BP BiH. It enables easy following of the BP BiH news, whether they are press releases or announcements of this police agency. It was created for enhanced communication of BP BiH officers with the citizens. Visitors of the Website www.granpol.gov.ba can learn about functioning, organisation, competence, activities and results of BP BiH. The Website offers interactive map of border crossing points and basic data and contact details of organisational units of BP BiH. Citizens can electronically submit complaints about the work of police officers, and information about cross border crime and corruption. In the same manner they can ask questions within the competence of BP BiH. The Website was designed with financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.