UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC in South Eastern Europe

NEWSLETTER | Vol. 22

April – June 2017

Regional Section for Europe and West/Central Asia

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 (2016-2019) is structured along three main pillars: (I) Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, (II) Enhancement of Integrity and Justice, (III) Prevention, Treatment and Care . The Programme focuses on priority actions identified in cooperation with the Government s 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) and Ms. Lejla Karahasanovic (lejla.karahasanovic@unodc.org).

NEWS AND EVENTS

Serbia and UN launch new country Development Partnership Framework

30 May 2017, Belgrade, Serbia: The Government of the Republic of Serbia and the UN Resident Coordinator signed the Development Partnership Framework 2016-2020 which is fully aligned with the national development priorities of the Government, as well as with the process of accession negotiations of Serbia and the EU and the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030. UNODC is part of the Framework. *(For info: Milos Stojanovic)*

Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of Europe meet in Vienna

27-30 June 2017, Vienna, Austria: The 12th Meeting of HONLEA Europe took place in Vienna. Among UNODC documents for the meeting is a report on drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide. According to it, one of the main developments of the two recent years for South Eastern Europe is that here seizures of amphetamine and "ecstasy"-type substances reached record levels in 2015. Europe accounts for significant proportions of global seizures of cannabis resin, cocaine, heroin, amphetamine and "ecstasy"-type substances. While cannabis resin and cocaine seizures within the region are almost exclusively concentrated in Western and Central Europe, South Eastern Europe represents 30-50% of European seizures of cannabis herb and amphetamine-type stimulants. South Eastern Europe also accounted for over 50% of heroin seizures that took place in Europe in 2015. Most of Europe is supplied by Afghan heroin through the "Balkan route" and the "southern route" through Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and, increasingly, African countries. UNODC also prepared a report on the current situation with respect to regional and sub-regional cooperation, including the work under the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. *(For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE

Balkan and Russian law enforcers review financial investigations of money laundering and terrorism financing

3-7 April 2017, Moscow, Russian Federation: The Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation - International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring - in cooperation with the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe, held an Advanced training for representatives of national systems of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT) of the partner countries of the Russian Federation from South Eastern Europe. The training entitled "Analytical methods and special techniques of financial investigations in the field of combating money laundering and financing of terrorism" has achieved its goals of improving qualifications of the FIUs' personnel and law enforcement agencies from South Eastern Europe in the field of analytical methods and technologies of financial investigations, as well as to strengthening inter-regional cooperation in the field of AML/CFT. As part of the training, a specialized Round table was held on the topic: "Exchange of experience towards improving the effectiveness of international cooperation against illicit production and trafficking in drugs" with the participation of the representatives of other Russian law enforcement agencies. It is foreseen to continue active cooperation with the Russian Federation in the AML/CFT field.

Follow the Money: Experts meet in the Balkans to address the financial profits from migrant smuggling

26-28 April 2017, Budva, Montenegro: UNODC Regional Expert Meeting provided an opportunity to law enforcement practitioners and prosecutors from 14 countries, as well as representatives of civil society, regional and international organizations to share experience on the use of special investigative techniques and cross-border financial investigations in the area of smuggling of migrants. Practitioners shared their experience in investigating and prosecuting migrant smuggling in the region through concrete cases. Representatives of French specialized agencies (Agency for the Recovery and Management of Seized and Confiscated Assets) and the private sector (MoneyGram and Western Union) shared examples of good practices. Migrant smuggling is largely a cash based crime, and the experts emphasized the challenges posed by the detection of the illicit financial flows and why it was essential to use financial analysis at the beginning of the investigation to trace the destination of the proceeds. Participants supported the meeting's methodology which included a hands-on exchange of experience, including on the ways and means to address smuggling networks in South Eastern Europe with the available to the national authorities tools for tackling organized crime, such as special investigative techniques. The third Regional Expert Meeting, to take place in the autumn 2017, will be supported by the Government of France which has accompanied UNODC in this initiative since the first meeting in the region in November 2016.*(For info on both: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

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NEWSLETTER | Vol. 22

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TERRORISM PREVENTION

UNODC organizes a series of national events on Foreign Terrorist Fighters in South Eastern Europe

