

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](mailto:ekaterina.kolykhalova@unodc.org)) and Mr. Sinisa Durkulic ([sinisa.durkulic@unodc.org](mailto:sinisa.durkulic@unodc.org)).

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### **Sixth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (PSC RP SEE) takes place in Vienna**

**9 December 2014, Vienna:** The 6<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting held with participation of the PSC Members, Ambassadors and representatives of the Permanent Missions of the SEE and donor countries and regional organizations, discussed the evaluation of the RP SEE, acknowledged the results of UNODC work in region in 2014 and endorsed the workplan for 2015. An important result of the meeting was the approval of the concept of UNODC partnership with the region in 2016-2019. The meeting endorsed the respective concept note and work schedule in accordance with which UNODC has already started the development of the new Regional Programme in close consultations with all partners. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*



### **UNODC presents work in South Eastern Europe to Standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC (FinGov)**

**20 November 2014, Vienna:** The UNODC regional team presented the outcomes of work and results achieved in the region in 2013 to the FinGov. The RP SEE was presented to the forum for the first time and it has acknowledged the good results of UNODC in the region in the spirit of the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach. Special presentation was made by field staff via teleconference on the launching in the region of the UN Task Force on Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

### **UNODC participates in the 8<sup>th</sup> Working level meeting of the Treptower Group hosted by the German Federal Police**

**18 November 2014, Potsdam, Germany:** UNODC briefed this donor coordination group on the work of RP SEE and the Paris Pact Initiative in 2014 and planned activities for 2015. *For info: Sinisa Durkulic*

### **UNODC presents Report on Illicit Drug Trade through South Eastern Europe to the Mini-Dublin Group in Skopje**

**14 October 2014, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** Following the launch in Vienna in March 2014 and presentations in the region, the above UNODC Report was presented in Skopje at the Mini-Dublin Group meeting with participation of the EU. According to the report, the country is unique in the region in that it borders the two main entry points of the Balkan Route into the EU - Bulgaria and Greece and is a major transit point for the western branch of the Balkan Route; at the same time, it is an important location for heroin storage and repackaging. *For info: Valentina Anchevska*

## DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

### **UNODC - Lions Quest "Skills for adolescence" - first follow-up session organized to scale up programme results**

**3 December 2014, Belgrade, Serbia:** The first follow-up session (in a series of three) was organized under the UNODC - Lions Club International Foundation 'Skills for Adolescence' programme in order to scale up programme results and support further implementation of the pilot phase of the programme. The session was attended by 60 educators that are supporting the implementation of the programme in elementary schools, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia and local trainers. *For info: Milos Stojanovic*

### **UNODC completes the Course on elements of psychosocial treatment of drug dependence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**21 October 2014, Skopje:** Following the UNODC training on Psychosocial Treatment held for the students of the Medical Faculty of Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje on 15-17 May 2014, the ceremony of awarding the certificates to 33 trainees for completion of the programme was held with attendance of the members of the European Medical Student Association, the Head of the Center for Prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction of the Ministry of Health and the Vice-Dean for international cooperation at the Medical Faculty as well as UNODC. *For info: Milos Stojanovic*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### **UNODC holds a Workshop on Promoting the International Standards on the Treatment of Women Prisoners in South Eastern Europe**

**15-16 December 2014, Vienna:** UNODC held the above workshop under the umbrella of the gender component of the RP SEE. The workshop was attended by practitioners and prison governors from the region who reviewed, in a form of an interactive discussion, practical aspects of such topics as admission and registration of female prisoners, their specific health matters, children in prisons, special groups of female prisoners and female prison staff, as well as discussed best practices in this area from outside the region. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

### **UNODC launches the Assessment Report on Regime Activities in Institutions for the Execution of Criminal Sentences in Albania**

**18 November 2014, Tirana, Albania:** The launch of the report gathered 72 representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Social Welfare and Youth, international organizations and civil society. The report was prepared in the framework of the One UN Project on Support to Social Inclusion in Albania. It will be used as an information basis for the prison reform process in the country. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)****CCP in Albania holds annual meeting**

