

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 Governments 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

### Consultations on the Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative (WB IISG)

**11 October 2017, Brussels, Belgium:** UNODC met with the representatives of EU DG NEAR, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ) to discuss the innovative partnership UNODC has entered into with the EU within the WB IISG which foresees capacity building activities in the area of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism. UNODC's involvement also aims at undertaking formative evaluation of the effectiveness of the approaches of the EU and its partners in the Western Balkan region in order to further improve the delivery of assistance as well as complementarity of actions by different actors, within and outside the EU umbrella. (For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)



### Paris Pact Initiative discusses precursor control

**23-24 October 2017, Bucharest, Romania:** The Paris Pact Expert Working Group (EWG) on Precursors organized by UNODC at the Headquarters of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC) in Bucharest. The event was attended by more than 60 participants, representing 21 countries and 8 international organizations. The EWG on Precursors was directly related to the third law enforcement pillar - on precursors - of the Vienna Declaration, adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners in February 2012, which serves as the roadmap to guide all partner actions in support to the Initiative and guiding Paris Pact partners' actions throughout its Phase IV. It is a welcome development that the Paris Pact architecture is becoming increasingly inclusive for the region of South Eastern Europe, which corresponds to the One UNODC Concerted Approach to Europe, West and Central Asia. (For info: Marie-Anne Menier)

### UNODC and OSCE compare notes on their work

**27 November 2017, Vienna, Austria:** UNODC and the OSCE Secretariat held consultations on the development of the new Joint Action Plan (2018-2019), a key document that supports the agencies' coordination efforts in various fields all over the OSCE region such as: countering illicit drug trafficking; transnational organized crime; violent extremism leading to terrorism; criminal justice reform; countering firearms and small arms trafficking; human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; anti-money laundering / counter-financing of terrorism, and others. The Action Plan is an effective mechanism to coordinate work, ensure non-duplication of efforts, support communication channels, formalize cooperation where necessary, and at the same time, facilitate the partnership in a strategic and yet practical manner. The meeting of the principles of UNODC and the OSCE will take place on 31 January 2018 to review and endorse the Joint Action Plan. (For info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)

## TERRORISM PREVENTION

### UNODC launches manual on investigation and prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)

**19 December 2017, Vienna, Austria:** FTFs continue to pose a threat to the international community, with South Eastern Europe having been identified as one of the regions that remains most vulnerable to the phenomenon. Acknowledging that coordination across borders is key to identify the most appropriate criminal justice responses, UNODC, with support of the USA, developed a new training manual "Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Manual for Judicial Training Institutes, South-Eastern Europe" which seeks to provide guidance on international legal instruments against FTF activities and techniques for digital investigation and evidence collection, especially concerning global financial transactions and social media activity. While it is tailored for judicial training institutes in SEE, it can be utilized in any jurisdiction seeking resources to address the FTF threat. UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov highlighted that these recommendations are aimed at assisting Member States to establish and enhance policies, laws and institutional capacity to provide improved outcomes for victims, while fully respecting the rule of law and rights of accused persons. The manual is the product of a multi-year project to build the specialized legal capacity of judicial and prosecutorial training institutes in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. (For info: Joaquin Zuckerberg)



### Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Manual for Judicial Training Institutes  
South-Eastern Europe

**ANTI-CORRUPTION****UNODC conducts a country visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of reviewing the implementation of UNCAC**

**5-7 October 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC conducted a country visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina to review the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The discussions in the context of this country visit were held in Sarajevo, involving the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Trinidad and Tobago as reviewing States parties and UNODC as the Secretariat of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of UNCAC. The objective of the country visit was for the reviewing States parties to engage in direct dialogue on the review of implementation of the Convention (Chapter II on Preventive Measures and Chapter V on Asset Recovery) with the relevant experts and representatives from national institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a result of the country visit and based on the exchange of information and views between the competent national authorities and the reviewing experts, a country review report will be drafted. The report will identify successes, good practices and challenges and make recommendations for the implementation of the Convention. *(For info: Constantine Palicarsky)*

