

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

### **New UNODC research initiative "Measuring and assessing organized crime in the Western Balkans: supporting evidence based policy making" launched**

**5 May 2016, Vienna, Austria:** The new three-year EU funded research initiative was launched with presence of representatives of participating jurisdictions - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and UNMIK, as well as Croatia as a partner country and the EU Ambassador. Key results and output to be produced by the initiative include: a statistical framework for measuring and assessing organized crime, a regional data repository, qualitative data collection and analysis, targeted capacity building for participating jurisdictions and a final regional report. The representatives of the region and the EU expressed their support and welcomed the UNODC initiative, highlighting the importance of working together to counter organized crime and the pertinence of research in addressing it.

### **Briefing to Member States held at UNODC HQ**

**16 June 2016, Vienna, Austria:** On the occasion of the Annual UNODC Field Representatives' Meeting held in Vienna on 13-17 June 2016, a series of informal briefings for interested Permanent Missions was organized by the respective Country and Regional Representatives of UNODC. In the briefing session on the Office's work in Europe, West and Central Asia, chaired by the Deputy Executive Director and the UNODC senior officials provided an overview of UNODC's integrated strategic approach and programmes in this wide region, including South Eastern Europe, and led an open the discussion on the latest progress, achievements and plans. *(For info on all of the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*



## MONEY-LAUNDERING



### **UNODC-South Eastern Europe is an active member of the MONEYVAL**

**15 April 2016, Strasbourg, France:** UNODC participated in the 50th Plenary of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL), which included the mutual evaluation of Serbia and a special session on the suppression of the financing of terrorism. UNODC provided inputs into MONEYVAL's special session on the financing of terrorism which focused on forward looking policy and operational interventions by the international community and national governments to effectively combat new global risks related to the financing of terrorism.

### **UNODC mission visits Skopje, Podgorica and Belgrade**

**18-20 April 2016, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 21-22 April 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro; 8-10 June 2016, Belgrade, Serbia:** UNODC mission visited Skopje, Podgorica and Belgrade to continue the dialogue with national and international counterparts on the implementation of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe and in particular the new UNODC Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) initiative for the period 2016-2019 and to complete the introduction of the new Regional AML/CFT Advisor. The counterparts underscored the relevance of the UNODC response to these challenges and welcomed the UNODC initiative to address them in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The UNODC AML/CFT initiative aims to strengthen the local capacities in South Eastern Europe towards ensuring that these capacities become self-sustaining, involve structural relationships and enhanced information sharing and be coordinated among all partners.

### **UNODC Workshop on International Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Standards Held in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**17 May 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The workshop, in preparation for the National Risk Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing to begin shortly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided in-depth information on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations and immediate outcomes affecting the delivery of a national risk assessment, as well as the outcomes of mutual evaluations on national risk assessments conducted by FATF. Also, information was provided on the methodology that Bosnia and Herzegovina will be following, and expectations for resource and data commitments were made for each of the attending agencies. The workshop was attended by representatives from over 30 agencies from across the country.

### **UNODC Hosts Regional Counter-Terrorism Financing Workshop with OSCE and Serbia**

**7-8 June 2016, Belgrade, Serbia:** The workshop, held jointly with the OSCE and Serbia's financial intelligence unit, the Administration for the Prevention of Money Laundering, was attended by representatives from the financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The participants exchanged experience in detecting transactions where there is a suspicion of terrorism financing and best practices in disseminating financial intelligence to appropriate investigative bodies. The workshop set potential future activities for agencies, both domestic and international, that are engaged in the fight against terrorism. *(For info on all above: Mike Fowler)*

**GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)****The first CCP Public-Private Partnership Workshop held in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**20 April 2016, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The workshop was held by UNODC and the Indirect Taxation Authority for forwarding agents and other private sector stakeholders and the Foreign Trade Chamber. It continued to strengthen their relationships, in particular with agents conducting their business through the border crossing Bijača, but also other parts of the country. The participants identified areas where further improvement of cooperation should be made and stressed the need for continued activities in order to facilitate the trade and contribute to secure and fast movement of goods.

