

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.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Special event! UNODC launches the new Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2016-2019)

26 November 2015, Vienna, Austria: The new UNODC Regional Programme (2016-2019) was launched at the special 7th meeting of the Programme Steering Committee. The meeting was attended by the PSC Members, Ambassadors and senior special representatives of the countries of the region and donor countries, the European Union, the OSCE, SELEC, RACVIAC, PCC SEE, RCC, EMCDDA and the UN in the region. The UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov thanked the participating countries, donors and partners and pointed out that South Eastern Europe remains of strategic importance for UNODC. The new Programme is composed of three Sub-Programmes: (i) Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime; (ii) Strengthening Criminal Justice, Integrity and Legal Cooperation; and (iii) Enhancing substance use prevention, drug use disorders treatment, and reintegration and care. Research, gender and civil society components are cross-cutting. The Programme was developed upon a request of the countries of the region through a participatory process involving over 70 representatives from the region. It is based on the findings of the in-depth evaluation of the Regional Programme (2012-2015) and takes into account its results, successes and lessons learnt. The Programme was unanimously adopted along with a respective Declaration of Intent.



UNODC Executive Director visits Romania and the South Eastern European Law Enforcement Centre

8 October 2015, Bucharest, Romania: Mr. Yury Fedotov visited Bucharest on the occasion of the Regional workshop on challenges posed by a preventative criminal justice response to terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) organized by UNODC and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and hosted by the Parliament of Romania. The workshop is part of the five-year UNODC Initiative on Criminal Justice Responses to FTF (2015-2019) covering North Africa, Middle East and South Eastern Europe. During his visit, Mr. Fedotov met with the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania, Foreign Policy Advisor of the President of Romania, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania and State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Romania. Mr. Fedotov also visited the South Eastern European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) and met with its Director General. The officials discussed the status of cooperation between UNODC and SELEC, usage of data provided in SELEC situation reports, and useful outcomes of inter-agency and inter-regional cooperation initiated by UNODC, including the Networking the Networks initiative.

UNODC participates in the 15th meeting of the Expert Working Group of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE)

7-9 October 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC participated in the 15th meeting of the Expert Working Group of the PCC SEE hosted by the Ministry of Interior. UNODC cooperates with the PCC SEE under the umbrella of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme which operates in the region in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

UNODC HQ mission to Belgrade discusses the implementation of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe in Serbia

16-18 November 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: The Chief of the Regional Section for Europe and West/Central Asia, Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe, visited Belgrade and met with the Assistant Minister of Interior, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, and the UN Resident Coordinator to discuss cooperation within the new Regional Programme.

UN launches its Common Development Plan in Pristina

18 November 2015, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244: The United Nations Kosovo Team launched the UN Common Development Plan (UNCDP) for the period 2016- 2020. UNODC is part of the UNCDP and has participated in its development.

Drug money and opiate trafficking on the Balkan route - focus of new UNODC report

26 November 2015, Vienna, Austria: A new UNODC report entitled 'Drug Money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan route', launched at the special meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe, shows that the total value of illicit heroin and opium trafficked from Afghanistan to Western Europe through the Balkans amounts to some \$28 billion every year. 65% of this total (\$18 billion) is generated in Western and Central Europe. The four largest European markets for heroin - France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy - account for nearly half of the gross profits, as the major heroin benefits are made by traffickers on the retail markets. At the launch, UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov noted that information such as that contained in the new report is key to UNODC's work in the region. "UNODC is experienced at undertaking research that builds a detailed picture of the problem, while assisting Member States through effective and tailored projects and programmes." The report was also presented on **3 December 2015 in Brussels, Belgium** to the EU Commission and counterparts, reflecting the importance that UNODC attaches to the cooperation and coordination of its work in South Eastern Europe with the European Union. *(For info on all of the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

12th Policy Consultative Group Meeting of the Paris Pact Initiative (PPI) gathers 120 participants from 39 countries and 10 organizations

15-16 December 2015, Vienna, Austria: PPI held its annual policy meeting and endorsed recommendations of the 2015 Expert Working Groups on all four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe was presented to the PCGM along with the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. *(For info: Marie-Anne Menier)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**Joint Container Control Unit at Durres Port seizes over one ton of marijuana en route to Italy**

