



## COUNTERACTION TO CRIMES RELATED TO MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFICKING



with the SIS and SIRENE databases as well as Interpol and national databases on stolen vehicles.

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### **OBJECTIVE OF THE SWISS SUPPORT**

The general objective of the project is to support Bulgaria in the process of joining the Schengen agreement and in meeting its legal obligations in matters of fighting cross-border crime under the Prüm Treaty. Through the project, Bulgaria shall be able to increase the rate of recovery of vehicles trafficked through its borders.

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Over the past decade, Bulgaria has become less a destination country than a transit route for stolen vehicles that travel to the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Africa. Car theft in Bulgaria itself remains a serious problem despite a slight decline observed during the past few years.

By joining the Schengen agreement, Bulgaria will face increased obligations regarding its cooperation in the fight against trafficking of vehicles. The project intends to prepare Bulgaria to fulfil its new obligations by increasing its capacity of cooperation in cases of trafficked vehicles. It intends to complement the fixed video monitoring system of the road network by equipping a fleet of police cars with scanners capable of recognizing licence plates. The system shall allow the highest possible rates of matches

### **RESULTS AND OUTCOMES**

The results of the project are the following:

- 33 police cars are equipped with mobile scanners reading vehicle license plates and capable of identifying matches for stolen vehicles in police databases;
- Police officers working in the fields of prevention and fight against vehicle trafficking are equipped and trained;
- New procedures are established to deal with “hits” of stolen vehicles in police database.



## ACTIVITIES

The following implementation activities have been or will be carried out:

- Experts visits have been organized with the cantonal police of Neuchâtel and the cantonal police of Geneva to learn about the Swiss experience and procedures with vehicle license plate automated recognition systems;
- Experts meetings have been organized in Bulgaria to define the system to be procured by the country;
- 23 police vehicles are equipped with scanners reading license plates and develop technical solutions to connect them to police databases;
- 10 more police cars will be equipped in 2018;
- Equipment for physical checks of trafficked vehicles are currently being procured;
- 80 police officers will be trained in the newest techniques of detecting trafficked vehicles.

## KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

### FOCUS AREA

Security/motor vehicles

### COUNTRY

Bulgaria

### GOALS

Increase of identification and recovery rates of trafficked vehicles both nationally and internationally

### EXPECTED RESULTS

33 police cars equipped with scanners connected to national and international police databases;  
80 police officers equipped and trained in identification of stolen vehicles;

### TARGET GROUP

- National Police Main Directorate, Ministry of Interior
- Police and border police officers

### EXECUTING AGENCY

National Police General Directorate / Ministry of Interior

### PARTNERS

- Neuchâtel Cantonal Police, Switzerland

### BUDGET

CHF 941'176

(Swiss contribution CHF 800'000)

### DURATION

2012-2018

### CONTACTS

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For more information, visit:

<http://swiss-contribution.bg/en/funds/security>



SWISS-BULGARIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
ШВЕЙЦАРСКО-БЪЛГАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

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