



**FORTY-SECOND PLENARY (TRIENNIAL) SESSION**  
(Strasbourg, 9-10 July 2024)

**Agenda item 4: Report on the focal points**

**UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES  
THE CASE II PROJECT**

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**SUMMARY**

This paper presents an overview of the implementation of the EU-funded and ECAC-implemented CASE II Project, delivering aviation security capacity development in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

The Plenary Session is invited to note the main achievements in the implementation of the CASE II Project in the period 2022-2024, and the priorities for the remaining life of the Project.

## **Introduction**

1. The CASE II Project is an EU-funded and ECAC-implemented project for delivery of aviation security capacity building activities in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It is funded to a total of EUR 8 million, originally for a duration of four years from 1 December 2019 to 30 November 2023.
2. Because of the impacts of the COVID pandemic on the delivery of activities at the start of the Project, a one-year no-cost extension was granted on 13 February 2023, with a new end date of 30 November 2024. Directors General have now agreed to submit a last no-cost extension of the Project until 30 November 2025 to the European Commission.
3. The main deliverables of the project are online and in-country training and capacity-building activities – including workshops and compliance monitoring-related activities – delivered by experts from ECAC Member States, Partner States and the Project Team. Some activities can also be delivered, when applicable, by experts from industry organisations to benefit from their expertise.
4. This paper presents the implementation of the Project from January 2022 to July 2024 and notes the priorities for the remainder of the Project.

## **Achievements 2022-2024**

5. In 2020, COVID-19 affected almost all countries. The range of activities planned by the CASE II Project was highly limited, mainly due to the travel bans implemented by governments during the peak periods of the pandemic. This led to a shift in approach to favour the delivery of training through online resources rather than through in-country activities until the end of the first half of 2022.
6. As pandemic-related restrictions of travel gradually ended, the Project was able to move up to full speed, and the Project team has expanded in order to increase its capacity to deliver activities at the rate originally envisaged. Two assistants have been recruited to support the project manager, recruited in June 2022, as well as one aviation security specialist in October 2022; and two other aviation security specialists were engaged in 2023. Calls for secondments have also been launched, leading to the selection of two Partner State (The Gambia and Morocco) secondees for two consecutive periods of six months (second half of 2023 and first half of 2024).
7. Since then, the Project has adapted to sustain a high rate of delivery and an increasingly diverse range of activities offered in the three target regions of the Project. Moreover, following the signature of a Cooperation Arrangement on 27 June 2023 between ECAC and Airports Council International (ACI) World. To date, ACI World has delivered three peer-to-peer security reviews financed by the Project.
8. The selection of activities offered to Partner States has also expanded to include training courses on new topics. In 2023, the Project Team created, improved and updated training material: Initial training on cargo, Coaching in quality control and Security culture. In 2024, the Project Team worked on developing new topics: Best practices in identifying and mitigating emerging threats, mentoring on explosive detection techniques.
9. From January 2022 to the end of June 2024, the Project has delivered a total of 147 activities for the benefit of 2503 participants from Partner States. These include:

- 115 training activities, including 19 multilateral training activities;
- ten MANPADs activities, with the support of the French DGAC and the United Kingdom;
- ten webinars;
- nine workshops (six regional and three interregional).

10. This has been possible thanks to the extensive engagement with Partner States. Seventy-nine Partner States benefitted from activities: 52 in Africa, 12 in the Middle East, ten in Central and Eastern Asia and five in Europe<sup>1</sup>. In addition in 2024, the European Commission agreed to include Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the scope of the Project, at the request of the Executive Secretary. Three factors enabled this engagement: the support of ECAC Member States, the coordination conducted by the CASE II Project Team and the Secretariat, and the facilitating role played by regional civil aviation organisations, notably ACAO and AFCAC.

11. Seventeen ECAC Member States supported the Project and released experts for activities: Albania, Azerbaijan, Denmark, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and United Kingdom. These States have released experts to contribute to both in-country training activities and regional workshops in the three regions of the Project. This was also useful to identify opportunities for synergies between their own capacity-building initiatives and the CASE II Project's objectives.

12. In addition, 33 Partner States released experts to contribute to capacity-building activities.

13. During this period, the Project also conducted regular liaison with international and industry organisations to coordinate activities and discuss potential areas of collaboration. This was the case with ICAO, UNOCT, UNODC, the ARISE Plus Civil Aviation Project (implemented by EASA), the European Union Military Staff (EUMS), INTERPOL and IATA. These discussions also led to the mobilisation of expertise for activities.

14. The support of regional civil aviation organisations, such as ACAO and AFCAC, has been crucial in identifying needs and priorities and building strong relationships with Partner States.

15. In terms of impact, the strong and sustained increase in capacity-building activities delivered from 2022 to date, coupled with regular feedback from Partner States indicating a commitment to implement international standards in aviation security, demonstrate steady progress towards the main objective of the Project. This progress will be closely assessed until the end of Project.

16. To date, twenty-four other activities are being scheduled for the second half of the year. Despite these achievements, twenty-five per cent of the budget will remain unused by the end of November 2024. This is partly because the activities have, in aggregate, been delivered at lower costs than originally foreseen, e.g. with the inclusion of online activities and the recruitment of two assistants rather than three as originally budgeted for.

17. Following requests from Partner States, with the support of sister organisations and with the EC agreement in-principle, Directors General have agreed to submit a last no-cost extension of the Project until 30 November 2025 to the European Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> ECAC Member States benefited by virtue of being part of TRACECA, an organisation encompassing both European and central Asian States, with which the Project has organised one workshop in 2024.

### **Priorities for the reminder of the Project**

18. The project duration extension (12 months) aims at catching up with a set of identified priority challenges which will be at heart of the proposal for the 12-month no-cost extension, in line with the provisions of the Grant Contract. To support this the Project developed a strategy in the first half of 2024 to cover the activities in the remaining life of the Project, to November 2025.

19. The Project will focus on improving the Partner States' needs and threat assessments to provide relevant activities; the delivery of capacity-building activities to the benefit of three ECAC Member States (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia); and the development of activities in Asia, through, for example organising a regional workshop in the region. At this stage of the Project, activities were only delivered in Central Asia Partner States.

20. The Project Team will also focus on the delivery of activities related to the new topics developed in 2024 and will also continue to strengthen the partnership approach with all stakeholders:

- With the sister regional organisations: organisation of one regional workshop for each region with AFCAC and ACAO.
- With the industry: to finance four additional APEX reviews performed by ACI World in Partner States of interest to the Project.

21. In addition, the Project will also focus on analysing the impacts of the Project on Partner States to prepare the final narrative report. It will also prepare the phase-out, the Project exit strategy and the lessons learnt, as part of the Project closure.

### **Action to be taken**

22. The Plenary Session is invited to note the main achievements in the implementation of the CASE II Project in the period 2022-2024, and the priorities for the remaining life of the Project.