

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

Presentation of the UNODC work in South Eastern Europe to the UN Member States in Vienna

7 September 2015, Vienna, Austria: The UNODC work in South Eastern Europe was presented to the Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC (FinGov) in accordance with the regular workplan of the Group. The RP team has pointed out the achievements and results of work in the region and underscored that UNODC recognizes South Eastern Europe as a region where a lot has been achieved already and considers the common goal of EU accession. It was also pointed out that among the strengths of the RP, identified by its Independent Evaluation, are the RP's ownership, its assistance to fulfilment of countries' plans, strategies and priorities, its contributions to a more effective regional operational environment, as well as the evident impact of the Programme. The meeting was also informed about the development of the new Regional Programme (2016-2019) and the way forward.

UNODC and OSCE engage in a strategic dialogue on drug demand and supply reduction with focus on the youth

10 September 2015, Vienna, Austria: The Deputy Executive Director of UNODC addressed a high-level conference aimed at enhancing the mechanisms to stem the increasing spread of illicit drugs amongst young people, organized under the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE - an event which brought together representatives from national administrations, youth initiatives, CSOs and international and regional organizations. Participants were briefed on UNODC's efforts to promote a health-centred, rights-based approach, rooted in the international drug control conventions, as well as the value of evidence based prevention and treatment. UNODC and the OSCE partner within a complementary approach to assist the countries in the OSCE area in accordance with their Joint Action Plan.

The UNODC Executive Director meets the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

14 September 2015, Vienna, Austria: The UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Mr. Igor Crnadak discussed the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. The Minister appreciated UNODC's work which, he said, was beneficial for the country's efforts related to the Chapters 23 and 24 of the EU acquis. The country is an active partner of UNODC hosting a UNODC office currently working predominantly on container control and in the future will host the anti-money laundering expertise.

Inter-regional study tour from Central Asia to South Eastern Europe

14-18 September, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania: The UNODC Regional Programme for SEE and the UNODC Regional Project for Central Asia on cross-border cooperation organized a study tour for senior law enforcement and other officials from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the three countries in the Balkans. The visitors were introduced to the work of the cross-border cooperation liaison offices and the border control situation centers at the checkpoints, as well as the cross-border cooperation in the fight against smuggling and illicit drug trafficking. The officers from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan met with their counterparts from the law enforcement agencies of the three countries, visited Muriqan/Sukobin Joint Border Crossing Point between Albania and Montenegro, and paid a visit to the Joint Port Control Unit in the Port Dures to see its structure, duties and functions delivered in a coordinated manner by several agencies at the port. Both the participants and the hosts agreed that this study tour was of mutual benefit and that this kind of cooperation should be continued. *(For info on all of the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*



ORGANIZED CRIME

UNODC and OSCE Support the Law Enforcement Agencies in South Eastern Europe in the Area of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

2-3 July 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Representatives from 10 countries of South Eastern Europe and experts from 9 international and regional organizations met in a OSCE-UNODC regional workshop to discuss law enforcement cooperation in combating the increasing spread of NPS, new trends, identification techniques for detection of NPS in the region and mechanisms of cooperation and coordination of work of forensic services. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

Experts from the Forensic Centre of the Serbian Ministry of Interior make a Study Visit to UNODC HQ in Vienna

15-16 July 2015, Vienna, Austria: During the study visit to the UNODC's Laboratory and Scientific Section, the Serbian police forensics experts were introduced to the international best practices in the forensic field, the methods to improve national capacities to generate, manage, analyze, report and use information on illicit synthetic drugs as well as the Early Warning Advisory (EWA) on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). UNODC and the visiting experts exchanged information on forensic quality assurance and the identification and quantification of substances under international control and NPS, such as validation of methods, requirements for accreditation, maintenance of the system for quality control in a laboratory, etc. This was the second of two study visits to UNODC HQ in 2015 organized by UNODC Regional Programme for SEE and the OSCE Mission in Serbia for law enforcement officials from South Eastern Europe. *(For info: Sinisa Durkulic)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**UNODC supports sharing the Spanish experience with the ports of Albania and Montenegro**

6-9 July 2015, Port of Valencia, Spain: A delegation from the Joint Port Control Units (JPCUs) of the Durres and Bar Ports, prosecutors, representatives of the Anti-Narcotics Service and other officials of Albania and Montenegro visited the port of Valencia, Spain, where they met with the Chiefs of the Economic and Surveillance Departments of the Customs Authorities as well as with the specialists of the risk analysis, anti-narcotics and anti-money laundering units. The delegation reviewed the structure and functioning of the Valencia Regional Customs Authority and visited the customs laboratory and the container scanner.

