

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 Ms. Lejla Karahasanovic (lejla.karahasanovic@unodc.org).

MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE



In line with the approved priorities of the UNODC Regional Programme, AML/CFT topic has continued to be developed as a priority area for the UNODC involvement in the region. As part of the ongoing coordination and partnership process with the EU, UNODC experts and managers visited the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) in **Budapest, Hungary, in January and March 2017** for consultations with the CEPOL, EU DG NEAR and other members of **the EU-led Western Balkans Internal Integrative Security Governance Initiative (WBIISG)** within which UNODC and CEPOL are identified as implementing partners of a comprehensive training programme which is to start at the end of 2017.

UNODC Training on Cash Couriers: how to detect cash smugglers, investigate money laundering, and destroy criminal networks

13-15 March 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC organized a training course for 32 national customs officers, police investigators and anti-money laundering analysts from 15 different national authorities on combatting cash smuggling. The practitioners learnt the latest international and regional trends in cash smuggling, applied crime mapping skills, analyzed cash flows and practiced the methods of control, detection and seizure of cash. The participants actively contributed to the discussions, provided real-life examples of cash smuggling, and tested the new skills in realistic scenarios. *(For info on all above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

DRUG CONTROL

SEE countries take part in a inter-regional dialogue on drugs and crime

28 February 2017, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran: The UNODC Executive Director addressed an audience at a high-level Tehran International Conference on Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and related Organized Crime, which brought together Ministers, Ambassadors, experts and others from Central Asia and beyond to discuss drugs and crime. UNODC head highlighted that the value of opiates trafficked out of Afghanistan is "staggering" and presented key finding on the proceeds of trafficked Afghan opiates taking the Balkans route as an example. UNODC is responding by working with regional and international partners to build greater cooperation against transnational organized crime and terrorism, as well as refining regional drug control coordination. The conference issued conclusions recognizing that "Afghanistan and transit countries continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirm[ing] the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the drug problem". *(For info on above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova; on below: Marie-Anne Menier)*

Paris Pact Initiative Policy Consultative Group Meeting (PCMG) reviews the situation with Afghan opiates trafficking routes, including the Balkan route

1-2 February 2017, Vienna, Austria: RP SEE presented results of work to 13th PCMG and recalled the first ever PPI event hosted in the Balkans in October 2016 focusing on drug dependence treatment.

TERRORISM PREVENTION

UNODC promotes international and regional cooperation to address foreign terrorist fighters in South Eastern Europe (SEE)

14-16 February 2017, Vienna, Austria: UNODC organized a SEE regional workshop on strengthening international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, with a focus on FTFs. The workshop brought together senior criminal justice officials, incl. judges and prosecutors from the region, representatives from Italy, Spain, the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), INTERPOL, OSCE, Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for SEE, Radicalisation Awareness Network and the Regional Cooperation Council. Participants exchanged experiences, challenges, lessons learned and good practices on strengthening international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, with a focus on FTFs. *(For info on this and last: Maria Lorenzo Sobrado)*

UNODC supports national capacities of Serbia to address challenges related to foreign terrorist fighters

22-23 March 2017, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC held a National Workshop on the "Investigation and Adjudication of Cases Involving FTFs in SEE". The workshop included reviews of the relevant international legal frameworks as well as an expert discussion on recruitment of FTFs, their training, travelling, financing and organizing. Special investigative techniques, analysis of financial information, evidence and e-evidence were also addressed. The event is part of a UNODC project funded by the USA. *(For info: Joaquin Zuckerberg)*

Parliamentarians from the Middle East, North Africa and SEE review implementation of UNSC resolutions on terrorism

30-31 March 2017, Rome, Italy: UNODC and Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) organized in consultation with CTED and Inter-Parliamentary Union, a conference "Evaluation of implementation by national parliaments of the UNSC resolutions on Terrorism and FTFs" for the PAM region, Central Asia, South Eastern and Western Europe. The conference, hosted by the Italian Senate, discussed implementation of UNSC resolutions by all PAM parliaments, national counter-terrorism strategies, lessons learned and best practices. The event is part of the EU-funded UNODC Initiative on Strengthening the Legal Regime against FTFs.



GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**Port Control Unit at Durres Port seizes 430 kg of Cannabis herb**

30 January 2017, Durres, Albania: A major haul of contraband, 430 kg of cannabis herb worth Euro 645,000 was seized from a truck in Durres Port. The Port Control Unit (PCU), established within the UNODC-WCO CCP, succeeded in seizing the consignment of the narcotics as they exercised a routine control and applied interviewing techniques to the driver of the truck. The PCU officers carefully examined the vehicle, undertook scanner control, and followed with further examination, having eventually detected that the sides of the empty cases were filled with cannabis herb. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

Container Control Programme continues to support Bosnia and Herzegovina

30 March 2017, Bijaca, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC-WCO CCP continues to support the national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance its capacities to fight against illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and other forms of black market activity in selected land-ports. Regular monitoring visits to the PCU in Bosnia and Herzegovina, consisting of Indirect Taxation Authority and Border Police officers, aim to help stakeholders and beneficiaries to reflect on and learn from their actions and practice and to help inform the development of good practice in support to the Programme implementation. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

**DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE****UNODC participates in the Lions Quest Europe meeting in Finland**

12-15 January 2017, Hyvinkää, Finland: The Lions Club International Foundation together with the local Lions Clubs are annually organizing Lions Quest (LQ) European meetings with the aim to discuss the best practices observed in the European region as a result of the implementation of various LQ programmes. The topic of this meeting was strongly focused on the evaluation of the efficiency of the implemented programmes whereby UNODC actively contributed with the presentation of the evaluation results of the LQ Skills for Adolescence programme from three countries in SEE. The results were decisive in presenting the positive changes in view of the four indicators evaluated: substance use, intention to use substances, refusal skills and normative beliefs among the targeted groups of students in more than 80 elementary schools who were exposed to the programme. The meeting was attended by the Lions Club Country Directors and Senior trainers from 24 European countries.

UNODC commenced LQ Skills for Adolescence programme in Albania

23 February 2017 Tirana, Albania: Scaling up the results of implementation of the LQ Skills for Adolescence programme in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, UNODC has embarked on its expansion to Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The inception meeting was conveyed together with the Ministry of Education and Sport of Albania inviting the representatives of relevant institutions engaged in the drug use prevention to discuss programme material and implementation outline.

LQ Skills for Adolescence training for trainers and educators organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina

20-22 March 2017, Tuzla; 23-25 March 2017, Sarajevo; 27-29 March 2017, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Following the programme inception meeting with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 2016, the first project activities have started in the country. Trainings for trainers and educators were successfully organized with a group of experts from 15 elementary schools from Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo with the aim to ensure sustainability and capacity of schools' teachers to continue with the direct project implementation in their schools in the future.

**UNODC and partners from South Eastern Europe unite in the efforts to prevent drug use**

14 March 2017, Vienna, Austria: On the occasion of the 60th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), UNODC organised a special side event on prevention of drug use articulated in two back to back panels entitled "New Initiative in Prevention: Strengthening the Global Prevention Response" and "Schools as Valuable Social Institutions for Prevention and to Build Socio-emotional Skills". The panel on schools featured the collaboration between UNODC and Lions Clubs International Foundation, particularly in adapting and piloting LQ Skills for Adolescence in SEE. The event was opened by the Chair of the CND's 60th session and UNODC Deputy Executive Director in presence of over 150 senior and expert level representatives of different governmental and non-governmental delegations. The panel podium covered interventions from UNODC and Lions Club, as well as from delegations and Ambassadors from SEE highlighting the following: positive value and impact of the programme that has been piloted on 5,000 students so far, in over 80 elementary schools from Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; plans for expansion of this initiative to cover Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; high level of satisfaction with the added value of the programme to the ongoing expansion and strengthening of evidence based prevention interventions in SEE. This experience was presented as an exemplary model for other countries to follow, particularly within the context of the recently developed UNODC-WHO-UNESCO guidance document "Education sector responses to the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs" presented during the event. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic)*