

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.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

5th meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme (RP) for South Eastern Europe takes place in Vienna

30 June 2014, Vienna: The meeting was opened by the UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov who thanked the countries of the region for their support in the delivery of the RP and expressed appreciation for the donor contributions. Ambassadors and senior representatives of the region's, partner and donor countries and the EU welcomed the RP and underscored that UNODC has managed to integrate itself into the plethora of initiatives undertaken by other partners without duplication, as well as confirmed their ownership of the RP. To ensure maximum coherence of action, the meeting, for the first time, included senior officials from regional organizations, including the OSCE, the South Eastern Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC), the Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention (PCC SEE), the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) and the Regional Cooperation Centre (RCC).



Partnership building with regional and international actors

29 May 2014, Bucharest, Romania: UNODC participated in the meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) states, organized by the Romanian Chairmanship of the SEEC. In addition to the Ministers and senior representatives of the SEEC countries, the meeting was attended by the SG of the Council of Europe, the SG of the RCC, the Vice-President of EUROJUST, and the DG of SELEC. The UNODC Regional Representative for SEE informed the meeting of the UNODC ongoing and planned work in the region.

29 May 2014, Bucharest, Romania: UNODC participated in the 8th Meeting of the SELEC Council along with over 60 representatives of the law enforcement institutions from the SELEC Member States and guests from INTERPOL, RCC, Italy, UK and USA. UNODC and SELEC have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in December 2012.

5 June 2014, Vienna: The UNODC Deputy Executive Director and the Director of RACVIAC reviewed the implementation of the MOU, signed at the end of 2013, and agreed to continue coordinating their efforts to ensure non-duplication. In particular, RACVIAC has invited UNODC to join their planned activities in anti-human trafficking and prevention of corruption.

6 June 2014, Vienna: Following the meeting of the UNODC Executive Director with the Minister of Interior of Austria on 3 April 2014, consultations between senior experts from both agencies were conducted in the Austrian Mol. Austria has also participated in the aforementioned meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNODC RP for the first time.

UNODC Marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and releases its 2014 World Drug Report

26 June 2014, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje, Vienna: UNODC marked the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the capitals of the region by means of holding meetings with national counterparts (Sarajevo), participation in an EU event on the implementation of the strategy on the fight against drugs' (Belgrade) and promoting the Day to wide public (Skopje). The message of the UNODC Executive Director was read out at all of these events and posted on the UN websites in each country.

In Vienna, the World Drug Report 2014 was released. According to it, the global drug use prevalence is stable, with around 243 million individuals—5 per cent of the world's population aged 15-64—having used an illicit drug in 2012. *For info on all above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

UNODC presents Report 'The Illicit Drug Trade through South Eastern Europe' in Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

3 June 2014, Podgorica; 18 June 2014, Belgrade; 26 June 2014, Sarajevo: UNODC officers presented the Report 'The Illicit Drug Trade through SEE' to senior law enforcement, health and justice officials in the three capitals. The local presentations followed the launch of the Report in Vienna in March 2014. The UNODC experts outlined the main findings of the Report and handed out its copies along with partial unofficial translations of the Report into local languages. In the following discussions, the national counterparts in all three countries welcomed the Report, emphasized its usefulness and agreed that it gives a good overall insight into the issue of illicit drugs in the region and in each of the countries. *For info: Sinisa Durkulic (Montenegro; Serbia); Alen Gagula (Bosnia and Herzegovina)*



DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

UNODC, WHO facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Albania

11 April 2014, Tirana: The above MOU offers services in drug treatment and care and is a result of cooperation of national governmental and non-governmental partners in a one-year-long UNODC-WHO initiative within the framework of a Joint Project on Drug Treatment and Care. The signing ceremony was attended by health professionals, CSOs activists, UN agencies and media. *For info: Ela Banaj*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**UNODC Container Control missions visit Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina**

3 April 2014, Montenegro: A UNODC mission visited Podgorica and Bar to meet with Montenegro law enforcement agencies and discuss the establishment of the Joint Port Unit (JPU) in the Bar port. Setting up of the JPU will be followed by the analysis of the container traffic, arranging its operational work, and eventually conducting practical trainings.

23-24 April 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina: A UNODC-WCO team visited the Border Crossing Point in Bijača, a designated site for the future work of the CCP JPU, to review the developments towards the construction of its premises and the overall situation with container traffic through this border crossing between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia (EU). The CCP received strong backing for the current and future engagement in the country, as expressed by senior managers of the Indirect Taxation Authority and other partners.

