

This newsletter provides information about key news and events related to UNODC's action and partnerships in the region. The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) aims at addressing the illicit trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan and other related challenges, such as organized crime, corruption and drug abuse. Structured along three main pillars - (I) Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, (II) Enhancement of Integrity and Justice, (III) Prevention, Treatment and Care - this Programme focuses on priority actions identified in cooperation with the Governments in the region and through a dialogue with national, regional and international partners.

For feedback, queries or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova (e-mail: ekaterina.kolykhalova@unodc.org) and Mr. Sinisa Durkulic (sinisa.durkulic@unodc.org).

NEWS AND EVENTS

The UN System Task Force (UNTF) on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking as Threats to Security and Stability is launched in South Eastern Europe

26 January 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: The first meeting of UNTF, co-chaired by UNODC and the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia was held under the auspices of the UN Country Team in Serbia. Based on the 2011 policy decision of the UN Secretary General, UNTF aims to raise awareness and mobilize collective action against the threat of transnational organized crime and drug trafficking and to develop a roadmap of key activities and initiatives such as data-gathering, threat-mapping, vulnerability and needs assessments, evaluation of policy tools and lessons learned. In South Eastern Europe, UNTF is piloted by the UN-Serbia and will be replicated in other countries of the region in which UNODC has presence. The second meeting of the Task Force took place on 2 March. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

UNODC Study Provides Evidence Base for Serbia's new Drug Strategy

2014-2015, Belgrade, Serbia: In late 2014, the Government of Serbia adopted a new National Drug Strategy for the period 2014-2021. The Strategy sets the national policy in the field of prevention and countering illicit drugs and is a key national instrument in this area. The Strategy refers to UNODC and, in particular, the Mid-Term Review of the previous National Drug Strategy of the Republic of Serbia - a study prepared by UNODC within the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care in Serbia, and takes into account its findings. *For info: Milos Stojanovic*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

UNODC initiates Strengthening Family Programme 10-14 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

29 January 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Within the UNODC Programme "Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low - and middle-income countries" the first meeting of the national project coordination team was held in cooperation with Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina to initiate the Programme in the country. The meeting has agreed that the cultural adaptation of the training materials will be held under the supervision of the Ministry of Security. The start of the Programme in elementary schools in Sarajevo and Banja Luka is envisaged for the September 2015, preceded by the training of educators in August 2015.

Results of UNODC's implementation of Lions Quest Skills for adolescence programme in Serbia presented at the UN HQ and at the margins of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs

7 March 2015, New York, USA: UNODC presented the results of the collaborative effort on the implementation of Lions Quest - Skills for adolescence programme in Serbia at the Annual Lions Day with the UN. As a result of collaboration between UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation, a school based programme Lions Quest- Skills for Adolescence commenced with its implementation in Republic of Serbia in June 2014. During the implementation, project delivered tangible results in a short period of time, reaching more than 1,300 students in 21 elementary school in Belgrade, and educating 75 teachers to work on improving social and life skills of students thus tackling the substance use risk factors. These achievements were also presented at UNODC, Vienna, on 10 March 2015 as a side-event during the 58th session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs.

Second session of the Programme "Skills for Adolescence" held in Belgrade

23 March 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation continued the implementation of the pilot programme "Skills for Adolescence" in Serbia. The programme is currently being conducted in 20 elementary schools in Belgrade. This second session, in a series of three, was conducted with 42 educators and an international Lions Quest senior trainer coach. The follow-up session confirmed the usefulness of active monitoring process and demonstrated that fine-tuning of the implementation process is critically important for the sustainable and productive realization.



For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic

TERRORISM PREVENTION

UNODC launches new global initiative to boost criminal justice responses to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)

26 March 2015, Valletta, Malta: In response to the growing involvement of individuals as FTF in various conflicts and terrorist activities, UNODC has launched a new initiative aimed at bolstering countries' criminal justice responses. The initiative will assist Member States in criminalizing the FTF phenomenon in areas such as terrorist recruitment and training, incitement to terrorism and terrorism financing. In light of this issue a conference was held in collaboration with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta. Representatives from the Mediterranean basin and South Eastern Europe were present to discuss and evaluate the threat that FTFs pose to their countries and regions. The initiative will continue to work in the region in the future. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**Inter-agency Cooperation with support of CCP in Albania; Awarding the Certificate of Merit to UNODC**

13 January 2015, Tirana, Albania: The Directors of the General Directorate of Customs Administration and General Directorate of State Police of Albania signed a Memorandum of Understanding calling for closer cooperation between their agencies in the functioning of the Joint Container Control Unit (JCCU) operating at the Durres Port, established through the CCP. The Memorandum will assist in implementing the respective roles of the two agencies in the container control and support their cooperation within the JCCU and beyond.

