

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 trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan, 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)

## DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

### Family strengthening and drug treatment in Serbian prisons



**Belgrade, May/June 2012:** Following up on the work of the past months, UNODC-Serbia continued the programme for the prevention of drug abuse. This programme had reached ten elementary schools and around 200 families and trained over 50 facilitators in 2011 and early 2012. As of March 2012, UNODC trained 18 new facilitators and worked with new elementary schools to sensitize more than 150 children to the harmful consequences of drug abuse.

Families can be one of the most powerful protective forces in the lives of children and youth. Secure parent/child attachment, parental supervision and communication have proven to be of great positive impact on the life of young people, and can prevent drug use, criminal or violent behaviour and HIV/AIDS.

In May 2012, UNODC educated over 100 experts on the issue of prison health. Round tables and meetings with local community leaders identified the challenges and priorities of drug dependence treatment and care in prison institutions. In June, UNODC organized a study tour for Serbian prison health professionals and representatives of Ministries of Health and Justice to the Champ Dollon prison institution in Geneva, Switzerland. This prison was awarded as best practice institution with regard to drug dependence treatment and care in 2010 and 2011 by the WHO. The aim of the study tour was to identify best practice methodology of work regarding drug dependence treatment and care services in the prison facilities, and potentially to replicate them in local settings.



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## COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### The fight against trafficking in children for sexual exploitation

**Tirana, 9-10 May 2012:** Following an inclusive assessment undertaken in the region, UNODC has launched a new report on children trafficking for sexual exploitation in the Western Balkans.

The report acknowledges the progress made by the countries over the past years. It also notes the tendency for a rather reactive approach, the need to compliment national solutions with regional and international cooperation and networking. The countries are still facing the problem of unregistered children, which denies them access to justice, assistance or relief. These children are especially vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

The phenomenon of child begging is often the first step towards sexual exploitation. The assessment hence recommends to invest in broader preventive solutions to the underlying problems. It is recommended to align the national immigration policies with the findings of the report and to establish Standardised Operational Procedures as a tool in assuring a coherent approach. Cooperation with NGOs is also encouraged to establish objective evaluation criteria. The on-going efforts to elaborate anti-corruption measures need to be strengthened at all levels in the administration and law enforcement across the region.



The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015) includes a component aimed at countering human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the region.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### UNODC Executive Director launches the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe 2012-2015



**Vienna, 23 May 2012:** Representatives of South Eastern European states, regional organizations and many Vienna based permanent missions joined the UNODC Executive Director in the launch event. Mr. Fedotov emphasized in his opening remarks that this Regional Programme focuses on countering organized crime, enhancing integrity and justice, and improving prevention, treatment and care services for drug users and those infected with HIV/AIDS.

He invited partners to join this Regional Programme and work with countries and regional bodies to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated reply to the drug and crime problems in the region. UNODC would add value to ongoing cooperation, also due to its solid presence in West and Central Asia. The UNODC Programmes in Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, and ongoing work with the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), the Triangular Initiative and its Joint Planning Cell, and other law enforcement mechanisms in the region, could and should be used to also strengthen intraregional work. South Eastern Europe, said Mr. Fedotov, could only benefit from closer cooperation with enforcement operations along the entire trafficking chain, within the principle of shared responsibility. The Regional Programme should become a bridge ranging Western Europe to Central Asia, in spirit of the Paris Pact Agreements. Keynote speakers from the Governments of the region and international organizations declared their support for the Programme and expressed their appreciation for continued partnership with UNODC.

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### UNODC Executive Director pays first visit to Albania

**10 -11 June 2012:** On his first official visit to Albania, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov met with the country's top-level officials to discuss measures against organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and cooperation with UNODC. Albania is a transit country for Afghan heroin smuggled to Western Europe. Mr. Fedotov recognized the efforts that Albania had made to curb illicit trafficking and organized crime, such as the notable increase in drug seizures, arrests, and the setting up in March of a new drug dependence treatment centre in Tirana. Within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (2012-2015), UNODC in cooperation with the World Customs Organization is launching the Container Control Programme in the Albanian port of Durres to improve inspection of sea containers which could be used to smuggle drugs and illicit goods. Albania and Montenegro are the first countries from this region to join the CCP. "We hope that we can connect all countries along the route within the next 2 years", said Mr. Fedotov.

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### 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe



**Vienna, 28 June 2012:** The meeting was convened in Vienna and reviewed the terms of reference of the Steering Committee, finalized the Regional Programme's Implementation Plan for 2012 and identified common work priorities for 2013, as well as partner and resource opportunities and communication and coordination measures.

The PSC members from all countries supported the Regional Programme and endorsed the Programme's strategic vision taking note of the presentation of partnership opportunities between this Regional Programme and the one for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, as well as agreed to the proposed strategy on inter- and intra-regional cooperation.

The PSC members provided advise on the way forward for UNODC in the region and shared information on ongoing national and regional action relating to or complimenting the UNODC Regional Programme, to help avoid potential duplication. The PSC encouraged equal distribution of activities under the Programme and increased presence in the region, subject to the availability of funds.

The next PSC meeting will take place in Vienna on 12 December 2012.

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