**Record seizure of cocaine in Montenegro and a seizure of 2.4 tonnes of cannabis in Albania**

7 April 2014, Durres: The border police in cooperation with the CCP JPU in the Albanian port of Durres found 2,365 kg of cannabis concealed in sofas en route to Bari, Italy, when checking a truck with Macedonian number plates at the Durres ferry terminal. On **4 June 2014**, Montenegro authorities seized record 250 kg of cocaine in the port of **Bar** supposedly destined for Albania. Following this seizure, senior officials from the police and customs authorities of Albania and Montenegro met on **10 June 2014 in Podgorica**, with UNODC support, to discuss the details of this operation, explore new ways of exchanging information and undertaking joint operations. UNODC commends Albanian and Montenegro authorities on the operations.

**UNODC and WCO hand over equipment to the Joint Port Control Unit and Anti-Drug Service in Albania**

17 June 2014, Tirana: In partnership with the Office of the General Director of the Albanian State Police, UNODC organized a hand-over ceremony of 13,200 Evidence Bags - an essential component of crime scene investigation and forensic supplies ensuring correct collection, storing and documentation of the seized drugs and other types of evidence. *For info on all above: Ela Banaj and Alen Gagula*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) and UNODC launch findings of the Survey on Impact of Bribery and Crime on Private Enterprises in Albania**

7 April 2014, Tirana: INSTAT and UNODC launched the Survey which was prepared as part of a broader research initiative funded by the EU and reported on earlier. According to the Survey, corruption is the second most significant obstacle to doing business in Albania, after high taxes. UNODC commended the Government for its excellent cooperation in this research and for acknowledging the need to conduct this evidence-based survey as part of an on-going effort to curb corruption.

UNODC brings together civil society and government in Albania to support women in reporting corruption

10 April 2014, Tirana: UNODC and the Office of the National Coordinator on Anti-Corruption hosted a workshop for CSOs, women's groups, government departments, UNDP and UNWOMEN, to identify and discuss ways to support Albanian women in reporting corruption. As a follow-up to this workshop, on **25 June 2014**, UNODC hosted a roundtable to discuss the draft Albanian whistleblower protection law and how it would facilitate the reporting of acts of corruption by women.

**UNODC supports regional seminar on prevention of corruption-trends and successful practices in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

26-27 June 2014, Tirana: The OECD in cooperation with OSCE, UNDP and UNODC organized the regional seminar which gathered participants from 20 countries (state and CSOs) and international experts. The seminar was hosted by the Albanian Minister of State on Local Issues. Participants shared experiences of national corruption prevention departments and discussed best practices (including from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Estonia). The OECD will produce a regional comparative analytical report on corruption prevention as part of its Cross-Country Review for 2013-2015. *For info on all above: Ela Banaj*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING**Regional workshop on effective protection of victims and witnesses of trafficking in persons (TiP) in criminal proceedings in South Eastern Europe**

29-30 April 2014, Sarajevo: UNODC and the Ministry of Justice of BiH held the above workshop, focusing on avoiding secondary victimization and analyzing possibilities for compensation of victims, which gathered experts from central authorities and focal points from prosecution offices on UNTOCC and other international instruments, regional actors and CSOs and adopted practical recommendations.

UNODC supports the drafting of a new Strategy on the fight against human trafficking and trafficking in children in Albania

5-6 May 2014, Durres: UNODC supported Albanian Ministry of Interior in drafting of a new Strategy on the fight against human trafficking and trafficking in children (2014-2017). As part of these efforts, UNODC, in cooperation with the Office of the National Coordinator on TiP Issues (ONC), organized a workshop attended by 40 participants from various government departments, CSOs, OSCE, IOM, PAMECA, ICITAP and ICMPD, which helped with streamlining the drafting process for both the Strategy and its Plan of Action.

Regional Workshop on developing the regional curriculum on TiP for criminal justice professionals of South Eastern Europe

27-29 May 2014, Pržno/Budva: UNODC and Montenegro Judicial Training Centre organized a workshop to enhance harmonisation of training and subsequent practical work of criminal justice professionals on TiP cases in the region, with a focus on issues identified as important in judicial and training practice in SEE. *For info on all above: Davor Raus*