**Second meeting of the CCP Steering Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**21 April 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The meeting gathered representatives of the Ministry of Security, Indirect Taxation Authority, Border Police and UNODC to discuss strategic, operational and funding aspects of the Programme implementation on the basis of the Global 2015 Annual Report and the Progress Report 2015 for Bosnia and Herzegovina. All participants concurred with the importance of the CCP implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a prominent and contributing factor to minimize risks of trafficking in narcotic drugs and other illegal commodities, smuggling, tax evasion and customs fraud through the national borders. To support the implementation of the CCP activities a set of conclusions and recommendations was discussed. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

**UNODC-WCO conducts a scoping mission to Kosovo under UNSCR 1244**

**27-29 June 2016, Pristina, Kosovo:** UNODC and WCO conducted a scoping mission to Kosovo to assess the current situation in the area of border control with particular focus on the control of containers, cargos and freight with support of DCAF. The mission identified the needs and elaborated a plan for further activities required in the field of cargo control.

**CCP organizes the Second Annual Meeting of Women's Network**

**20-21 June 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro:** The workshop was organized with support of the Swiss Development Cooperation to raise awareness among the female officers of the Joint Port Control Units, national and international stakeholders and CCP female staff. The event gathered participants from South Eastern Europe and other countries where CCP is operational. The meeting reviewed relevant international treaties as well as analysed progress made by the law enforcement entities in the subject area and constraints attached to the active involvement of women in the law enforcement work. The workshop proposed a set of guidelines and suggested to develop a training manual. A list of actions to be undertaken by the members of the women's network was agreed upon. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

**DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE****Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" programme continues in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro**

**26-27 May 2016, Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 30-31 May 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro:** The programme, which in the two countries is reaching over 40 elementary schools with 1,604 students in the age group of 10-14, encourages the social emotional learning to develop student capacities to address drug use protective factors more efficiently. To review local pilot programme implementation modality with directly involved teachers, the follow-up sessions were convened with the Ministries of Education in Podgorica and Skopje. The data analysis on substance use, refusal skills, normative belief and perception of harm was showcased presenting the results of testing of participating students. The sessions were acknowledged as highly beneficial for teachers and national counterparts as an opportunity to discuss best practices and sustainability. Extending the session's outcomes, additional national events were organized in Skopje and Podgorica to further examine the value of the programme, its affinity, additional cultural adaptation of the material, training needs and allocation of resources for the continuation of the programme in the future.

**UNODC takes part in scientific review of drug use in the workplace in Skopje**

**21-21 June 2016, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** UNODC participated in the workshop organized under the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Skopje, and presented the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, as well as showcased the UNODC insights on tackling drugs use in the workplace. The workshop was attended by over 60 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, and aimed to promote effective preventive measures for drug use in the workplace, discuss adequate regulations for employers on monitoring, prevention and treatment and offered a platform to discuss the best practices and to acknowledge the importance of the timely utilization of evidence-based practices.

**Results and status of the UNODC - LCIF work with adolescence in South Eastern Europe presented at the Lions Clubs International Convention**

**25-27 June 2016, Fukuoka, Japan:** UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) work on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding on collaboration in disseminating evidence based prevention programmes. The MOU is implemented by means of adapting and piloting Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence (LQSFA) materials in teacher-led life skills education programmes for children of 12-15 years of age which focus on socio-emotional learning for prevention of substance use and other social outcomes. As a result of this collaboration, LQSFA was first piloted in Serbia in the academic year 2014-2015 with 1,600 students having received it. This successful outcome has resulted into the expansion of the cooperation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro during the academic year 2015-2016. A UNODC expert attended the 99<sup>th</sup> International Convention in Fukuoka and presented the results and status of the UNODC - LCIF work in South Eastern Europe, and explored opportunities for further expansion of potential collaboration. As a result, a vast group of international experts and partners have been sensitized on the results of UNODC - LCIF joint work and the continuation of cooperation was placed as an important point on the agenda of the relevant LCIF meetings in the near and mid-term future. *(For info on all above: Milos Stojanovic)*



**ANTI-CORRUPTION****First Review Cycle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is completed in Albania**

**5 April 2016, Tirana, Albania:** The first cycle of the Review of implementation of the UNCAC (Chapter III on Criminalization and law enforcement and Chapter IV on International cooperation) for Albania has been completed and the Executive Summary of the first cycle of the Review as well as the final country review report are available on UNODC web site.