**COSP7: Opportunity to showcase government-civil society cooperation in the UNCAC review**

**10 November 2017, Vienna, Austria:** On the margins of the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC (COSP), UNODC in partnership with the UNCAC Coalition organized a side event, bringing together various stakeholders to discuss best practices in the UNCAC review. The event showcased the results of successful cooperation between Mauritius and Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and their civil society counterparts. The meeting highlighted the importance of involving different groups of civil society, including religious leaders, in anti-corruption efforts as well as the integral partnerships between governments and civil society organizations in fighting corruption and the structured and well-coordinated anti-corruption efforts across various societal groups. During the event, participants exchanged ideas on means to strengthen civil society organizations' engagement with Member States for future country reviews. The launch the UNCAC Coalition's Africa Region Anti-Corruption Platform took place at this meeting and presents civil society organizations' related work in the region. More than 340 civil society representatives attended the COSP. 11 side events were organized by or with civil society. *(For info: Mirella Dummar Frahi)*

**MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE****UNODC mission visits Serbia and Albania**

**16-18 October 2017, Belgrade, Serbia, 20-22 November 2017, Tirana, Albania:** UNODC held consultations with the national and international counterparts in Serbia on the topic of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism and the ongoing and future cooperation between UNODC and the Government of the Republic of Serbia in this field. Furthermore, the UNODC delegation met with senior Albanian Government officials, international partners and the UN in Albania to discuss the efforts of the Government of Albania to tackle organized crime, including the vision of the recently established Task Force "Power of Law". This mission focused on new areas of further productive cooperation with Albania within the framework of the EU-led Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative which includes UNODC as an active participant and implementing agency. Both missions were also an opportunity to introduce the newly appointed UNODC Regional Advisor on anti-money laundering / counter-financing of terrorism issues to the national counterparts and to brief them on the respective workplans.

**UNODC supports raising the capacity to disrupt financial flows for terrorist activities in South Eastern Europe**

**21-23 November 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** A Regional Seminar "Countering Financing of Terrorism: Disruption of the Financial Flows of Terrorist Networks in South Eastern Europe" was jointly organized by UNODC and the Embassy of Republic of France in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The seminar brought together practitioners in the subject field from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia and responded to the central role of the region in the modus operandi of organized crime groups, in particular those related to drug trafficking and money laundering. The initiative served as a forum for exchange of counter-terrorism experiences among key regional stakeholders - FIUs, state agencies, national police and investigation services, tax authorities and public prosecution offices. The participants shared their professional experiences related to the most recent typologies and trends in their countries. The seminar also included a tailored programme consisting of practical exercises on various methods for gathering financial intelligence and disruption of financial flows. Participants exchanged views on the regional challenges pertinent to combatting financing of terrorism and disruption the financial flows of terrorist network and concluded that the successful outcome of their actions depends on strong regional cooperation, harmonization of policies and protocols, improved capacities of relevant stakeholders and interaction with the private sector. *(For info on all of the above: Yulia Minaeva)*

**Paris Pact Initiative Discusses Illicit Financial Flows**

**21-22 November 2017, Belgrade, Serbia:** The Paris Pact Expert Working Group (EWG) on Illicit Financial Flows was attended by nearly 60 participants, representing 19 countries and 5 international organizations. The EWG on Illicit Financial Flows was directly related to the Pillar II of the Vienna Declaration, adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners in February 2012, which serves as the roadmap to guide all partner actions in support to the Initiative and guiding Paris Pact partners' actions throughout its Phase IV. The EWG meeting was structured around the "Understand-Disrupt-Develop" approach which formed three main thematic items that were discussed with the guidance of UNODC. The participants were updated on the latest opiate trafficking trends with a focus on the SEE, as well as on activities by the EU, UNODC and the national FIUs Units from Afghanistan, Russian Federation and others. The experts also presented some topical studies on crypto-currencies, national risk assessment, SOCTAs and discussed anti-corruption strategies for financial investigation teams as well as other issues. *(For info: Marie-Anne Menier)*

## GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

### Drug and Precursors Training for Port Control Units Takes Place in Sarajevo

**2-4 October 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Advanced Drug and Precursors Training for officers of the Port Control Units (PCUs) in South Eastern Europe was organized to enhance capacities of the PCU officers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to identify and conduct interdiction of drugs and precursors trafficking through the region. The training focused on risk-based profiling of containers and improved information exchange at national, regional and international levels on container crime. A total of 24 officials from customs, border police, anti-narcotic units and other relevant institutions attended the course, which comprised of lectures and practical exercises, complemented by interactive discussions, and focused on up-to-date identification and interdiction of drugs and precursors trafficking. The training was organized with support of USA and France.

