

## INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW

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### About SELEC

**Abstract**

The Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) is the only law enforcement organization in Southeast Europe fighting transborder serious and organized crime, established in 1999 by 11 Member States, Hungary being one of the founding countries.

**Keywords:** law enforcement, fighting organized crime, operational

During the 20 years since its establishment, the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), the law enforcement organization of Southeast Europe, has become a key player in the fight against transborder serious and organized crime, its operational activities have gradually developed, while the Center continued to remain the most reliable and cost-effective cooperation platform for its 11 Member States and 25 Partners (countries and organizations) and, in general for the region. SELEC is focused on operational matters, offering the platform for the real-time exchange of information and requests of assistance, supporting and coordinating joint investigations and regional operations, developing analytical reports, contributing to the capacity building of its Member States and Partners through trainings, expert missions, secure connection through the new Operational Center Unit, organizing regional conferences, Task Force meetings, workshops and study visits, facilitating networking, and others. The exchange of information is done by the Liaison Officers from Police and Customs authorities of the Member States and Operational Partners posted at SELEC Headquarters in Bucharest/ Romania, supported by the National Focal Points established in each of the Member States. Complementing the work of Police and Customs, under SELEC's auspices, has been functioning since 2003,

the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG), its mission being to facilitate judicial cooperation in significant transborder crime investigations and cases. The Member States of SELEC are: Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Republic of Serbia, and Republic of Turkey. Cooperation with SELEC is available to any state or international organization/body which has an interest in law enforcement cooperation in the Southeast European region. Thus, presently, 25 partner countries and organizations are SELEC's partners, namely Interpol, Italy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and USA are Operational Partners, and the observer countries and organizations are: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs (GCC), Czech Republic, European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), France, Georgia, Germany, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UN-MiK), and World Customs Organization (WCO).

## **Operational Center Unit**

In an effort to increase constantly the support provided to the Member States in countering transborder serious and organized crime in Southeast Europe, SELEC has recently added to its operational capacities a new state-of-the-art, highly secured Operational Center Unit (OCU). The new Operational Center Unit supports SELEC, the only law enforcement organization in Southeast Europe since 1999, in enhancing the cooperation and coordination among its 11 Member States and 25 countries and organizations that are Operational Partners and Observers to SELEC. The hardware architecture is flexible, scalable and provides high data security. It includes the integration and communication with the National Focal Points of the Member States with voice and video communication solutions. The mobile communication is also secured through VPN. A crisis steering committee room is integrated into the Operational Center Unit, with fully encrypted voice, data and video communication. The Operational Center Unit is based on a high-reliability infrastructure capable of delivering 24/7 fast service.

SELEC has also implemented presently the customized SELEC Intelligence Reporting Application Tool (S.I.R.A.T), an IT solution that comprises an operational platform including Geographic Information System (GIS), real-time



situation awareness, incident management, reporting, Data Analytics Law Enforcement Intelligence Application, Collection Information Tool and a Document Management System. The customized S.I.R.A.T application ensures a fast collection, analysis and exchange of strategic and operational information among Case Officers, National Focal Points, SELEC Liaison Officers and SELEC analysts.

Based on the above-mentioned components for a swift collection and reporting of data, the SELEC analysts elaborate operational and strategic reports in



complex cases in order to better understand the criminal organizations and their modus operandi.

## Virtual reality-based trainings

Starting this year, SELEC introduced a new modern model of training, namely a new platform and curricula based on Virtual Reality. The trainees enter a virtual environment, which replicates a border crossing point, and have to inspect a vehicle suspected of smuggled cigarettes transport. This mission tests their attention and perspicacity, completely immersing them in the virtual environment. This fresh set of training resources include also a collection of multimedia course activities based on interactive scenarios. Each of these activities is built around realistic vehicles and ships inspections in search of smuggled goods. Apart from smuggling, they also address other types of cross border crimes which are frequently encountered in the daily activities of the partner institutions from the Member States. These new training resources and activities make the training program more appealing, offering the trainer team the opportunity to implement modern training strategies, in step with the ever-changing challenges law enforcement institutions have to face every day.



More information about the activities conducted by SELEC can be found on [www.selec.org](http://www.selec.org), as well as on Facebook and LinkedIn at #selecbucharest.

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