**UNODC completes judicial integrity support initiative in Pristina**

**28 April 2016, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244:** UNODC completed a judicial integrity project in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 which represented a component of the larger "Support to Anti-Corruption Efforts in Kosovo (SAEK)" project implemented by UNDP. The project beneficiaries included the Kosovo Judicial Council, the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, the Office of the Disciplinary Prosecutor, judges and prosecutors, civil society and media representatives in line with the UNSCR 1244. The project aimed at achieving a positive impact on the prevention and fight against corruption in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 by means of strengthening monitoring and oversight mechanisms of local institutions to perform in an efficient, transparent, accountable and gender sensitive manner.

**Workshop on Corruption Reporting and Whistleblower Protection takes place at RACVIAC**

**10-11 May 2016, Zagreb, Croatia:** A UNODC specialist on whistleblower protection participated in a workshop on corruption reporting and whistleblower protection at the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) organized in cooperation with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA). The aim of the workshop was to share good practices and experiences as well as to discuss the most adequate steps for an implementation strategy for the protection of whistleblowers in the South Eastern Europe, with concrete proposals to enhance regional cooperation. States parties had also requested UNODC to provide more support in the field of whistleblower protection, as per UNODC SEE Regional Programme.

**UNODC Participates in ICITAP/OPDAT Anti-Corruption and Financial Investigation Workshop**

**15-16 June 2016, Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC participated in the joint International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) of the US Government workshop that focused on creating and executing anti-corruption investigation, with a focus on financial aspects of the investigations. This in-depth national training was attended by over 50 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina from prosecutor's offices, law enforcement and the judiciary. The training focused on the challenges in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, specifically in developing and presenting financial evidence, the management of investigative teams for corruption investigations, and the utilization of all resources available to the investigative team. A special focus was provided to the financial side of corruption in providing international best practices in analyzing complex financial information, utilization of expert financial witnesses, the presentation of financial evidence at trial and the application of alternative or complimentary charges, including money laundering.

**UNODC and RAI working on a New Regional Initiative on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Civil Society**

In December 2015, UNODC in cooperation with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) launched a new "Southeast Europe regional programme on strengthening the capacity of anti-corruption authorities and civil society to combat corruption and contribute to the UNCAC review process". The programme is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The objective of the new initiative is to build and strengthen the capacity of governments and civil society in South Eastern Europe to prevent and fight corruption, while supporting gender equality and good governance. The three-year initiative targets Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, as well as Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. *(For info on all of the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

**TERRORISM PREVENTION****UNODC provides the Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) regional workshop with advice on degrading foreign terrorist fighter threat**

**4 May 2016, Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC participated in the RCC regional workshop for law enforcement experts and state attorneys / prosecutors from South Eastern Europe on legal and practical challenges in countering violent extremism leading to terrorism and dealing with current and former foreign terrorist fighters. This workshop provided law enforcement and state prosecutors from the region with the opportunity to provide their insights into the current threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and provide solutions to counter violent extremism. At this meeting, UNODC called on jurisdictions to implement relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions aimed at degrading the threat of terrorism financing and foreign terrorist fighters, as well as recommended three steps to leverage financial intelligence to better detect and deter the financing of foreign terrorist fighters in their jurisdictions: include the financing of foreign terrorist fighters in an updated addendum to the National Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Financing of Terrorism Risk Assessment; provide both typological and operational intelligence to private sector entities involved in financial transactions. These entities, with obligations to report transactions where there is a suspicion of terrorism financing to the financial intelligence unit, require timely and accurate information to properly identify such transactions. The validity of information received by the financial intelligence unit from the private sector is a direct function of the information on which the private sector can act upon, and create a working group amongst the financial intelligence unit, law enforcement and security services to facilitate domestic and international information sharing. *(For info: Joaquin Zuckerberg)*