### UNODC and WCO support operational cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighboring countries

**26-29 October 2017, land-border crossing point Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The customs administrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia joint operational activity aimed to identify illegal activities of organized crime exploiting maritime containers, interception of such consignments and physical inspection of high-risk containers. During the activity a number of containerized shipments have been inspected on the basis of risk analyses and work conducted jointly by customs officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Activities of joint operations aimed to further develop interagency cooperation, including between and with customs, and cooperation with neighboring countries with the overall objective to increase levels of safety and security of the international supply chain, as well as overall border security. *(For info on all of the above: Alen Gagula)*

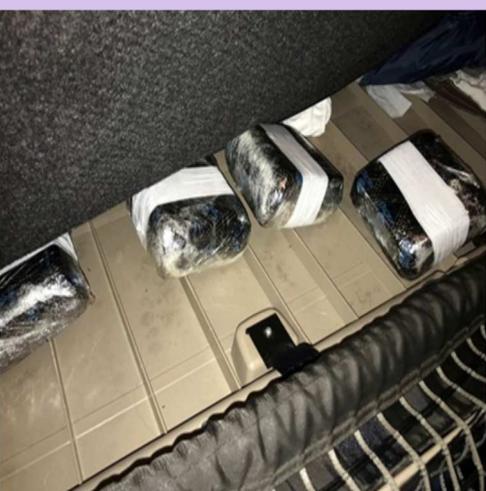
### Award of Excellence presented to two Port Control Unit female officers

**30 October 2017, Tirana, Albania:** Two female officers of the PCU at Durres Port in Albania received the Award of Excellence in a ceremony organized on the occasion of the United Nations Day for their outstanding contribution as champion safe-keepers of the Albanian borders. The award was presented to the PCU female officers by the Ambassador of Sweden, who in his remarks stated that he was honored to give the award to two women who have committed themselves to the fight against organized crime, in particular, to the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotics. During the ceremony, five other Albanian women were honored with the award. These women are active in the area of diplomacy and civil society, are survivors of the domestic violence, and women from Roma and Egyptian minority. This year, in Albania, the UN Day theme was dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The main product of this event was the documentary on women "who work behind the scenes", women who never make it on TV or other media, but who are the "silent heroes" who work across the country, including in law enforcement area, and make a big difference every day.



### Customs and Police officers trained on use of HazMatID 360

**31 October - 3 November 2017, Durres, Albania:** A training course for the officers of the Albanian PCU, Customs and State Police aimed at increasing their operational capacities to use the HazMatID 360 machine. Conducted by a forensic expert from the Federal Criminal Police of Germany, the training included theoretical aspects and focused specifically on practical elements of work. The latter part of the training was carried out at the container terminal of Durres Port. The equipment is the latest version of the portable and rugged HazMatID chemical identification system, which provides fast and comprehensive in-field analysis of unknown solids, gels and liquids, including illicit narcotics. This is the first machine of this kind provided to the Albanian Customs and State Police and it is expected to mark a new stage in the work of the PCU in applying advanced technologies to the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotics and smuggling of hazardous substances.



### Port Control Unit at Durres Port seizes heroin

**16 December 2017, Durres, Albania:** Heroin worth 90,000 Euro was seized by the PCU at Durres Port, Albania. The seizure of 2kg. 568gr. occurred when a trailer loaded with pellet destined for Italy entered the first line of control. The heroin was hidden in the driver's cabin and the seizure was a result of a coordinated effort between the scanner team and PCU officers. The case is turned over to the Serious Prosecution Office for further investigation. This recent seizure takes the total number of kilos of heroin seized at Durres Port by the PCU to 59.5 kg. *(For info on all of the above: Ela Banaj)*

### Enhancement of efficiency of border control in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported

**4-6 December 2017, Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Mentorship visit to the PCU at the Bijača Border Crossing Point aimed at measuring the effectiveness of the PCU and at solving practical challenges and barriers, as well as at identification of necessary additional training needs and other required support. The Mentorship visit gave particular attention to conducting profiling and risk assessment of containerized shipments transiting land-border point Bijača, as well as broadening cooperation with the private sector entities, especially forwarding agents. It also reviewed other challenges that the PCU meets in performing its regular activities, suggested possible improvements and offered solutions aimed at enhancement of the Unit's capacities. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*



## ORGANIZED CRIME & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### UNODC leads third regional dialogue on cross-border investigation and disrupting illicit financial flows from smuggling of migrants (SoM)

