

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

Consultative process on the development of a new UNODC Regional Programme completed

April – May 2015: As part of the inclusive and consultative process of the development of the new UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2016-2019), UNODC convened three Expert Working Group meetings (EWGs) involving national specialists from the countries of the region, donor and partner countries and organizations, the EU and relevant UNODC experts. The meetings took place in **Belgrade, Serbia on 16-17 April** focusing on the development of Sub-Programme 3 of the new Regional Programme - Enhancing Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, Reintegration and Care; in the premises of the Centre for Security Cooperation for South Eastern Europe (RACVIAC) in **Zagreb, Croatia on 11-12 May 2015** discussing Sub-Programme 1 - Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Human Trafficking and Money Laundering; and in **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 28-29 May 2015** reviewing Sub-Programme 2 - Strengthening Criminal Justice, Anti-Corruption and Anti-Terrorism. The EWGs resulted in the endorsement of the plan of work under the new Regional Programme by the participating countries, thus ensuring ownership and a proper reflection of their national and regional priorities, as well as avoiding duplication.

The evaluation of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) completed

19 May 2015, Vienna: The outcomes of the Mid-Term In-Depth Evaluation of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) were presented to the Ambassadors and representatives of the countries of the region, the EU, the partner and donor countries and the OSCE, as well as UNODC staff. The main findings point out that this is a successful Programme with clear evidence of impact in border control, corruption, drug demand reduction and other areas and quite evident best practices, including the Steering Committee and others. Some of the best practices identified by the evaluation are: good collaboration and cooperation with global programmes; the research conducted in the region is valuable for the mapping of crime problems; the ownership of the Regional Programme by the countries of the region; new and well-functioning partnerships in the design and delivery of the Programme. Some of the lessons learnt are that this framework concept has proved flexible and useful and that the alignment of the Programme with the EU-accession priorities is an essential element. Evaluation findings underscore that the Programme has been effective in reaching its objectives and that with very few exceptions, all activities have been delivered timely and as planned. The impact of the Regional Programme is visible in a number of EU-accession inspired action-plans, programmes and guidelines in the region; improved staff skills and infrastructure for border police and customs facilities; increased co-operation between judicial authorities; as well as increased awareness, expertise and professional skills in drug-treatment and prevention. All of the above are close quotes. All recommendations are being used in the development of the new Regional Programme.

UNODC participates in the Joint Ministerial Conference of the Brdo Process and the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)

16-17 April 2015, Budva, Montenegro: The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Montenegro and attended by Ministers or Deputy Ministers of Justice and Interior from the countries/territory of the region and senior officials from Austria and France. The Conference focused on the phenomenon of foreign fighters, the prevention of radicalization and illegal trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as the judicial response to terrorism, including the prevention of terrorist financing. The UNODC representative presented potential support to and cooperation with the countries of the region in the field of strengthening the legal regime against emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters and the related training initiatives. The Conference participants issued a joint statement agreeing to further enhance efforts in early detection of radicalization and confiscation related matters.

UNODC participates in the OSCE Conference on Security Sector Government and Reform

21 April 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: The Conference, organized by the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE, discussed strategies for comprehensive support to the Security Sector Government and Reform (SSR) processes with an OSCE-wide perspective. The UNODC representative referred to lessons learnt from SSR, including the connection between delivery and effectiveness of aid and peace with the rule of law and the ability to enforce it. UNODC's statement referred to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be approved in September 2015, economic crimes, as well as illicit financial flows, corruption, smuggling and other forms of transnational organized crime and the importance of countering these threats, especially in the context of the EU accession of the countries of South Eastern Europe. It was also recalled that in January this year, UNODC has piloted the UN-system-wide Task Force on Drugs and Organized Crime in Serbia under the co-chairmanship of the UN Resident Coordinator in Belgrade and the UNODC Regional Representative for the Balkans.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers and United Nations sign the UNDAF

15 June 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Chairman of the Council of Ministers and the UN Resident Coordinator signed the 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework — a 5-year strategic programme which will address several very important areas, including the rule of law, security and social inclusion. UNODC is part of the UNDAF development and implementation.



