

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@un.org) and Ms. Lejla Karahasanovic (lejla.karahasanovic@un.org).

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### UNODC and OSCE Secretariat sign new 2018-2019 joint action plan

**31 January 2018, Vienna, Austria:** UNODC Executive Director and OSCE Secretary General signed a UNODC-OSCE Joint Action Plan for 2018-2019 (JAP). The JAP reflects the two organizations' contributions to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and allows for more streamlined technical collaboration in 12 subject areas which include combating transnational organized crime, preventing and countering violent extremism leading to terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants, anti-money-laundering, and security sector governance and reform. UNODC Executive Director welcomed UNODC's ongoing cooperation with the OSCE as one of UNODC key strategic partners. The JAP regular expert consultations and staff talks provide an effective foundation for action against the challenges of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism, and support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The JAP 2018-2019 contains four new subject areas on security sector governance and reform; preventing and combating violence against women; combating cybercrime; and combating trafficking in cultural property.

### Heads of Border Police agencies review the way forward in the Western Balkans

**31 January - 2 February 2018, Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina:** UNODC joined the Meeting of the Border Police Chiefs organised under the auspices of the Border Security Programme of the DCAF-Ljubljana which contributes to the raising of efficiency of border management authorities in Southeast Europe and fosters cooperation to successfully mitigate modern and occurring security threats to regional and European border integrity. The meeting focused on the review of progress within the DCAF Border Security Programme in 2017 and addressed recent developments relating to the security in the Western Balkan region. The event also particularly focused on the Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance initiative (IISG), and specifically its Pillar III - Western Balkan Border Security initiative. The participants of the event exchanged views and approaches on addressing contemporary security challenges and discussed the way forward for the period 2018-2020.

### UNODC providing integrated support for justice, security in South Eastern Europe, says Executive Director

**16 February 2018, Vienna, Austria:** The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe (RP SEE) gathered the representatives of the countries of the region, including Ambassadors and Members of the Steering Committee, representatives of the partner organizations from the region and beyond, and donor countries. Opening the meeting, the UNODC Executive Director highlighted work to address challenges posed by drugs, transnational organized crime, terrorism and other threats, and pointed out that UNODC was advancing real-time, integrated cooperation to tackle these justice and security challenges in SEE. He said: "We are operating in complex times, with new threats arising as we deal with continuing security challenges. I am proud to say that the RPSEE is responding to them in a solid manner". UNODC briefed the participants on the results achieved in all areas of work in the region, including container control, intercepting illicit financial flows, and preventing and treating drug use. UNODC initiatives to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement authorities, including through its Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach and the One UNODC Concerted Approach to Europe, West and Central Asia, were emphasized, as well as the new partnership that the Regional Programme has entered in 2017 with the newly established IISG.



### 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe

**15 March 2018, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia:** The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the highest PCC SEE statutory body - the Committee of Ministers - was held under the auspices of the Slovenian PCC SEE Chairmanship-in-Office. The Committee of Ministers reviewed the developments in the five PCC SEE core clusters, mainly focusing on the establishment of an EU Prüm-inspired framework for automated exchange of DNA, dactyloscopic and vehicle registration data in the PCC SEE region. Specific attention was devoted to the enhancement of operational cooperation between the PCC SEE Parties in special investigative measures and sharing training approaches, exchanging experience on tactics and methods used in investigating various types of crime, and strengthening synergies for an intensified long-term cooperation.

### Second Board Meeting of the Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative (IISG)

**16 March 2018, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia:** The President of the Republic of Slovenia, H. E. Mr. Borut Pahor, opened the ministerial conference of the Brdo Process, which hosted the Second Board Meeting of the IISG. Ministers of Interior and Security of the Western Balkan region - members of the IISG Board - were joined by EU, UN and other international partners in the Board Meeting chaired by the Deputy Director-General of the DG NEAR of the EC. The Ministers endorsed the Integrative Plans of Action of the three IISG Pillars for the period 2018-2020. Each Plan of Action will be continually updated to include all relevant partners' activities and support the main IISG goals. The meeting received the report of the WB Counter-Terrorism initiative Integrative Plan of Action for the period 2015-2017. UNODC was appointed to be a lead partner of the Pillar II of the IISG together with the Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for SEE. UNODC has also made a presentation of the evaluation of the Pillar II of the IISG, an important function is led by UNODC and aimed to ensure that impact is measured, results are accounted for and the lessons learnt are used in the future. *(For info on all on the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

**MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE****UNODC, CEPOL and Western Balkans Partners Held First Coordination Meeting**

**23 February 2018, Budapest, Hungary:** The first technical meeting of the UNODC National Project Focal Points and the National Contact Points of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) from all jurisdictions in South Eastern Europe (SEE) was successfully concluded at the CEPOL premises in Budapest, Hungary. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the regional participants of the upcoming activities and to raise awareness and enhance the visibility of the project's activities on the ground, in addition to the dissemination and exploitation of the prospective project results. The event was the first partnership meeting held in the framework of the recently launched joint UNODC-CEPOL two-year capacity building initiative on financial investigations in SEE funded by the EC and constituting an integral part of the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) process, namely its Pillar II on the Western Balkans Combatting Serious and Organized Crime initiative (WBCSCI). The initiative is part of the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE.

**UNODC and CEPOL Joint Training Needs Assessment Mission Successfully Concluded in Albania**

**6-8 March 2018, Tirana, Albania:** UNODC and CEPOL undertook the first Training Needs Assessment (TNA) mission to identify key technical and training needs of the Albanian law enforcement agencies involved in the fight against serious and organized crime and financial investigations. Based on the outcomes of the mission, the national training plan on financial investigations will be developed. During the TNA mission a series of meetings were held with the Albanian law enforcement sector, law enforcement training institutions and the EU as well as the international community in order to ensure that the needs and priorities of the Albanian law enforcement institutions in the area of financial investigations are addressed and that the project activities are complimentary to the existing capacity building efforts provided by the international community on the ground. This TNA mission was organized in the framework of the above initiative on financial investigations in SEE.

**Joint OSCE-UNODC regional training course on cryptocurrencies, darknet and open-source investigations concludes in Tirana**

**5-9 March 2018, Tirana, Albania:** The OSCE-UNODC joint training focused on Enhancing the knowledge and skills of criminal justice practitioners from SEE in investigating cryptocurrencies and the darknet and using open-source intelligence methods. The course was attended by 19 members of various criminal justice institutions from the region and provided participants with a comprehensive overview of key issues related to the criminal use of cryptocurrencies and the darknet. The main concepts and current questions linked to compliance, regulation and seizure of cryptocurrencies were discussed. Trainees had the opportunity to operate with real Bitcoin transactions and to practice Bitcoin tracing. The second part of the course focused on investigating the darknet using open-source intelligence. Participants were given a broad and detailed picture of criminal activities on Tor marketplaces and gained hands-on experience by using several open-source resources for investigative purposes. One day was dedicated to further developing the training skills of those participants who will serve as national trainers in the next phases of the project. *(For info on the above: Yulia Minaeva)*

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING****UNODC trained professionals on smuggling of migrants training delivery techniques**

**7-8 February 2018, Mavrovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 7-9 March 2018, Vrdnik, Serbia:**

UNODC Global Programme against Smuggling of Migrants project in cooperation with the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe is implementing the project 'Strengthening the capacity to fight the smuggling of migrants (SoM) in South Eastern Europe', funded by U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and implemented in Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Within this project, the following two events took part in the reporting period: first TOT workshop held 7-8 February 2018 in Mavrovo, a stepping stone in the process of curriculum development gathering members of the multidisciplinary Expert Group (judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, academia and civil society) to shape the contents of the training curriculum and discuss training methods, in line with the latest international training approaches in this field and the methodology of problem-oriented education; second TOT workshop held 7-9 March 2018 in Vrdnik. The members of the multidisciplinary Expert Group worked together to test case-based simulation



methodology to check and shape the contents and decide on thematic areas of the training curriculum.

**UNODC undertakes training with Macedonian officials on smuggling of migrants**

**20-21 February 2018, 15-16 March, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:** TOT workshop on case based-simulation techniques, within the context of developing a curriculum on the smuggling of migrants was a follow-up to the TOT workshop held in February in Mavrovo, and a further step in the process of curriculum development. The event held 20-21 February is another element in the comprehensive process of the development of the curriculum and building capacity of the national criminal justice systems in the region of South Eastern Europe. The TOT workshop held 15-16 March marks a further step in the process of SoM curriculum development, in partnership with the said Academy in Skopje. The members of the multidisciplinary Expert Group, as well as US ICITAP representative, continued their previous work from February 2018 on drafting and testing training material and deciding on thematic areas for the training curriculum, in line with the latest international training approaches in this field and the methodology of blended learning and problem-oriented education. *(For info on all of the above: Davor Raus)*

## GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

### Port Control Unit at Durres Port Seizes over 11 kg of Heroin

**10 February 2018, Durres, Albania:** 11.4 kg of heroin concealed in a truck loaded with garments were seized by the Port Control Unit (PCU). The truck, with an Albanian driver, was heading to Ancona, Italy. Upon inspection, the PCU officers decided to take the truck to the scanner terminal. Following the scan, which provided non-intrusive images, the officers exercised a second inspection and discovered an adopted compartment in the driver's cabin where heroin was found.