Also in **January 2015, Tirana, Albania:** Commemorating the International Customs Day, the Albanian Customs Administration (ACA) awarded a WCO Certificate of Merit to the UNODC Project Office in Tirana for supporting ACA in their tasks related to combatting trafficking in drugs and other contraband. *For info: Ela Banaj*

Joint Container Control Unit (JCCU) at Durres Port seizes 2.5 kg of heroin

26 March 2015, Durres, Albania: Utilizing risk analysis, the Durres JPCU seized 2.5 kg of high-purity heroin at a ferry terminal from a car with Albanian number plates destined to Bari, Italy. The heroin of Afghan origin was hidden in the fuel tank of the vehicle. Its estimated street value is around EUR 50,000. *For info: Ela Banaj*

CCP holds the First Steering Committee meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina

17 February 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The First Steering Committee meeting of the CCP was held in Bosnia and Herzegovina and discussed strategic, operational, administrative and funding aspect of the CCP implementation, as well as agreed to a number of implementing modalities and focus areas, including to expand the Programme to a new border crossing point and introduction of a new element called CCP-Air. *For info: Alen Gagula*

CCP strengthens the capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fight illicit trade

9-20 February 2015, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: WCO trainers held a two-week basic practical training for the JCCU engaging the Unit's officers in real-life situations of risk profiling and examination of cargo containers. The training included examination exercises to improve the capabilities to identify containers with prohibited goods being imported or exported to the country. *For info: Alen Gagula*

UNODC - WCO mission visits Montenegro

18-20 February 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro: A UNODC-WCO mission met with the Minister of Interior of Montenegro, the Director General of Customs, General Director of the Police and the Head of Criminal Police Sector. The Standard Operation Procedures were discussed; national counterparts expressed appreciation for the support in establishing the JCCU at the port of Bar. *For info: Ela Banaj*

"The Balkan Gate" Operation in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro Results in Significant Seizures

11-31 March 2015, Durres, Albania; Bar, Montenegro; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The JCCUs from the three countries participated in an internationally coordinated WCO operation codenamed "The Balkan Gate" applying in practice techniques of identification of infringements of Intellectual Property Rights and promoting the regional cooperation among border control entities. Prior to the operation, a workshop was conducted in **Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 11-13 March 2015**, with a focus on distinguishing genuine and counterfeit goods, on best practices and risk assessments. The exercise in the three countries resulted in detection and seizure of consignments of fake and undeclared commodities such as sports shoes and other branded goods. The total value of the seized goods was around EUR 500,000 in addition to the confiscation of USD 150,000 in cash. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**ANTI-CORRUPTION****UNODC delivers workshops on prevention of corruption for the judiciary in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244**

9-11 February 2015, Pristina, Kosovo under the UNSCR 1244: UNODC delivered a workshop entitled "Innovative approaches to Corruption Prevention in the Judiciary: International Best Practices". This was one of a series of workshops aimed at preventing corruption and promoting integrity in the Kosovo judiciary as part of a joint UNODC-UNDP anti-corruption project in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. Over 38 participants took part in the workshop, including from the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC), Office of the Disciplinary Prosecutor, civil society and the EULEX. On **27 March 2015, in Pristina**, UNODC delivered a training for Information Offices and media officers from the KJC and the first tier courts. The two-days workshop focused, inter alia, on the usefulness of the UN Convention against Corruption as a global anti-corruption legal instrument and as a basis for actions that promote transparency in all branches of power. *For info: Constantine Palicarsky*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING**UNODC holds a workshop on analyzing concrete cases of trafficking in children in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

2-4 February 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC held a Methodological Country Workshop aiming to develop a methodology for the implementation of the national workshops on analysing cases of trafficking in children and on formulating plans of action through enhanced international cooperation with the focus on exchange of practical experiences among practitioners.

UNODC holds a workshop on criminal justice response to trafficking in children in the Western Balkans

30-31 March 2015, Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC held an Initial Country Workshop under the project "Enhancing national and regional criminal justice response to trafficking in children in the Western Balkans". The Workshop was attended by prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and France, as well as representative of Eurojust. The participants elaborated a set of conclusions and recommendations with focus on multidisciplinary analysis of concrete cases of trafficking in children. *For info on all of the above: Davor Raus*