27-28 April 2017, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 17-18 May, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244; 1-2 June 2017, Durres, Albania; 22-23 June, Podgorica, Montenegro: UNODC organized a series of National Workshops on the 'Investigation and Adjudication of Cases Involving Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) in South Eastern Europe'. The events - organized as part of a UNODC regional project supported by USA - were attended by national academies for judges and public prosecutors and included a detailed review of the international legal framework on FTF, FTF offences and their investigation, incl. financial components, foreign financial information & intelligence, mutual legal assistance, analysing financial information/evidence, and parallel financing of terrorism investigations. Around 25 practitioners joined in each jurisdiction, including prosecutors, judges, magistrates and other specialists. The objectives of the workshops included the following: discuss the Manual for Judicial Training Institutes in South Eastern Europe on FTF; enhance the understanding of the international and regional legal framework dealing with FTFs; familiarize participants with and discuss the criminal offenses under CETS dealing with FTF; discuss special investigative techniques in FTF cases; review the financial components of FTF related investigations; analyse online investigations and collection of e-evidence; promote and support the use of rule of law-based strategies and compliance with international human rights standards to strengthen the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism related offences. The workshop generated an important exchange of ideas among the participants and gave rise to a valuable debate in terms of practical solutions to key practical challenges faced by criminal justice officers when investigating and prosecuting FTF related cases. *(For info on all above and below: Joaquin Zuckerberg)*

Academia reviews opportunities of prevention of financing and recruitment of terrorism

1-5 May 2017, Dubrovnik, Croatia: The University of Zagreb, Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Programme, Architectur des Sichercheits and Max-Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law organized a regional seminar "Fight against terrorism through prevention of financing and recruitment". Academia and professionals exchanged views with regard to preventing radicalization, de-radicalization, rehabilitation, fair trial, the role of social media, cybercrime, as well as human rights. UNODC presented the International framework for FTF, including its implementation and challenges associated with it.

UNODC joins an EU-led talk on terrorism and violent extremism

17-18 May 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia: UNODC participated in the "Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Regional Conference" for countries of the EU-led Western Balkans Counter Terrorism Initiative (WBCTi), organized by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the George C. Marschall European Center for Security Studies, and the Slovenian Police. The conference included an active exchange of views and presentations on counter-terrorism and prevention/countering of violent extremism policy in individual countries in the region, as well as cooperation with the civil society.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Talks in Skopje on the Curriculum for smuggling migrants

10-12 April 2017, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: A UNODC delegation visited Skopje to discuss migration policies with the national authorities, related to human rights and countering migrant smuggling. The primary goal of the UNODC mission was to promote compliance with the Protocol against smuggling of migrants to the UN Transnational Organized Crime Convention and to help the visited country in its efforts towards the effective implementation of the Protocol. In particular, the mission focused on the preparation of a new Curriculum for smuggling migrants. The UNODC delegation met with a large group of counterparts in Skopje, including the Academy for judges and public prosecutors, courts, national coordinators for integrated border management and the fight against human trafficking and illegal migration, relevant ministries, agencies and prosecutors. As a result, in partnership with the Judicial Academy, priorities were identified and modalities for the development of the Curriculum for smuggling migrants have been laid out. It was agreed to nominate a team of national experts to assist the Academy and UNODC in developing and piloting the national Curriculum.

Parliamentarians working to fight human trafficking in the Western Balkans

17 -18 May 2017, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia: The Human Trafficking Foundation United Kingdom, in partnership with the Committee of Human and Minority Rights of the National Assembly of Serbia, has invited UNODC to participate as a panellist at the international workshop "European Parliamentarians working in Cooperation to fight Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans“ held at the National Assembly of Serbia. The aim of the workshop was to promote more comprehensive and effective fight against human trafficking by gathering Members of Parliament from UK and the region, representatives of national institutions (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Human and Minority Rights Office, Ombusman etc.) and NGOs. The workshop was also aiming to encourage parliamentarians' collaboration and to take steps to address the problem by establishing a sub-committee on trafficking in their own parliaments to help improve the national response. UNODC maintains working contacts with the UK counterparts on the UK's Modern Slavery Act 2015 and other topics related to human trafficking.

UNODC joins INTERPOL's work to address smuggling of migrants

26 June 2017, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia: UNODC participated in a INTERPOL Specialized Operational Network against People Smuggling (ISON) Specialized Training. The event was part of the INTERPOL Project to Support Regional Counter-Migrant Smuggling Capacity Building Programs. The activity included several countries of South Eastern Europe, ISON members from associated countries and presenters from regional and international organizations. UNODC delivered a training session "Bringing Smuggling Cases to Court" which focused on the international legal framework surrounding the smuggling of migrants; protection and assistance issues and determining the victim's status; witness protection and assistance and the role of the UNODC Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal. UNODC and INTERPOL cooperate in the field of smuggling of migrants and other areas of their respective mandates. *(For info on all above: Davor Raus)*