NEWS AND EVENTS**UNODC takes part in the consultations on the EU progress reports**

15-16 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium: UNODC took part in consultations on the EU progress reports that the EU Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) organized with the participation of UNODC, UNHCR, IOM, ILO, Frontex, Europol, EBRD, WB, EMCDDA and the European Asylum Support Office. The consultations were aimed to collect views and advice with regard to the progress, successes and areas requiring attention in South Eastern Europe in the fields falling under chapters 23 and 24 of the EU *acquis communautaire*.

UNODC holds a meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of Europe

22-25 June 2015, Brussels, Belgium: The 11th meeting of HONLEA-Europe took place in Brussels and discussed the current situation with respect to regional and sub-regional cooperation, trends in drug trafficking as well as practical measures taken in the implementation of recommendations from the previous session in 2013. The meeting included four working groups - on Airport Communication Project, Container Control, New Psychoactive Substances and Money-Laundering. UNODC prepared a Report on the current situation with respect to regional and sub-regional cooperation and on statistics on drug trafficking trends in Europe, Central Asia and worldwide. The results of work under the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE were presented in the meeting.

UNODC marks the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illegal trafficking in the region

26 June 2015, across the region: UNODC Offices in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje and Tirana marked the International Anti-Drug Day with a variety of public awareness and knowledge sharing activities. In Belgrade, UNODC has participated in an exchange of knowledge between the Serbian and foreign Ministries of Health on drug dependence treatment and care with involvement of civil society, including the NGO "The Land of Living" in the region of Novi Sad. In Sarajevo and Skopje, promotional activities and meetings with experts took place. In Tirana, the UNODC office undertook activities with the Office

TERRORISM PREVENTION**UNODC participates in a National Seminar on 'Strengthening rule of law compliant criminal justice responses to terrorism' in Skopje**

24-25 June 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: The Seminar organized by the OSCE and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) for national authorities aimed at strengthening the legal, criminal justice and institutional capacity to conduct effective investigations, prosecutions and adjudication of criminal cases related to terrorism, in accordance with the Rule of Law and Human Rights and by reference to the GCTF's Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector, as well as UN and other counter-terrorism instruments.

UNODC joins efforts to support Montenegro in the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

25-26 June 2015, Podgorica, Montenegro: Following a request by Montenegro to the UNSC Committee 1540 for international assistance in fulfilling obligations under this resolution on non-proliferation of CBRN weapons and prevention of the spread of WMD, a Workshop was held in cooperation with the OSCE and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and inputs from the EU.

UNODC participates in a seminar organized by the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) on effective national practices in the implementation of UNSCR 1540

29-30 June 2015, Rakitje, Croatia: The Seminar by RACVIAC, UNODA and UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities supported by the Republic of Korea, USA and EU, focused on voluntary National Implementation Action Plans (NAP) for UNSCR 1540. The participants shared their effective national practices with regard to NAPs and reflected on national needs. UNODC focused on preventing and suppressing the acquisition by non-state actors of weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological and nuclear), and briefed the participants on available legislative assistance and relevant UNODC tools, such as legislative database and online platform. UNODC will continue to contribute to the activities by RACVIAC and UNODA in this area. *For info on all of the above: Maria Lorenzo Sobrado*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE**UNODC delivers Strengthening Family Programme 10-14 Training of Trainers in Skopje**

20-24 April 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science held a final capacity development activity as part of the Strengthening Family Programme (SFP) 10-14 - a Training for 15 teachers and 5 educators. The Training adds to the professional knowledge and capacity of the trainees as well as to the overall results of the SFP in the country, and supports its sustainability and expansion.

UNODC delivers a final follow-up session of the programme Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" in Serbia

29 June 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: As part of the collaborative effort of UNODC and Lions Club International Foundation, the Lions Quest "Skills for adolescence" Programme was piloted in Serbia in June 2014 - June 2015. The third and final follow-up session marked the official completion of the implementation of the pilot project in elementary schools presenting a comparative analysis of pre- and post-test results which assessed substance use among students, including intention to use substances in the future, refusal skills, perceived harm of psychoactive substances, etc. The analysis showed very rewarding (and statistically significant) changes in strengthening refusal skills in both boys and girls. *For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic*