October, November 2015, Durres, Albania: The Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) at Durres Port in cooperation with the Border Police officers seized around one ton and a quarter of marijuana in four interdictions. First, on 25 October the officers seized 984 kg of cannabis from a truck waiting to embark on the ferry to Ancona, Italy. On 10 November, 9.5 kg of cannabis was seized from a passenger car on its way to Bari, Italy. On 12 November, the JPCU officers found more than 120 kg of marijuana concealed in the fuel tank of a truck heading for Italy, and on 23 November over 112 kg of the drug was found in shoe boxes that were to be exported to Italy. The JPCU is continuously achieving good results in interdiction of illicit drugs thanks to the professional work of the officers and the good coordination among the enforcement agencies operating in the Port. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

Joint Container Control Unit in Montenegro seizes 33 kg of cocaine

1 December 2015, Bar, Montenegro: The Joint Container Control Unit (JCCU) at the Port of Bar in cooperation with other structures of customs administration at this Port, seized 33 kg of cocaine when they checked a container that had arrived from Brazil. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

Officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro make a study visit to the Port of Rijeka, Croatia

27-29 October 2015, Rijeka, Croatia: Officers from the Joint Cargo Containers Control Unit (JCCCU) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Indirect Taxation Authority, the Border Police and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as officers from the JCCU in Montenegro held a study visit to the Port of Rijeka in Croatia. The visit focused on topics such as risk profiling and risk analyses for containerized shipments, information exchange contexts, cooperation of customs with other law enforcement structures, cooperation with the private sector and other relevant issues. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

Vehicle donation for the Joint Cargo Container Control Unit in Bosnia and Herzegovina

23 November 2015, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The JCCCU in Bosnia and Herzegovina received a new off-road vehicle provided through the donation of the USA Export Control and Border Security Programme (EXBS) to the Indirect Taxation Authority in the country. This donation will further support the JCCCU work and increase the Unit's operational mobility to contribute to minimization of risks related to illicit trafficking of prohibited goods across the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

Second Mentorship visit to the Joint Container Cargo Control Unit (JCCCU) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

14-17 December 2015, Bijaca, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Second Mentorship visit to the land port (border crossing/customs point) Bijaca observed current activities of the JCCCU, their operational practices, recent achievements and overall assessment of the Programme's implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the JCCCU was visited by representatives of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) - the donor organization of the CCP in South Eastern Europe. The mentorship visit findings will assist UNODC and national stakeholders in further implementation of the Programme in 2016. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

ORGANIZED CRIME**Workshop on combating drug trafficking held in Skopje**

1-2 October 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: A Workshop on combating drug trafficking was held by the Embassy of Italy with the participation of UNODC, the Italian Central Direction for Anti-drug Services and Public Prosecution Office for Organized Crime, as well as of the national Ministry of Interior and Customs Administration. The Workshop discussed operational cooperation in the fight against international drug trafficking, latest trends in modus operandi, and New Psychoactive Substances. The UNODC representative presented the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe and the Paris Pact Initiative with emphasis on the latest findings of the World Drug Report 2015 and the Report 'Illicit drug trade through South Eastern Europe'. *(For info: Valentina Anchevska)*

**Training on Establishing Joint Investigation Teams to tackle Serious and Organized Crime - Good Practices and Challenges**

13-15 October 2015, Budapest, Hungary: UNODC and the International Training Center of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior - jointly organized the third training on establishing Joint Investigation Teams for participants - Judges, Investigators, Prosecutors and Forensic experts - from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. The course provided valuable experience of the Eurojust and Europol experts, as well as experts from the National Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution of Hungary and identified practices that support operations of the Joint Investigation Teams dealing with serious organized crime. *(For info: Dejan Tanaskovic)*

UNODC and the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) Deliver a Regional Criminal Intelligence Training

19 October 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro: UNODC and TADOC delivered a Regional Criminal Intelligence Analysis course for law enforcement officers from the countries of South Eastern Europe. The training course was designed for officers with responsibilities for analyzing crime and criminal activities, producing intelligence assessments on the activities, finances and associations of criminal groups, movement of commodities and developing trends in the targeted criminal activity. UNODC and TADOC have had a fruitful cooperation for more than a decade and this training course is an extension of this partnership. *(For info: Jelena Velic)*



DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE**Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" prevention programme starts in Montenegro and makes progress in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

2-7 October 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro: In line with the planned expansion of the UNODC - Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) work in South Eastern Europe, the two agencies commenced the pilot programme in Montenegro as the third country in the region. The programme is implemented together with the Ministry of Education of Montenegro and it started in Podgorica with two training workshops, in a series of five, where 30 educators from six elementary schools completed the training. On **9-15 October 2015**, the programme continued in **Kavadarci, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** with the third and fourth training sessions in a series of five. The participants from 14 schools from Veles and Kavadarci completed the training workshops, which increases the current number of the trained teachers to 60. A LCIF representative visited the training and also presented the programme at the inception meeting with representatives of education institutions on **12 October in Skopje**.

**UNODC and Lions Club International Foundation participate in national consultative meetings on the implementation of Lions Quest "Skills for adolescence" programme**

16 October 2015, Belgrade, Serbia; 19 October 2015, Podgorica Montenegro: with the support of the respective national Ministries of Education, meetings of national experts in drug use prevention were organized in Serbia and Montenegro with the representative of the LCIF to discuss the pilot programme Lions Quest "Skills for adolescence" objectives, implementation and results. In the meetings, the importance of a continuous implementation of the evidence-based drug use prevention programmes was underlined.

Results of the UNODC - Lions Club International Foundation "Skills for adolescence" programme presented at the European Union Society for Prevention Research annual meeting

22-24 October 2015, Ljubljana, Slovenia: An assessment of the UNODC - LCIF pilot programme was presented at the annual meeting of the European Union Society for Prevention Research entitled "Changing Behavior without Talking: Automatic Processes and the Regulation of Behavior". The main results of the assessment argued the significant improvement in refusal skills, especially among the groups who never tried the relevant substance (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana) where the perception of the harm of the substance increased significantly.

UNODC delivered a Regional Training Seminar on evaluation of effectiveness of drug use policies

19-20 November 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: A Regional Training Seminar on the evaluation of the effectiveness of drug use interventions and policies was held for policy makers from South Eastern Europe to provide them with evidence-based information and to increase the understanding of the value and importance of appropriate evaluation methods. The objective of the Training Seminar was to discuss the evaluation of prevention of drug use strategies by raising the knowledge on the paramount necessity of regular evaluation of the effectiveness of drug use interventions and to provide instructions on how and when the evaluation can be conducted. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic)*

TERRORISM PREVENTION**UNODC participates in the Regional conference "Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Challenges for South-Eastern Europe" to discuss countering violent extremism**

8 October 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The conference, co-organized by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, RACVIAC and the OSCE with participation of more than 150 regional and international experts, discussed the rising global concerns related to challenges in countering violent extremism and radicalization. The UNODC representative focused on the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING**Regional Workshop on Strengthening Cross-border Cooperation in Addressing Irregular Migration-related Crimes in the Western Balkans**

4-5 November 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC, IOM and the OSCE held the workshop with participation of policy-makers and practitioners such as judges, law enforcement officers and other government officials as well as criminal justice experts from the three agencies and other international and regional organizations and academia. The workshop explored the strategic outlook for further development of the cooperation between criminal justice actors and other relevant public and private parties in the Western Balkans. *(For info: Davor Raus)*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**UNODC conducts a country visit to Albania in the context of reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**

5-7 October 2015, Tirana, Albania: UNODC conducted a country visit to Albania in the context of reviewing the implementation of UNCAC (fourth year of the first review cycle on the implementation of the Convention), with Armenia and Mali as reviewing States parties. Based on discussions with national experts, a country review report will be drafted with the findings of the country visit.

UNODC joins the discussion on good practices of reporting corruption in the conference "International and regional good practices to protect the reporting persons - whistleblowers"

15 October 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC participated in the conference organized by the Transparency International in Skopje. The Conference included a segment for UNODC in which the new publication on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons was presented and advice on the follow-up to the review recommendations was provided. *(For info: Constanze von Soehnen)*