Joint Port Control Unit at Durres Port seizes 8.5 kg of heroin

16 July 2015, Durres, Albania: The JPCU at Durres Port in cooperation with the Anti-Narcotics Unit of the Durres District Police detained at the ferry terminal two Albanian nationals for trafficking of narcotics. Following an analysis of risk indicators, the JPCU, the Border Police and the Anti-Drug Service checked the vehicle and found 17 packages with 8 kg 423.5 g of what was suspected to be heroin, destined for Italy. This seizure brought the total heroin seizures by the JPCU to 11 kg so far in 2015.

Joint Container Control Unit and Sector against Economic Crime and Money Laundering seize counterfeit Euros

26 July 2015, Durres, Albania: Using special investigative techniques, the JPCU in cooperation with the Sector for the Fight Against Economic Crime and Money Laundering arrested an Italian citizen for trafficking of arms and ammunition, falsification of currency and non-declaration of foreign currency and of precious items. The suspect, who was driving a car on his way to Bari, Italy, was found to be in possession of 46,750 fake Euros, one gun, model 54, calibre 62mm and a cartridge with 5 bullets. This is the first case of seizure of forged currency and the second time that JPCU at Durres Port seizes arms and ammunition. The case is being further investigated by the serious crime prosecutors.

**Launch of the UNODC-WCO CCP Women's Network**

25 August 2015, Vienna, Austria: The UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme launched its new Women's Network initiative at a meeting that discussed how to promote professionalism and core leadership of female national counterparts in order to increase women's participation in the Programme within a culturally sensitive framework. At present, women account for approximately 12% of CCP's JPCU officers. In some countries, there are no women JPCU officials, while in West Africa 22% of PCU members are women.

Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the CCP in Albania

3 September 2015, Tirana, Albania: The CCP-Albania Steering Committee meeting, with the participation of the General Director of the Albanian Border Police and Migration, Head of Durres Customs House, Director of Anti-Organized Crime Department, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNODC CCP officers, discussed the progress in the implementation of the CCP in Albania, the JPCU's achievements, cooperation with other national law enforcement entities and the business community, international and regional activities and contacts established, the role of the JPCU in the country's efforts against illicit trafficking and contraband and made recommendations for further improving the JPCU performance, as well as the 2016 workplan. *(For info on above: Ela Banaj)*

Training on the use of the Preliminary Drug Identification Kits

15 September 2015, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Following a donation of a number of Preliminary Drug Identification Kits to the JCCCU in Bijaca in collaboration with the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, a hands-on training on the use of the Kits was held by the CCP. The Kits provide law enforcers with a tool for rapid and simple testing for the preliminary field identification of drugs most commonly encountered in the illicit traffic. The training was delivered in cooperation with the Federal Police Directorate - Center for Forensic and Information Technology Support. Besides the staff of the JCCCU, the training was attended by a number of officials from the Border Police and the Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

Workshop on principles of basic criminal intelligence analysis

21-22 September 2015, Bar, Montenegro: The workshop was organized for officials of the JPCUs of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro and focussed on endeavours of the administrations of customs, border police and other police structures to modernize their risk management practices by building an intelligence capability within their organizations. The workshop addressed the issues identified by the participating countries' agencies and involved them in international best practices related to intelligence providing additional tools, techniques and education designed to enhance their analytical capabilities in pursuit of credible, reliable and timely intelligence products demanded by a risk-based approach to Customs management. This activity builds upon a previous training opportunity organized in May to support the Customs administrations as well as border/police structures in the three countries to enhance its crime response capacities.