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC in South Eastern Europe

NEWSLETTER | Vol. 22

April – June 2017

DRUG CONTROL

UNODC Alternative Development Mission Visits Albania

2-4 May 2017, Tirana, Albania: The UNODC Sustainable Livelihoods Unit conducted a mission to Albania to assess the possibility of supporting the Albanian authorities in shaping a new long-term vision and developing a focused drug control strategy. The mission included meetings with the Albanian Minister of Interior, members of the diplomatic community, local authorities and a visit to a cannabis producing site. UNODC is drafting a report based on international best practices and the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development as related to the specifics of the situation in Albania. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

Serbian forensic expertise shared with Kyrgyzstan

19-23 June 2017, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Ujice, Goc, Republic of Serbia: Representatives of the Kyrgyz State Forensic Centre under the Ministry of Justice of Kyrgyzstan visited facilities of the Forensic Centre of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia. The main goal of the visit was to exchange experience in the international accreditation process according to the ISO 17025 standard, and to review the work of five laboratories in Serbia - on the expertise of drugs, luminescent substances, ballistics, documents and handwriting. The Kyrgyz delegation also visited the Training Centre for Remediation of Clandestine Drug Laboratories in Goc used by the Serbian Interior Ministry to train its staff on identification of illegal drug laboratories. Additionally, an agreement on bilateral cooperation was discussed. The Serbian Forensic Centre was chosen to be visited due to its membership in the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes and membership in the Networks Working Groups developing standards for forensic institutes all over the world. The Kyrgyz delegation got acquainted with the work of different laboratories and was introduced to the Quality Management System used by their Serbian colleagues. Both partners exchanged experience in conducting expertise and shared contacts which will allow them to cooperate on a daily basis in the future. According to the Deputy Head of the Forensic Centre in Belgrade, based on the good results of the visit, further cooperation between the two agencies and with UNODC is expected. The activity is in line with the UNODC Concerted Approach to Europe, West and Central Asia. *(For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Port Control Unit in Bosnia and Herzegovina seized 10.5 kg marijuana

3 May 2017, Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Port Control Unit (PCU) in Bosnia and Herzegovina seized 10.5 kg of lab-grown marijuana implementing its regular activities within the UNODC-WCO CCP. Marijuana was discovered from Montenegro citizens in a private vehicle coming from Montenegro, crossing Bijača intending to enter Croatia and intended for EU market. Suspicious behavior of the driver and passenger led the PCU to use the specialized search equipment, discover alterations in the vehicle and eventually find concealed marijuana in 36 hermetically sealed packs. The PCU continues to successfully contribute to the further strengthening of the country's security through application of the specialized profiling techniques and methodologies, focusing on risk analysis, data profiling and analyses of pre-arrival information of containers and other means of transportation in the legal trade.

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia work jointly on smuggling prevention in maritime containers

29-31 May 2017, Land-border crossing Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Officers of the Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Customs Administration of Croatia conducted joint operational activity focused on prevention of illicit drug trafficking and other smuggling that exploit maritime containers transported to Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as through the region. Joint efforts aimed to identify criminal activities involving containers, intercept such consignments and psychically inspect high-risk containers. Activities of this joint operation focused on establishing functional exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, contributing to increased levels of the safety and security of the international supply chain as well as overall border security. The activity contributed to the facilitation of cooperation between the custom and police agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia building upon ongoing cooperation. *(For info on both: Alen Gagula)*

HazMatID 360 donated to Durres Port Control Unit

5 June 2017, Durres, Albania: HazMatID 360 equipment, a donation of the US Embassy in Tirana (EXBS Programme) within the CCP, was handed to the PCU at the Durres Port. The equipment worth USD 65,000 is the latest version of portable and rugged HazMatID chemical identification system, which provides fast and comprehensive in-field analysis of unknown solids, gels and liquids, including illicit narcotics. At the ceremony, attended by the senior managers of Customs, Border Police and Migration Department of Durres district, EXBS Advisor to Albania and UNODC, it was noted that integrated border management remains a priority for Albania and that coordination is increasing between Albanian border control entities in countering trafficking. It is expected that donation of this modern equipment will enhance the performance of the PCU. UNODC-WCO will also provide a training on its use so as to enhance officers' knowledge, minimize risks or mistakes, and help duty-specific skills and knowledge.