ANTI-CORRUPTION**UNODC supports integrity for judges and prosecutors in Skopje**

7-8 April 2015, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC in cooperation with UNDP and the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors organized a practical workshop on the Article 11 of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on Measures relating to the judiciary and prosecution services, and case studies on the application of the Bangalore Principles on Judicial Conduct in a simulated setting with a focus on their practical application in the country, including the correlation between the judiciary and the public. *For info: Ronan O'Laoire*

**Anti-Corruption and Port Controls Training takes place in Albania**

7-8 April 2015, Tirana, Albania: A training workshop on Anti-Corruption and Port Controls was jointly organized by the Office of the Minister of State on Anti-Corruption, UNODC, WCO and US Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) in Tirana for the representatives of the Albanian Customs Administration, State Police Directorate, Durres Port Authority, officers from the Joint Port Control Unit and business community. The workshop pointed out that countering corruption in the security sector required concerted efforts involving different institutions and legislation and noted that successful anti-corruption measures are based on a broad infrastructure, including accountability measures, procurement laws and procedures, penal mechanisms and anti-money laundering legislation. *For info: Ela Banaj*

UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative holds its second meeting

27-28 May 2015, Doha, Qatar: A "teach the teacher" academic expert workshop for South Eastern Europe was organized by UNODC, in partnership with the Centre for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ROLAC) of the Government of Qatar, under the auspices of the UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative (ACAD). This is the second activity (out of six) under this Qatar funded project. The aim of the workshop was to support the development of stronger teaching capacity in the field of anti-corruption in SEE. The workshop facilitated the exchange of academic expertise between the 18 participating academics from the region and other experts, including the EU. The event was structured along a model UNCAC course, developed by UNODC. *For info: Ronan O'Laoire*

UNODC Participates in Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative's (RAI) International Whistleblowing Research Network Conference

18-19 June 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Conference, organized by the International Whistleblowing Research Network and administered by Middlesex University – London, UK, in collaboration with RAI brought together experts from academia, governments and NGOs across the world. Participants presented their latest research results, discussed opportunities and challenges for whistleblower protection and identified future research needs. UNODC's input focused on the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism as an entry point for research and reform on the protection of reporting persons and the recommendations and technical assistance needs identified through the review process. *For info: Constanze Von Soehnen*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING**UNODC supports investigation and prosecution of smuggling of migrants (SOM) cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

5-8 May 2015, Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC's Global Programme against SOM with the support of USA, held a comprehensive training for law enforcement and judicial institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the aim of enhancing their investigation and prosecution capacities to respond to SOM. The workshop looked into national and international legal frameworks, international judicial and police cooperation, human rights, including protection of migrants, non-discrimination, non-refoulement, extradition and mutual legal assistance, investigative methods, risks associated with investigation of SOM and obstacles in cooperation of smuggled migrants in criminal proceedings, and a variety of other topics. The expected outcomes of the training were achieved and the participants noted that the event was valuable in building knowledge, exchanging experience, inter-agency coordination and constructive discussion.

24th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) includes a side event organized by France and UNODC on the fight against human trafficking

18 May 2015, Vienna, Austria: The Government of France and UNODC organized a side event promoting partnership between civil society and states in the fight against trafficking in human beings involving senior representatives of the French Government, subject experts and representatives of NGOs. France is an active supporter of UNODC AHT work in the region.

UNODC participates in OSCE Annual Law Enforcement and Police Meetings

26-29 May 2015, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC participated in the above OSCE Meetings which focused inter alia on fighting organized crime, trafficking in human beings and irregular migration. The meetings were organized in cooperation with the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE. UNODC contributed to deliberations in the regional cooperation context and on the global level with emphasis on joint UNODC-OSCE activities. UNODC global initiatives were discussed, such as "Networking the Networks", the Paris Pact Initiative, the Network of Law Enforcement Training Academies, as well as the relevant activities by the UNODC Regional Programmes for South Eastern Europe and West and Central Asia. The implementation of the Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocols to UNTOC were also discussed and the findings of the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014 presented. UNODC and OSCE continue to coordinate their efforts. *For info on all of the above: Davor Raus*



GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**CCP in Bosnia and Herzegovina delivers results**