Mentorship mission at the Port of Bar, Montenegro

27 September – 2 October 2015, Bar, Montenegro: As part of the CCP's goal of ensuring that the improved skills of the JPCU teams will allow the officers to sustain their services and become more independent in a longer term, a mentorship mission was organized with participation of officers of the JPCU in Durres, Albania. The officers exercised their skills in risk analysis and physical inspection on two container vessels. Specialized training on manipulation of seals and container search and on use of drug and precursors test kits was also provided. During this mission, UNODC-WCO provided the JPCU with six UN drug and precursors test kits. *(For info on above: Ela Banaj)*



HUMAN TRAFFICKING**UN Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) supports the work of NGOs in South Eastern Europe**

1 July 2015, Vienna, Austria: In its second call for proposals, UNVTF has provided grants to two NGOs from SEE - from Albania ("Different and Equal") and Serbia ("ATINA") - among a total of 19 NGOs across the world. The projects focus on provision of direct assistance to victims of human trafficking, including humanitarian, financial and legal assistance. UNODC is the manager of the UNVTF and monitors the work of the NGO partners. In Albania, the project aims to enhance reintegration of victims of trafficking with a view to reach out to at least 120 female and 40 male victims, potential and former victims of human trafficking. In Serbia, the project will focus on sustainable social inclusion of victims of trafficking, including 80 women, 10 men, 50 girls and 10 boys.

UNODC participates in the OSCE's 15th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference

6-7 July 2015, Vienna, Austria: UNODC took part in the 15th meeting of the Alliance launched by the OSCE in 2004 as an informal platform for advocacy and cooperation to prevent and combat human trafficking. This year's Alliance Conference focuses on human trafficking in the context of migration processes. Delegates from all OSCE countries and 11 partners, experts, NGOs, academia, think-tanks and media attended the conference. The UNODC Executive Director spoke in the High-level Introductory Panel of the event and met with representatives of the Serbian Chairmanship of the OSCE.

UNODC and Montenegro focus on protection of victims of trafficking in persons

22-25 September 2015, Budva, Montenegro: UNODC and the Montenegro Office for the Fight against Human Trafficking, with support of the USA Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings organized a training conference on "Protection of victims of trafficking in the criminal proceedings" which was opened by senior officials and attended by over 30 professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary and civil society. The conference aimed to enhance expertise of participants in areas such as taking of testimony from the victims, special measures to protect child victims, informing victims of their rights and avoiding secondary victimization in criminal proceedings. *(For info on all of the above: Davor Raus)*

**DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE****UNODC launched the Strengthening Family Programme 10-14 (SFP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

17-28 August 2015, Banja Luka/Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Following consultations with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republican Committee for Drug Use Prevention and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Srpska, the SFP training of facilitators commenced in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. The SFP is a flagship UNODC drug use prevention programme in South Eastern Europe implemented in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia since 2010. Ten selected elementary schools from Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo delegated their teachers, pedagogues and psychologists to participate in the training where they enhanced their teaching skills and familiarized themselves with the initiative. 30 teachers successfully completed the training and will carry on with the implementation of the Programme in their schools as of October 2015. The implementation of this training is supported by NGOs "Viktorija" and "PROI".

UNODC and Lions Club International Foundation commenced the pilot Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" programme in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

25-30 September 2015, Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Following a successful implementation of the Programme in Serbia, the piloting of the life skill school-based programme of the Lions Quest has been extended to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in partnership with the country's Ministry of Education and Science. The programme started with two training workshops, in a series of five, where 30 educators were trained on the Programme's material, implementation mechanism and teaching skills. Following these workshops, 40 sessions will be conducted in 12 elementary schools in Ohrid and Struga in October 2015 - June 2016. Upon the completion of a five training workshops cycle, the Programme is expected to reach out to more than 2,000 students in 45 elementary schools covering the topics of social emotional skills building as a tool for prevention of drug use risk factors. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic)*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**UNODC takes part in the regional anti-corruption dialogue**

3-5 July 2014, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC attended a Regional conference on development and strengthening anti-corruption system in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and presented the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), in particular its Chapter II and the upcoming review cycle. Apart from the UNCAC, the Conference also reviewed the anti-corruption framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of EU accession, as well as development, monitoring and implementation of anti-corruption strategies across the region. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*