911 kg of marijuana and cannabis herb seized in Albania

7-9 June 2017, Durres, Albania: PCU at Durres Port seized 911 kg of marijuana in two separate events. The first seizure (7 June 2017) occurred when a Macedonian citizen arrived at the ferry terminal. The behavior of the driver made the officers take the truck to the scanner area whose images alerted to an area of the truck where bags containing green, leafy substances which tested positive to marijuana. The 705 kg of drugs were heading to Bari, Italy, with the final destination in Holland. The second seizure of cannabis herb was two days later when a bus with tourists was referred for additional inquiries about their planned visit to Florence, Italy. 206 kg of cannabis herb were found by the PCU officers during the inspection. Both cases were turned over to the Prosecution Office for further investigation. The seizures were a result of the hard work by the PCU officers utilizing effective techniques. *(For info on both: Ela Banaj)*

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC in South Eastern Europe

NEWSLETTER | Vol. 22

April – June 2017

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

UNODC and EMCDDA mapped substance use treatment facilities in South Eastern Europe

3-5 May 2017, Tirana, Albania: As part of the UNODC-WHO Drug Dependence Treatment and Care Programme in collaboration with the UNODC Regional Programme, a substance abuse treatment facility mapping was conducted in Serbia. The substance abuse treatment facility questionnaire is comprised of five sections, which aim to collect administrative details, background information about the facilities and the treatment services provided in addition to details of the facility's resources. In parallel, European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) initiated the European Facility Survey Questionnaire (EFSQ) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. In Tirana, the two agencies discussed collected data, reporting templates and strategies. It was acknowledged that both surveys have respectively acquired valuable information which would serve national institutions to better understand substance use trends and available physical and human resources. UNODC and EMCDDA will continue to coordinate their work, use the EFSQ and support national professionals, clinicians and decision makers in effective use of available resources and substance use treatment trends.

Additional round of Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" training organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina

15-17 May 2107; 18-20 May 2017; 22-24 May 2017, Bijeljina, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Advancing the Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, additional training workshops for educators and trainers were organized in Republika Srpska. The workshops are the initial capacity development step for further implementation of the programme in selected elementary schools with students of 10-14 years of age. With the inclusion of 12 schools from Bijeljina, the project is now reaching 27 elementary schools across the country and has provided skills and knowledge to over 85 teachers to directly deliver the programme during the two following academic years in their settings. The pilot programme delivery in elementary schools is aiming to field-test the programme material, acknowledge working modalities in schools and report on potential challenges during the first phase. Prior to its start, a selected group of students will be interviewed to acquire information on substance use, normative beliefs, refusal skills and intention to use substances which will be later be contrasted with the post-test results, thus assessing the changes. The pilot programme will commence in Republic of Srpska in September 2017 with the expected duration until June 2019.

UNODC supported the treatment quality standard assessment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

26 May 2017, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: In collaboration with the Inter-ministerial state commission for combating illegal production, trafficking and abuse of drugs of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNODC supported the execution of Treatment Quality Standards Assessment. The Assessment measured the quality of treatment and care for people with drug use disorders by applying the internationally recognized methodology closely in line with the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. The results of the Assessment were reported against the seven basic principles of the Standards, first time in South Eastern Europe. The national stakeholders acknowledged that the Assessment was the first such national undertaking in the country to have this wide research framework and gather variety of information on drug dependence treatment and care, not only from the health care system, but also from other relevant sectors. It produces precise networking strategies aimed at strengthening the multidisciplinary approach in drug dependence treatment and may ensure the continuum of care of persons with substance use disorders. Presentation of the results was organized by UNODC, the State commission and the Ministry of Health.

Observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Montenegro

26-27 June, Podgorica, Montenegro: UNODC is annually marking the International Anti-Drug Day with campaigns drawing the attention of the general public to the importance of evidence based interventions and strategies in terms of reducing the drug supply and demand. This year's Day's theme is"Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe" focusing the campaign attention to prevention as the integrative and crucial segment of the comprehensive and systematic drug response. The International campaign is fundamentally supported with the analytically produced World Drug Report 2017. This year's Report estimates around 5% of the global adult population_used drugs at least once in 2015 with 29.5 million of persons with drug use disorders. 12 million people inject drugs with reported fatal and no fatal consequences such as HIV and Hepatitis C infection with reported 6,1 million of people who live with Hepatitis C, 1,6 Million who live with HIV and 1,3 million of people who live both with Hepatitis C and HIV. This worrisome data demonstrates the heavy burden of the disease from drug use and the necessity of prevention and treatment. Following the intention and dedication of the Government of Montenegro - Ministry of Health - to support and mark the International campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, a two-day seminar for national experts on treatment of drug use disorders and associated co-morbidity was organized in Podgorica with 26 psychiatrists from various treatment facilities across the country. National professionals discussed the diagnostic therapeutic protocols both for the drug use disorders and associated co-morbidities and had a chance to be acquainted with the state of the art drug use disorders treatment modalities and best practice studies. Prior the onset of the expert part of the training workshop, the main facts on statistics and trends of the World Drug Report 2017 along with the list of recommendations and policy implications were showcased to the group. The training workshop was officially opened by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, underlining the necessity and importance of the application of evidence based interventions and strategies in line with the International Standards and developed practices. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanovic)*