

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 the 3 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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GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Practical Training on Container Control takes place at the Port of Durres, Albania and Port of Bar, Montenegro

Bar/Durres, September-October 2013: In the framework of the implementation of UNODC-WCO Global Programme on Container Control and the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe, UNODC delivered a two-week practical training on container control. The training is simultaneously taking place at the seaports of Durres (Albania) and Bar (Montenegro) during the period of 30 September - 11 October. UNODC and WCO team of experts with operational customs and police experience in container controls as well as topic-specific national experts worked side by side to increase national officials capacity for tackling illicit trafficking. Application of best practices to specific requirements of both countries characterize the training which encompasses both technical and theoretical topics. The topics covered were: * inspection of commercial shipping documents (in both container and roll-on/roll-off traffic) through shipping containers' physical characteristics and their regulations; * officials' integrity; * inter-agency staff cooperation. The core elements of the training were also sub-divided into the following sectors: * searching maritime containers and vehicles; * intelligence-led drug/crime controls (including risk analysis and assessment; container profiling and targeting; information sharing; investigation techniques; mutual administrative assistance; and post seizure investigations). Examples of cooperation with private sector were highlighted in the trainings along with the ways in which criminal organizations exploit seaports. Furthermore, a separate section in each of the trainings was devoted to the use of ContainerCOMM — an internet based communication system to facilitate the encrypted exchange of sensitive information.



UNODC and WCO organize container control inter-regional meeting

Batumi (Georgia), 23-27 September 2013: An internal UNODC-WCO coordination and strategy inter-regional meeting was held to review CCP implementation and assess its achievements in various regions worldwide. Risks and challenges incurred and further development of strategic partnerships with key technical assistance providers and capacity in the regions where the programme is being implemented were addressed; the meeting became a forum for sharing experiences among various Joint CCP Units in different ports worldwide. Presentations pointed out that inter-agency cooperation and exchange of criminal intelligence supported by risk assessment are necessary in interdicting illicit drug, arms and goods flows. A representative of the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE presented the results the CCP pursued in the seaports of Durres and Bar. The meeting was an opportunity to review programme management and considerations over its financing.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

UNODC participates in the donor coordination meeting of the "Treptower Group"

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 26 September 2013: Partnership and Liaison Officer of the UNODC-led Paris Pact Initiative based in Belgrade took part in the 6th Working Level Meeting of the law enforcement donor coordination mechanism for South Eastern Europe "Treptower Group". The UNODC participant presented the work done by the Office in the region and touch-based with the law enforcement experts in order to ensure avoidance of duplication and proper coordination of action.

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UNODC conducts talks with Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, 1-3 October 2013: UNODC conducted a mission to Sarajevo composed of representatives of the UNODC-WCO CCP, UNODC Afghan Opiate Trade Research Project, the Paris Pact Initiative and the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE. Negotiations were conducted with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies, the Border Police and the Customs. Issues pertaining to the expansion of the UNODC work in Bosnia and Herzegovina were discussed, including the follow-up on the mission of the UNODC Executive Director to Sarajevo in March 2013. UNODC delegation visited the free-of-charge premises that Bosnia and Herzegovina has kindly provided to the Office and expressed appreciation to the national counterparts. UNODC delegation also met with some bilateral partners and the EU Delegation, the Regional Cooperation Council and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative to discuss the upcoming Regional Anti-Corruption Conference to take place in Sarajevo on 9-10 December 2013 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of UNCAC.

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DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

UNODC & WHO hold a working table "Enhancement of Cooperation among Public and Private Service Providers in the Area of Drug Treatment and Care in Albania"

Tirana, 26-27 July 2013: UNODC and WHO held the working table whereby priority issues and gaps in the National Anti-Drug Strategy 2012-2016 were reviewed and challenges identified. The discussion was based inter alia on the UNODC expert's report for 2012. Among main issues raised were: the establishment of a safe environment for drug users, raising awareness in society, the role of the Ministry of Social Affairs in harm reduction, the necessity to empower the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre and establish a referral system, the availability of medications, the necessity of compilation of a national program on drugs, increasing the role of NGOs, coordination among stakeholders, etc. As a result of the working table, a draft MoU was finalized and it was agreed that it would be signed and an action plan would be compiled in the next period. The purpose of this MOU is to contribute to improving the provision of quality, accessible, affordable services and conducting activities in the field of treatment and care related to drug abuse, by working in partnership.



UNODC-WHO Joint Programme assists the Albanian Drug Treatment Clinic

Tirana, August 2013: The Drug Treatment Center in Tirana is the only state-run center in Albania for drug detoxication. The Center provides services in a renovated facility and is administered by trained medical professionals who still continue to undergo continued training offered by UNODC and WHO. UNODC has ensured that a team of international experts, who worked side by side with the Albanian medical professionals, provided recommendations to the Treatment Center. Specifically, UNODC supported the establishment of the lounge area in the Center with the aim of combining medicine treatment with recreational activities such as reading, internet navigation and game play. Such approach is aimed to offer a safe, effective and comfortable facility in accordance with best practices and European standards to overcome drug addiction and provides for a safe environment as a significant part of the treatment philosophy.

UNODC supports civil society in its anti-drug efforts in Albania

Tirana, 20 September 2013: An expert group table on drug-related matters in Albania was organized by civil society organizations "Aksion Plus" and "Diogenis" and supported by UNODC-Albania. The event was attended by representatives of relevant national law enforcement and health care stakeholders and practitioners, including communities devoted to addicts treatment. The experts exchanged views on the current drug issues in Albania and focused on the cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking. The meeting allowed for the exchange of views between law enforcement and prevention experts, facilitating an integrated approach to the issue of drugs. Besides being an opportunity for bringing state authorities and civil society closer, the meeting prompted sharing detailed information and official statistics on the challenge posed by cannabis, as well as on the levels of drug abuse in Albania. This paved the way for the experts to discuss proposals to launch new ideas, including through application of global best practices. Importance of compliance with human rights standards applicable to drug users was also discussed. The meeting's main outcome was an understanding on the primary necessity of reviewing national anti-drug legal framework with regard to the criminal and criminal procedure laws related to cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and trafficking.



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UNODC takes part in the meeting of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe

Vienna, 16-17 Sep 2013: UNODC participated in the 10th meeting of the Expert Working Group of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (Vienna, 16 - 17 September 2013). The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior under the umbrella of the current Austrian Chairmanship of PCC SEE. The meeting discussed preparations to the 10th Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the PCC SEE which is to take place in Bucharest, Romania, on 18 October 2013, reviewed PCC SEE operational and organizational matters, including new initiatives for the police agencies in the region and common operations. The PCC SEE Secretariat briefed participants on its future projects. UNODC will cooperate with the PCC SEE in one of these projects aimed at broadening the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (funding for this project is provided by Switzerland). At the side of the meeting, UNODC conducted consultations with the Head of PCC SEE Secretariat, as well as with the Director of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) on possible future cooperation.



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