

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

### **UNODC Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism Advisor posted in South Eastern Europe**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4 January 2016:** A UNODC Regional Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Advisor has been posted in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist the entire region in providing hands-on responses to the challenges as identified in the UNODC report "Drug Money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan route". (For info: *Mike Fowler*)

### **UNODC Strategic Planning / Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism missions visit the region**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27-29 January 2016; Tirana, Albania, 29 February - 2 March 2016; Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, 2 - 4 March 2016:** The Chief of the UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia and Regional Representative for South Eastern Europe and delegation visited Sarajevo, Tirana and Pristina to conduct talks with national and international counterparts with regard to the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe and in particular the new UNODC Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism initiative for the region. The purpose of the three visits was to discuss the work-plan of UNODC in the two thematic areas for the period 2016-2019 and to introduce the new Regional AML/CFT Advisor. The consultations with field counterparts have confirmed the importance of addressing the AML/CFT issues.



2016 ©UNMIK/OSPI-Spend Barbatovi

### **UNODC joins discussion on recovery from drug addiction in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 15 February 2016:** UNODC participated in a conference "Recovery from drug addiction - Turnover in policies and practice", organized by a non-governmental organization "Proslavi Oporavak" ("Celebrate Recovery") in collaboration with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNODC presented a good practice document "Sustained recovery management" emphasizing the importance of comprehensive, flexible and tailor-made approach in drug dependence treatment recovery. Among the Conference's conclusions were the emphasized importance of applying an individual approach to each client and the significance of continuous provision of relevant services which assist the persons with substance use disorders during their recovery.

### **UNODC Executive Director visits Albania on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean (PAM)**

**Tirana, Albania, 18-19 February 2016:** The 10<sup>th</sup> PAM Session discussed terrorism, migration crisis and free movement as some of the main challenges in the region. Prime Minister of Albania pledged his country's commitment to address the migration crisis together with other partners. In the recorded statement of the UN Secretary-General, close cooperation of all parties in countering terrorism and violent extremism was underscored. The UNODC Executive Director referred to the migration situation in the region and to the new UNODC strategy to address the smuggling of migrants in the Mediterranean, which includes research on trends and routes, capacity building and trans-regional cooperation. The UNODC Executive Director also met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Albania and discussed the results of UNODC work in the country as well as prospects for the future activities.



### **UNODC/OSCE agree new Joint Action Plan with combatting smuggling of migrants and terrorism prevention high on the agenda**

**Vienna, Austria, 9 March 2016:** In a meeting of senior officials including the UNODC Executive Director and the OSCE Secretary General, UNODC and OSCE surveyed past results of their partnership and agreed upon a new Joint Action Plan for future cooperation. The new Action Plan focuses on a number of key thematic areas including terrorism prevention, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, firearms, corruption, money laundering and fighting illicit drugs. (For info on all of the above: *Ekaterina Kolykhalova*)

## TERRORISM PREVENTION

### **UNODC Supports the Governments in South Eastern Europe in Addressing the Challenges Related to Foreign Terrorist Fighters**

**February - March 2016:** UNODC has started the implementation of a new initiative "Strengthening the legal regime against emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters in South Eastern Europe (Training Module Development)" and has conducted assessment missions to Tirana, Albania; Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Belgrade, Serbia; Podgorica, Montenegro and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. During these missions, the UNODC experts met with representatives from the national judicial training centres/academies and members of the judiciary, prosecution, police services and security agencies, as well as other counterparts, to discuss the challenges in the investigation and prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters and their training needs. (For info: *Joaquin Zuckerberg*)

**MONEY-LAUNDERING****UNODC and SELEC coordinate work on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism**

**Bucharest, Romania, 22 February 2016:** The UNODC Regional Advisor for Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) and the Global Programme on Money Laundering senior experts visited the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) to meet with its Director for Operations and criminal analysts and discuss the renewed mandate of UNODC South Eastern Europe Regional Programme and to coordinate the delivery of programme objectives with those also being pursued by SELEC. The two sides discussed the ways to contribute to information sharing between the member states, and also committed to potential joint activities to build AML/CFT capacity for the Member States held on SELEC premises in the future.

**UNODC holds a practical event on counter financing of terrorism in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**15 March 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** A one-day Workshop on the trends and typologies of the financing of foreign terrorism fighters (FTF) was held jointly by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UNODC Programme Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina for representatives of law enforcement, intelligence and supervisory agencies, as well as judicial and prosecution offices. Trends and typologies exercises are meant to spread knowledge of particular priority topic areas across the AML/CFT regime to ensure that the private sector is equipped to fulfil its obligations in reporting transactions suspicious of terrorism financing to relevant authorities. As underlined by the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the issue of the financing of foreign terrorist fighters is an increasingly relevant challenge in ensuring the safety of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Workshop follows UNODC's commitment to creating a regional centre of expertise in Bosnia and Herzegovina for AML/CFT and the appointment of an international advisor for South Eastern Europe in support of this commitment as of 2016. *(For info on all above: Mike Fowler)*

**DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE****UNODC promotes successful collaboration with Lions Club International Foundation at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) side event**

**Vienna, Austria, 18 March 2016:** UNODC in collaboration with the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) and the Governments of Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia held a side event at the margins of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the CND entitled "Piloting a school-based prevention programme in South Eastern Europe: Results from Lions Quest - UNODC collaboration". Cooperation between UNODC and LCIF provided an opportunity to pilot the "Skills for Adolescence" programme in South Eastern Europe since 2014, starting from Serbia and successfully expanding to Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The programme aims to improve the social and life skills of students and thus prevent a variety of risky behaviours including substance use.

**Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" continues to work with Macedonian and Montenegro schools**

**Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 21 March 2016; Podgorica, Montenegro, 23 March 2016:** With the intention to address the challenges and report best practices, as well as to collect relevant data on the effectiveness of the programme delivery, the follow-up sessions were conveyed with the support of national partners, the Ministry of Education of Montenegro and the Ministry of Education and Science of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The follow-up sessions served as an opportunity for the trained professionals, who are directly supporting the programme implementation in their communities, to network and discuss the value of the programme, its challenges and sustainable solutions. *(For info on all above: Milos Stojanovic)*

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING****Facilitating International Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons - Second Country Workshop in Sarajevo**

**Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 25-27 January 2016:** UNODC convened the second national workshop under the project "Enhancing national and regional criminal justice response in trafficking in children in the Western Balkans". This workshop was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France as a follow-up to the multi-disciplinary Action Plan developed by UNODC and the Governments of the region in March 2015. The workshop gathered 30 participants from the UNODC methodological and initial workshops, relevant professionals from the police and judiciary authorities of the destination countries (law enforcement, prosecutors and judges), as well as experts from the victim protection system and from the civil society. The workshop resulted in an update of the Action Plan, which now includes a timeframe and indicators and can further assist the national capacities to counter trafficking in persons.

**Seminar for Judges and Prosecutors to address the Smuggling of Migrants held in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

**Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 16-17 February 2016:** The seminar was delivered by UNODC officials and Italian judge and prosecutor who shared their experiences of prosecuting and adjudicating landmark cases of migrant smuggling in Italy. After introductory sessions on the international legal framework and concepts and categories of migrant smuggling, the focus was on the role of smuggled migrants and smugglers of migrants in investigations; investigation methods and techniques in migrant smuggling cases, including special investigative techniques, cross-border investigations and evidence collection with origin countries as well as best practices with view to enhancing successful prosecution and adjudication of smuggling of migrants cases. *(For info on all above: Davor Raus)*