

## NEWSLETTER # 1

This Newsletter informs about the UNODC programme in the region and related events/news of partners. The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) aims at working in strong partnerships to reduce the trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan and related crime and drug abuse problems in the region. Structured along the 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 action with Government officials from the justice, enforcement, health and social sectors, and at increasing work with civil society organizations. For any feedback, queries or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova, e-mail: [ekaterina.kolykhalova@unodc.org](mailto:ekaterina.kolykhalova@unodc.org)

Under the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015), Sub-Programme 3 on Prevention, Treatment and Care, and with a voluntary financial contribution of the **Federal Republic of Germany**, UNODC has implemented several activities throughout the region, including Albania, the FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, which aim to reduce drug demand and to improve access to prevention, treatment and care services for drug users, HIV-AIDS patients and other risk groups in UNODC mandated areas.

### Montenegro: TREATNET Training to Improve Treatment and Care of Drug Dependence

**January/February 2012:** The UNODC team in Serbia organized evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care training "TREATNET" in Bečići, Montenegro. The training aimed to improve quality of drug dependence treatment through cooperation, information exchange and qualitative education. All 27 experts from relevant health institutions from four regions in Montenegro completed the training successfully. Some of them worked with UNODC in the conduct of training sessions in February 2012, held in Tivat, Centinje and Danilovgrad, during which another 46 practitioners were trained.



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### Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia: Containing the HIV/TB/HCV Epidemics Among Drug Users and in Prison Settings

**January/February 2012:** UNODC together with representatives of Ministry of Justice and civil society organisations conducted three policy assessments for comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services for drug users and prison settings in Serbia, the FYR of Macedonia and Albania. Results of the assessments were presented to stakeholders during a one-day meeting in each of the countries.



At the end of these meetings National Technical Working Groups (TWGs) were established with representatives from prison health staff, prison administration, judicial authorities, national health services and NGOs. The TWGs in cooperation with Ministries of Health and Ministries of Justice will work on issues related to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/HCV in prisons.

In order to raise the awareness of NGO participants and ministerial representatives a half-day training was delivered in each country on best practice approaches in HIV/TB/HCV prevention.

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The sessions featured different educational activities, learning games and role plays. Behavioural problems that youth may face were discussed and advice provided on how to strengthen parenting skills and built family strengths.

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### Montenegro: Family Skills Training Programmes to Prevent Drug Use

**March 2012:** UNODC organized seven training sessions on "Strengthening Family Programme 10-14" in Montenegro schools. These sessions reached 20 teachers and 52 families and presented how drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people can be prevented, and abilities of families to work against these risks improved.



## DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

### Albania: New Drug Dependence Treatment Center Opens in Tirana ...



**28 March 2012:** Albania opened the first Drug Dependence Treatment Centre at the Mother Theresa University Hospital in Tirana. With the support of UNODC and WHO, and in close cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Health, this centre also became possible through a US\$ 85,000 contribution from the Italian Government. The Minister of Health, H.E. Mr. Petrit Vasili, led the Opening Ceremony and cut the ribbon together with the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania, Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun. Representatives from the Embassies of Italy and France, international community and civil society were in attendance. The center can cater for more than 1000 clients and has all features to become a national reference clinic for drug dependence and care. It provides specialized services and serves as a training, coordination and referral point at the national level.

### ... and UNODC completes a training series on drug use prevention, treatment and care for the Elbasan Prefecture:

Within the framework of the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, "TREATNET" training was conducted in Elbasan on 1-2 March 2012 for the Elbasan Prefecture. 32 participants included general practitioners and nurses from health centers of Elbasan, Kavaja, Peqin, Librazhd, Gramsh, staff from prisons administration and secondary schools, and the NGO Aksion Plus. This training package will be expanded to other regions in Albania, so as to establish multi-disciplinary teams on drug treatment and care, as is foreseen under the Plan of Action of the National Anti Drug Strategy 2011-2015.

Under the drug use prevention and family skills training programme, UNODC also concluded the 8<sup>th</sup> training session in February 2012 in Tirana and Shkodra with training for more than 180 participants. Participants acknowledged the positive spirit and tremendous value of this inter-active training, as also evidenced in the statement of one parent from the Dora D'Istria school:



*..."I enjoyed the evenings when we got together with other parents (moms) and in addition to learning new things we also got socialized and had the chance to discuss issues of mutual interest. Moreover, I am getting to know my kid better"...*

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## COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Serbia: Joint Programme of UNODC, UNHCR and IOM to Combat Human Trafficking



**2 March 2012:** Under this Joint Programme, supported by donor funds from Belgium and Switzerland, and co-financed by UNGIFT, the Judicial Academy organized a seminar on human trafficking in the criminal justice system. Ms. Nata Mesarović (President of the Supreme Court of Cassation), Ms. Tamara Mirović (State Public Prosecutor's Office), Mr. Nenad Vujić (Director, Judicial Academy) and Mr. Giovanni Nicotera (UNODC) opened the event.

The meeting discussed the recently adopted Special Protocol on Proceedings of the Judiciary in Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking in Serbia, which is a result of collaboration of the Joint Programme and the Ministry of Justice.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Paris Pact: Third Ministerial Conference on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan concludes in Vienna/Austria



**16 February 2012:** The third Paris Pact Ministerial Conference, held at the Vienna Hofburg, was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Many ministers and senior level delegates from 58 countries attended this event and confirmed their resolve to help reduce opium poppy cultivation, opiate production and related drug trafficking and abuse, through a broad international coalition.

The event was chaired by the Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yury Fedotov. Senior officials from the region who attended this Ministerial Conference included the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro H.E. Mr. Milan Ročen, Deputy Minister of Interior of Albania Mr. Avenir Peka, Acting Director General of SELEC Mr. Gurbuz Bahadir, and Vienna based Ambassadors from the region.

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