### The largest haul of cocaine seized at Durres Port in Albania

**28 February 2018, Durres, Albania:** Carrying out a coordinated joint operation, the Port Control Unit (PCU) at Durres Port, seized 613 kg of cocaine. The PCU officers working based on risk indicators deployed themselves to the container terminal where four containers of bananas originating from Colombia were expected to arrive. The officers monitored the shipment trip to the Port of Durres and waited for ten days for the local company to collect the shipment. Supported by the scanner images, the officers drilled in a double layer floor of one of the containers where more than half a ton of cocaine was concealed. It is reported that the seized cocaine has a market value of 180 million Euro. This has been the most successful and team-spirited operation since the establishment of the PCU at Durres Port in 2013 under the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme. This largest seizure in the history of Albania has been hailed by the Government of Albania and the international community as an indication of Albania's commitment in the combat against international drug trafficking.

### Durres Port Control Unit hosts a mentorship mission

**19-23 March 2018, Durres, Albania:** The goal of the mentorship mission was to maintain the highest standards of professional skills of the front-line officers and the mentor assessed Durres Port Control Unit's strengths and weaknesses, drafted a plan to develop further its strong points and improve those requiring assistance, set achievable and measurable goals for improvement, and tracked progress. The mentor's mission followed the seizure of the largest quantity of cocaine ever made in Albania by the PCU in February. As stated by the PCU officers, the recent seizure was also a result of the valuable advice, coaching and teaching offered by the mentor during previous missions. The mentees demonstrated commitment to further developing their skills and are open to new ways of accomplishing their tasks. During the mission, the mentor held meetings with the Heads of Customs and Border Police for Durres district, which encompassed an exchange of ideas on how to better support PCU work. *(For info on the above: Ela Banaj)*



## DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

### Impact of life skills education programmes on drug use prevention in South East Europe presented on the margins of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

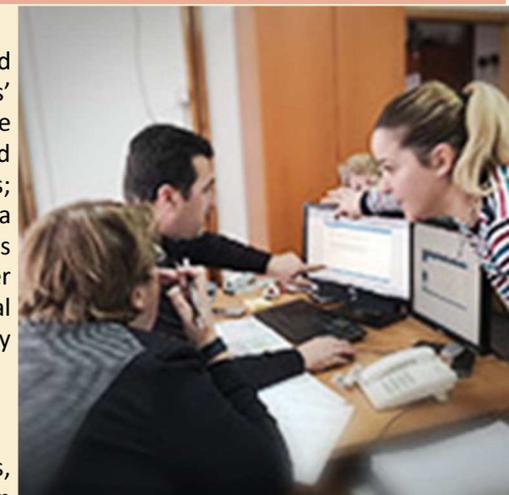
**14 March 2018, Vienna, Austria:** Lions Club International Foundation in collaboration with UNODC organized a side event "Impact of life skills education programmes in schools on prevention: Experience in South East Europe and Latin America" on the margins of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The event was co-sponsored by the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and presented the positive effects of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme as piloted in South East European (SEE) region since 2010 as well as the plans to replicate this positive experience in Central America. In SEE, to date, over 350 teachers were trained on, and over 6,000 students received Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence support in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The impact of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme was clearly documented showing positive outcomes on reducing prevalence of current use as well as intention to continue using alcohol, tobacco or cannabis in the intervention compared to the control group of students who did not receive the programme. Further to the documented scientific evidence, representatives from the Ministry of Education of Montenegro presented the values attributed to the Lions Quest programme for the targeted groups from their experience in the 17 selected elementary schools. It was highlighted that the programme managed to gather substantive information on cultural adaptation specificities, which will enable more productive expansion of the programme across the country. The event also featured the voices of stakeholders at the ministerial and school administration and education level, parents and students benefiting from the programme in South East Europe through an especially made video documentary. Most valuably, a student from an elementary school in Bosnia and Herzegovina (arguable the youngest CND panelist to date), who personally benefited from the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme in his school, shared his views with the audience stating that the benefits of the programme are evident in helping students "avoid and overcome stressful situations, peer pressure, family difficulties and even more". The student emphasized the negative role of media and the impact on substance use as aggressive. He however pointed out that this programme and similar programmes are strategically developing prevention skills and are identified as crucial. The student recapped in his closing remarks: "It's your responsibility to implement the programmes that make differences, and I say this is one of them". *(For info: Milos Stojanović)*



