



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 (2016-2019) is structured along three main pillars: (I) Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, (II) Enhancement of Integrity and Justice, (III) Prevention, Treatment and Care. The 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).

ANTI-MONEY-LAUNDERING/COUNTER-FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AML/CFT)

In line with its focus on AML/CFT, and with support of the Turkish Government, UNODC has conducted an extensive needs assessment for the member states of South Eastern Europe and a consultative process with national actors and partner organizations which consisted of in-person interviews with all relevant authorities and an extensive legislative review. A draft workplan was shared with the member states and other technical assistance providers to ensure accuracy and relevance. This consultative approach has provided a definitive roadmap to technical assistance delivery in the region, as well as ensured responsiveness to member states' needs and complimentary to the technical assistance provided by other actors. This workplan will be delivered through UNODC training events and effective mentoring programme, which places the UNODC regional AML/CFT expert to provide day-to-day operational assistance, advice on legislative amendments and national strategies, and ongoing informal training engagements. Mentoring assistance has begun for the constituents of the region, incl. extensive assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina in ensuring that its legislation is in compliance with international standards. This assistance is being delivered with the aim of having BiH fulfill its action plan resulting from the placing on FATF's list of countries with AML/CFT deficiencies. BiH has passed a regulation for freezing terrorist assets in line with UNSCR 1373, modernized the offences of ML/TF in criminal procedure codes and implemented enhanced cross-border currency controls, amongst other important developments.

UNODC and South Eastern Europe countries call for joint work in criminal asset identification

19 September 2016, Budva, Montenegro: Practitioners from South Eastern Europe and international experts gathered at the UNODC-organized Criminal Asset Identification Conference to start the implementation of and share best practices in identifying assets acquired through criminal enterprise. Identifying these assets is a critical first step in the process to deprive criminals of their ill-gotten assets. In a message delivered to the Conference, UNODC Executive Director encouraged all countries in the region to work jointly to curb organized crime. Senior representatives of Montenegro and other jurisdictions in the region noted the attention which the Governments pay to the rule of law, including in the context of the EU requirements, and acknowledged the complimentary role of UNODC. The UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro spoke of the challenge posed by organized crime to sustainable development, as it distorts economies and erodes confidence in government institutions. At the event, practitioners were able to interact with a number of global experts in the field attending the conference in order to share information and build a basis for potential joint investigations. The training methods and working relationships fostered through the conference can assist the region in building a sustainable and effective network of experts who tackle the challenge organized crime. *(For info: Mike Fowler)*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

UNODC and Lions Quest continue work in Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

27 September 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro; 29 September 2016, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: The Lions Club International Foundation drug use prevention programme "Skills for Adolescence" is a school-based life skill programme targeting young people to develop skills, to accept the responsibility, to learn effective communication, make health decisions, and resist pressure to use alcohol and drugs. The programme was disseminated in 17 elementary schools in Montenegro and 47 elementary schools in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reaching over 2,500 students in the 2015-16. Organized by the Ministry of Education of Montenegro, a panel session on drug use prevention programmes addressing adolescence was convened with representatives of expert society to present programme's results and the value of the evidence-based interventions for the national educational system, as well as the partnership prospects with other programmes. The Macedonian Ministry of Education and Science presented the programme results and in particular highlighted positive indirect outcome with the groups of students who were involved in the programme in view of their greater attachment to school, better scholastic achievements and decreased violence in schools. The initiative was commended as an evidence-based intervention of great importance for the national response system to drugs and its further expansion in the country was suggested by the Minister of Education and Science in his opening remarks. During the implementation in both countries, the effectiveness of the programme was evaluated using standardized methodologies on case and control groups in all schools targeting four main indicators: substance use, refusal skills, intention to use and normative beliefs. Results are convincingly displaying the positive trend among the assessed groups in strengthening refusal skills and with positive outcomes related to the intention to use alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.

UNODC advances the Strengthening Family Programme 10-14 (SFP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

20-24 September 2016, Banja Luka; 26-30 September, Mostar, both - Bosnia and Herzegovina: SFP is a UNODC flagship drug use prevention programme actively promoted in the South Eastern Europe region since 2010, starting from Serbia and Albania, and gradually expanding to other countries in the region. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, more specifically, in Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo, the programme started in 2015, implicating 9 elementary schools and directly reaching more than 90 families. Advancing the programme implementation in collaboration with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, two five-day Training of Trainers were organized in Banja Luka and Mostar where 21 national experts from 6 elementary schools were trained to carry on with the programme execution directly in their elementary schools and their communities. Starting at the end of October 2016, up to 70 families in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be trained on family and parenting skills, family relationships and techniques to reduce problem behaviours, positioning the family values and protective factors as crucial response mechanism to prevent or delay the onset of drug use. With the results of this cycle, it is expected that the Programme will reach up to 160 families in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *(For info: Milos Stojanovic)*



GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**Regional Targeting Risk Management Training conducted by the Container Control Programme**

22-24 August 2016, Durres, Albania: In response to the emerging trends in illegal trafficking and new concealment methods, UNODC and the Export Control and Related Border Security of the US Embassy in Albania organized the training offering improved solutions to reduce the rate of goods smuggling and drug trafficking, with participation of 23 officers of the Joint Port Control Units from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The training sought to enhance participants' knowledge and skills in targeting systems and risk management through sharing experience, and using case studies and real life scenarios. The participants demonstrated improved knowledge of best practices and procedures in handling cases, identification of various means of examining cargos and containers, performing in-depth seizures analysis, recognition of tools, technologies and resources used in targeting with emphasis on internet targeting.

UNODC & WCO Encourage a Public-Private Partnership Approach at the Port of Bar in Montenegro

1 September 2016, Bar, Montenegro: Further to two previous awareness raising workshops on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the workshop in Montenegro was open to business companies, shipping lines and maritime companies operating at the Port of Bar and aimed at building capacity, enhancing cooperation and exchange of information among the Bar Joint Port Unit and the business community. Experts and decision-makers from Montenegro, including senior managers of the Customs, the Ministries of Interior and Finance, the Bar Port Authority, and the officers of the Joint Port Unit discussed with the representatives of the maritime companies promoting PPP in the area of Container Control, in particular with respect to access to electronic pre-arrival information, completed and correct import/export declarations, cooperation in container examinations and improvement of Port infrastructure. This work is generously supported by the Swiss donor.

Programme Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme held in Montenegro

2 September 2016, Bar, Montenegro: The Meeting was attended by the Head of Bar Region Customs, Head of Border Check Points Department, Head of the Counter Narcotics Department, representatives from the Customs Administration, Ministry of Interior and members of the Joint Port Control Unit at the Port of Bar. The stakeholders were updated on the progress on the 2015-16 workplan, JPCU's achievements, cooperation with other national law enforcement bodies and business community, international and regional activities and contacts established during the period under review, the niche role of the JPU in the country's efforts against illicit trafficking and contraband, proposed key factors and recommendations for further improvement of the JPU's performance, importance of knowledge sharing and the role of the PSC, financial resources and donors' support to CCP in Montenegro, as well as advocacy efforts. Affirming that CCP in Montenegro has achieved a level of sustainability, the PSC meeting called on continuation of the programme and decided on the type of actions in support of advocacy efforts. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

**TERRORISM PREVENTION****UNODC works with South Eastern Europe Training Institutions on a Module addressing Cases Involving Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)**

6-7 September 2016, Vienna, Austria: UNODC held a Expert Group Meeting on the 'Investigation and Adjudication of Cases Involving FTFs in SEE and Training Module Development' to refine the draft Training Module on the investigation and adjudication of FTF cases. The finalized Module will be translated into the participants' languages and distributed to national judicial centres/academies in SEE to assist in developing relevant training programmes. The Module includes chapters on the overall approaches to FTF, the applicable international legal framework, the criminal offences related to FTF, including money laundering and terrorism financing, and investigation of FTF related offences. The development of the Module is part of a USA-funded UNODC SEE regional project aiming at criminal justice officials involved in anti-terrorism work and criminal justice training institutions. The goals of the project are to strengthen the capacity of national jurisdictions in light of the increasing flow of international recruits to terrorist organizations, to develop the capacity of criminal justice training institutions to provide training on specific legal and technical aspects related to countering FTF at national and regional levels through tailor-made FTF training modules that will include best practices and key practical case-law resources and to enhance regional and sub-regional cooperation concerning specialized counter-terrorism aspects related to FTF among national jurisdictions in the region, especially through the support to the relevant training institutions. *(For info: Joaquin Zuckerberg)*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING**Podgorica workshop focuses on strengthening cross-border cooperation to address irregular migration-related crimes in Western Balkans**

31 August 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro: The OSCE-IOM-UNODC workshop aimed at strengthening cross-border cooperation in addressing irregular migration-related crimes in the Western Balkans brought together policy-makers and law enforcement officials from the region, international and regional organizations. The participants identified gaps and challenges and shared good practices in addressing irregular migration-related crimes and protecting victims of trafficking in human beings and the rights of migrants and refugees. The areas of prevention, prosecution, cross-border cooperation and assistance to victims, migrants and refugees were closely examined. It was underscored that unregulated migration flows blur the distinction between smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, and that the states should work together across borders along the migratory route. Even in the absence of bilateral agreements, the UNTOC Convention and its supplementing Protocols provide a universal framework for action. As part of the workshop, concrete recommendations were devised by the OSCE, IOM and UNODC for enhancing international and cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans, involving criminal justice and migration practitioners as well as other relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector. *(For info: Davor Raus)*