**22 December 2014, Tirana:** The annual CCP meeting in Albania was held in partnership with the General Directorates of Customs Administration and the State Police with the aim of reviewing the results of the CCP work in the country in 2014, the future goals, the sustainability of the Durres JPCU, local, regional and international cooperation and awareness raising. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**Albanian officers visit the Italian port of Gioia Tauro and Foreign Officials visit the Port of Durres**

**26-28 November 2014, Gioia Tauro, Italy:** Customs and Police officers of the Durres JPCU and prosecutors of the Serious Crime Prosecution office from Tirana had a study visit to the Italian port of Gioia Tauro where they met with representatives of the Agenzia delle Dogane (Customs) and the Guardia di Finanza (Financial Guard). It was agreed to intensify the information exchange and enhance operational cooperation, including in the form of Controlled Deliveries. On **8-10 December 2014, Durres JPCU** hosted seven officials from the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accompanied by UNODC officer for Middle East and North Africa who got acquainted with the developments and implementation of the CCP with particular focus on cooperation between the Customs and Police as partner entities to the JPCU. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**CCP in Bosnia and Herzegovina commences implementation phase**

**17-28 November 2014, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** A two-week training was organized for the JPCU officers from the Indirect Taxation Authority and the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina with participation of other national law enforcement agencies: State Investigation and Protection Agency, Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and Agency for Education and Professional Training, as well as from the Slovenian Customs Directorate. The training is the first segment of the structured professional learning concept of the CCP, combining on-site theoretical and practical training, e-learning modules and work-study visits, including mentoring and advisory visits. *For info: Alen Gagula*

**Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU) at Durres Port seizes counterfeit goods**

**17 October 2014, Durres, Albania:** The Durres JPCU confiscated counterfeit designer goods from a container coming from China, transiting Durres Port to Kosovo (UNSCR 1244). The operation was based on the intelligence acquired by the JPCU and supported by the Department of the Fight against Economic Crime. It resulted in the seizure of goods worth EUR 50,000 and USD 150,000 as well as the detention of the entrepreneur. This is the first case of seizure of counterfeit goods at Durres Port coming through containers. *For info: Ela Banaj*

**ANTI-CORRUPTION****UNODC takes part in a Regional Anti-Corruption Conference together with regional partners**

**25 November 2014, Skopje:** UNODC took part in the above Conference organised by Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), the Ministry of Justice of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI). By examining and discussing different approaches used by countries in the region in establishing, implementing and evaluating Anti-Corruption Strategies and Action Plans, the Regional Conference helped to assess and further improve regional efforts to build integrity and fight corruption. *For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING****UNODC holds a Regional Workshop "Enhancing national and regional criminal justice response to trafficking in children in the Western Balkans"**

**31 October 2014, Belgrade:** The above workshop was opened by the Deputy Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Serbia, Ambassador of France and UNODC expert, i.e. senior representatives of the three organizing parties of the event. This hands-on practical workshop focused on reviewing a case study on trafficking in children related to the Western Balkans. The methodology of analysis of concrete cases of trafficking in children and the development of action plan for responsible stakeholders was discussed in details. A follow-up workshop was held in **Belgrade on 11 December 2014**. *For info: Davor Raus*

**FIREARMS****UNODC participates in a Regional Workshop on Dual-Use Items and Arms Export Controls**

**6 November 2014, Belgrade:** UNODC participated in the above workshop organized within the EU - Outreach in Export Control of Dual Use Items. The workshop was attended by the national representatives of the Licensing Authorities, Customs Administration and the Foreign Ministries of the countries of South Eastern Europe and of some EU countries. The participants discussed topics related to conventional arms export controls and exchanged their experiences. *For info: Sinisa Durkulic*

**UNODC participates in the OSCE Conference "Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Fight against Terrorism in the Mediterranean Region"**

**27-28 October 2014, Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC participated in the above Conference and presented the relevant prevention measures as envisaged by the UN Firearms Protocol and their impact on preventing trafficking in firearms. *For info: Alen Gagula*