9 April 2015, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Joint Container Cargo Control Unit (JCCU) at the land port Bijača prevented import of undeclared good - over 10 tons of fruits from Egypt to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The seizure was made through performing a detailed search of the doubtful cargo in four containers. The JCCU applies on-site risk analyses and profiling aimed to prevent all forms of illegal trade, smuggling of counterfeit goods, activities of the black market economy, and all other forms of organized crime intended to jeopardize security and economic activity of the country. *For info: Alen Gagula*

Compendium of Customs Operational Practices for Enforcement and Seizures (COPES) training piloted in Albania

18-20 May 2015, Tirana, Albania: Twenty participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro were trained by CCP on evidence handling. Officers from the three SEE JCCUs and other experts received training on a variety of techniques to improve their intelligence, investigation and forensic skills. Piloted for the first time in a non-English speaking country, the training was delivered by European Customs experts in order to increase capacity in countering contraband, including narcotics, CITES products, cigarettes and other good, and to support successful prosecutions. *For info: Ela Banaj*

Joint Port Control Unit at Durres seizes machinegun and bullets

28 May 2015, Durres, Albania: The JCCU at Durres Port in cooperation with the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Durres Police Directorate arrested three people, one of them an Italian citizen, during the control of their "Jeep" vehicle and discovering a dismantled machine gun, 722 bullets and two mobile phone sets. The case is being further investigated by the Serious Crime Prosecution Office. *For info: Ela Banaj*

Mentorship training for the JCCU in Bosnia and Herzegovina on strengthening operational capacities

1-5 June 2015, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: A mentorship training was conducted by the WCO for the Bijača JCCU and focused on operations and day-to-day risk analysis, profiling of the high-risk containers, obtaining pre-arrival information and sharing experience and good practices on the regional level. This activity aimed to further strengthen the capacity of the Unit and to contribute to the overall security along the Bosnia and Herzegovina border. *For info: Alen Gagula*

Knowledge exchange between ports of Gioia Tauro (Italy), Guayaquil (Ecuador) and Durres (Albania), Bar (Montenegro)

16-19 June 2015, Albania/Montenegro: CCP-SEE hosted a visit between the above port officials with the aim to provide an opportunity to identify and exchange best practices for future operational work at theoretical, behavioural and practical levels. The importance of regional and international cooperation and smoother communication was agreed upon by all participants, including the heads of Customs and State Police of Albania and Montenegro. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**ORGANIZED CRIME****UNODC and Hungary deliver trainings on the establishment of Joint Investigation Teams**

8-10/28-30 April 2015, Budapest, Hungary: UNODC and Hungary held two rounds of professional training on establishing Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) in the International Training Centre of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary in Budapest for officers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The aim of the trainings was the identification of guidelines and good practices to support domestic and cross-border JITs for tackling serious organized crime and enhanced the officers' knowledge of the benefits and practical advantages of using JITs as a flexible tool for supporting investigations involving cross-border crime, evidence gathering and handling and prosecution file preparation. *For info: Dejan Tanaskovic*

UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime Presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina

26 May 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC's Global Programme for Combatting Wild Life and Forest Crime presented the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytical Toolkit developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) to representatives of country's relevant ministries, law enforcement agencies and other structures. The meeting reviewed the ways for the Toolkit implementation in the country, including conducting a comprehensive analysis of preventive and criminal justice responses to transnational wildlife and forest crime. *For info: Alen Gagula*

Criminal Analysts from South Eastern Europe visit UNODC-Vienna

3 June 2015, Vienna, Austria: As part of an OSCE project on serious and organized crime threat assessments, criminal analysts from the Ministries of Interior of Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia visited the UNODC HQ in Vienna. During the study visit organized by OSCE-Belgrade, the criminal analysts got first-hand information on UNODC's threat assessments methodologies and preparation of reports on global trends in organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as challenges in using crime statistics from various sources. *For info: Sinisa Durkulic*

UNODC and Turkey deliver law enforcement trainings to South Eastern Europe

8-19 June 2015, Ankara, Turkey: UNODC and the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) held a training program on "Undercover law enforcement operations" for officers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The training covered a wide range of topics related to undercover operations with the purpose of fighting against organized crime, including assignment of undercover, physical surveillance, target profiles, life story making, speaking dialects, etc. The participants had a chance to combine theoretical knowledge on the above issues with practice via in-class applications, which made a great contribution to the overall quality of the training. Turkey is an important supporter of the UNODC work in the region. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*