## ORGANIZED CRIME

### UNODC advances efforts to measure organized crime

**17 January 2018, Vienna, Austria:** UNODC is implementing an EU-funded initiative on the development of a framework for measuring and assessing organized crime in the Western Balkans, which is aimed to present a clear way forward for the region to assess the volume of organized crime and the Governments' responses to it. Measuring progress at the regional and national levels has proved to be a difficult one given the lack of comparable data analysis on the dynamics of organised crime. In this regard, UNODC's new framework will present a clear way forward for States to assess the volume of organized crime and their responses to it. The framework will focus on a set of indicators to collect and analyse data on activities and modus operandi of organized criminal groups; organized crime enablers such as corruption, obstruction of justice and technology; States' responses; and the size of illegal markets. The analysis of such data will lead to more focused prevention methods and monitoring of policy interventions. For sustainable and efficient development of the framework, UNODC is working closely with national statistical offices. The Office has recently completed data availability assessments in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. The framework will contribute to the beneficiaries' national priorities, in particular the EU integration process. The outcome will complement the Commission's annual progress report, focusing on Chapter 23 (Judiciary and fundamental rights) and Chapter 24 (Justice, freedom and security). *(For info : Tejal Jesrani Haslinger)*



### More attention is paid to trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the region

**2 February 2018, Podgorica, Montenegro:** UNODC participated in a meeting of the Coordination group on illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans, an initiative launched by the Governments of France and Germany to promote a more integrated and coordinated action to tackle small arms proliferation in the region. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss existing programmatic activities in Montenegro, define the gaps and needs in the country, draw up recommendations for national authorities, and identify promising initiatives and opportunities for further collaboration between donors. The Government of Montenegro presented the national efforts in the fight against the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW), achievements and remaining challenges. The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC) gave a brief overview of the current national situation. The meeting reviewed the roadmap in the subject area, which would include elements of cross-border control; legislative and regulatory frameworks; management and exchange of data and information; SALW collection and destruction and other topics. The UNODC Global Firearms Programme and the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme participated in the event and briefed the participants on the Office's possible role within the new roadmap, as well as the long experience in implementing capacity-building programmes and presence in South Eastern Europe.

### Nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism in the Western Balkans reviewed

**5-6 February 2018, Tirana, Albania:** UNODC participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum: "Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism Initiative", second regional meeting (focused on the Western Balkans) under the initiative led by the Netherlands and in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The objectives of the event were to raise awareness, identify needs and resources, better understand the nexus; expand and tailor the toolkit for dealing with the different aspects of the nexus, including information sharing, criminal justice, border controls, soft target protection, and address the life cycle of radicalization from prevention to intervention to rehabilitation and reintegration; and develop a set of internationally recognized, non-binding good practices, which can serve as the basis for international engagement, assistance, and training to address the potential challenge posed by the nexus between terrorism and transnational organized crime, and which can help authorities at global, national, and local levels solve this problem. UNODC highlighted the capacity building activities of UNODC concerning the nexus and presented the outputs of the project entitled "Strengthening Research and Evaluation Capacity on Linkages between Organized Crime and Terrorism within Tertiary Institutions Globally" as well as capacity building activities of UNODC projects in South Eastern Europe.



### UNODC participates in a regional meeting on SALW

**23 March 2018, Belgrade, Serbia:** UNODC's Global Firearms Programme took part in the Regional Steering Group Meeting on SALW, organized by the UNDP's SEESAC project. The meeting was attended by representatives from the National Commissions on SALW from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Officials from several international organizations, including the OSCE, NATO, CELEC, RACVIAC, and the Regional Cooperation Council also participated in the meeting. During the meeting, UNODC briefed the participants on the main activities of the Global Firearms Programme, presented its work in the Western Balkan countries in 2017 and shared the plans for activities in 2018. UNODC highlighted its data collection efforts as an overarching theme and the focus on supporting further the community of practitioners in the region. UNODC stressed also that it will provide added value towards the on-going efforts to combat firearms trafficking through its work on detection of trafficking at land border crossings and working with criminal justice practitioners on investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. *(For info on the above: Diman Dimov)*