UNveiling evidence on drugs and crime...

Measuring and assessing organized crime in the Western Balkans
THE BACKGROUND

The presence of organized crime (OC) represents a specific threat to the establishment and furthering of the rule of law in countries around the world, including the region of the Western Balkans. However, due to the lack of advanced statistical and analytical tools to monitor levels, trends and patterns of OC, it is difficult to understand whether progress is being made in the fight against OC or if organized criminal groups are maintaining or even increasing the amount of their illegal activities.

For the first time, the MACRO project has developed a comprehensive framework to increase the knowledge of this complicated set of crimes. Through this framework, beneficiaries of the project will be able to quantify, assess and analyze organized crime at the national and regional level and strengthen capacity under chapters 18, 23 and 24 of the EU acquis communautaire.

The framework is a collection of quantitative and qualitative data on illegal activities most often associated with organized crime, the state response to these, the size of the illicit markets and information on modus operandi and structures of the organized crime groups.

The What

- Organized crime
- Trafficking in persons
- Smuggling of migrants
- Trafficking in firearms
- Drug trafficking
- Trafficking in counterfeit goods
- Corruption
- Money laundering
- Cybercrime
Advantages of the framework:

- A standardized set of indicators to measure organized crime based on internationally agreed upon legal instruments and definitions;
- Increased understanding of the national and regional trends and patterns of organized crime;
- Baseline data to assess technical assistance needs and track progress; and
- More targeted policy interventions at the national and regional levels.

The data will be collected through the below mechanisms.

- National Technical groups in each beneficiary
- Focal Point in each beneficiary
- Secure central data portal (UNODC)

The Goal

- Building capacity for better data
- Increase knowledge on OC trends and patterns
- Evidence based policy advice
- Supporting the EU accession process in the beneficiaries
Contact information:
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