**18-20 October 2017, Split, Croatia:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Expert Group Meeting (EGW) on SoM as it relates to illicit financial flows gathered representatives of transit and destination countries in the region, Turkey, EU, regional and international organizations for a coordinated response to SoM across borders within the wider region. Participants gained a more accurate understanding of the SoM issues through cross-border investigations and prosecutions and reviewed the benefits of a 'joined up' national and regional approach to detecting and intercepting criminal networks behind SoM, exchanged practical experiences concerning cross-border cooperation and use of special investigative techniques, provided operational examples of good practices, challenges and lessons learnt in cross-border cooperation and use of special investigative techniques. Given the centrality of the principle "follow the money" for effectively combating SoM, a session was dedicated to the role of private sector, the role of Hawalas and other similar service providers and practical experiences in detecting and disrupting illicit financial flows in combating SoM. *(For info on this and below: Davor Raus)*

### UNODC and Macedonian counterparts discuss challenges of SoM

**1-2 November 2017, Ohrid, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** An UNODC EGW, supported by USA, aimed to develop specialized training capacity on countering SoM, using interactive methodologies based on case law and e-learning modules. Customized training materials on migrant smuggling will be developed and made available for training of different target groups of criminal justice practitioners operating in relevant areas in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. Furthermore, expert group members will take part in training of trainers sessions and then pilot-test the materials and the proposed methodology delivering training sessions to other groups of officials. UNODC e-learning SoM modules will be localized and made available to the competent training institutions.

### UNODC undertook vigorous efforts to support South Eastern European region in addressing the challenges related to firearms trafficking, marking, identification and tracing.

**23 October 2017, Vienna, Austria:** A study visit to the Vienna Proof-House was organized for officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia with the aim to acquire information about the procedures and methods to mark firearms imported in Austria, as well as firearms tracing through implementation of firearms import marking. **28-30 November 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC and WCO, in cooperation with UK Border Force Skills Academy and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a training for 20 customs officers on detection of firearms trafficking at land border crossing points focusing on the links between organized crime and terrorism, the use of firearms in terrorist attacks at regional and global levels, firearms trafficking from the Western Balkans, and foreign terrorist fighters from the countries in the region. **1 December 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC held a workshop with the Working Group on the implementation of the Law on marking of firearms and ammunition (F&A) with support of Germany. **12-13 December 2017, Belgrade, Serbia:** UNODC, UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), with the support of Germany, organized a regional meeting for criminal justice practitioners from the Western Balkan countries on exchange of good practices in combatting illicit firearms trafficking, aiming to raise capacity and develop a "Community of Practitioners". **14 December 2017, Belgrade, Serbia:** UNODC held a workshop with the members of the Ministry of Interior of Serbia on marking F&A and presented a report on best practices in this field from the legislation and practice of the EU countries, Switzerland, Canada and USA. **19-20 December 2017, Belgrade, Serbia:** UNODC and SEESAC, with support of Germany, organized a training for 17 police officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia on identification and tracing of F&A, which examined the international framework and provided the participants with detailed knowledge on the categorization of firearms, record-keeping, evidence collection, and the methods for tracing. *(For info: Diman Dimov)*



## DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

### Strong Families prevention programme for Afghan refugee families successfully initiated in Serbia

**18-20 October 2017, Vranje, Serbia:** In partnership with Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, UNODC initiated piloting of "Strong Families" programme for the prevention of drugs, crime and violence on Afghan refugee families currently stranded in refugee reception centers in Serbia. The programme is designed for families in low resource settings with children aged 7-14 with the aim of improving parenting skills, child well-being and family mental health. The pilot programme intends to normalize and manage stress within the families who went through conflict and displacement, to develop positive parenting strategies as well as to improve communication and relationship among family members. The programme pilot in Serbia kicked off with the training of 27 facilitators from local organizations who actively support the refugee response and will be implemented in refugee reception centers in Bujanovac, Presevo and Vranje. Lessons learned through the Serbia pilot assessment will carry important value for the local Serbian counterparts as well as on the global level for many other interlocutors engaged with families going through similar circumstances.

### UNODC and Serbia work in support of drug dependence treatment facilities

**30 October 2017, Belgrade, Serbia:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Serbia, UNODC organized a training seminar on mapping of drug dependence treatment facilities with experts from over 35 treatment institutions across the country. Participants, dealing with substance use disorders, were informed about the envisaged activities and got acquainted with the culturally adapted UNODC-WHO mapping instrument and suggested data collection methodology. Following the recommendations gathered during the first cycle of treatment facility mapping in Serbia (Sept 2016), a new data collection methodology was proposed and arranged as an on-line platform for further use. Beside serving as the carrier for data collection instrument, the on-line platform will promote necessary information on drug dependence treatment and care and hence serve as a capacity building platform for broader audience and experts as well as a resource data base for applicable diagnostic therapeutic protocols and related legislative acts. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanović)*