

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 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 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 Mr. Sinisa Durkulic (sinisa.durkulic@unodc.org).

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe

Vienna, 21 November 2013: The 4th meeting of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) assessed the RP's results achieved in 2013 and reviewed priorities for 2014. In the meeting, UNODC stressed the guiding principles of its work in the region: impact orientation, integration, strategic approach, non-duplication, operational and practical approach, cost-efficiency and inter-regional drug control approach. Importance of the EU integration was also noted. The PSC appreciated RP's positive results in 2013, highlighting its impact, and endorsed the workplan for 2014 which will continue building up on the results achieved so far and focus next year on the areas of: Countering illicit trafficking (in drugs and human beings); Anti-money laundering; Anti-corruption; Drug abuse prevention and treatment. Such important initiatives as the Container Control Programme, corruption studies, Sarajevo regional anti-corruption conference and follow up thereto, review of illicit financial flows along the Balkan route, Treatnet Programme, Programme on prevention of drug abuse, TADOC law enforcement trainings and "Networking the Networks", were supported by the PSC. These and other initiatives will be pursued in 2014. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*



UNODC initiative "Networking the Networks" within the Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach launched

Istanbul/Vienna, 13 December 2013: UNODC held a conference for crime fighting agencies to review ways for better coordination of their efforts against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. UNODC Executive Director Mr. Fedotov stressed that the new initiative is to leverage combined strengths, region to region, to effectively counter drug trafficking. The initiative is also a contribution to widening the existing dialogue and creation of a sustainable platform for an innovative inter-regional drug control approach to increase joint impact of law enforcement bodies connecting SEE, West/Central Asia, the Gulf and the Asia-Pacific region. At the meeting, UNODC also presented its latest Report on Drug Trafficking Along the Balkan Route, stating that together with the Northern and Southern routes, the Balkan route is one of the main trafficking routes from Afghanistan into Western Europe. The Report will be officially launched in Vienna in March 2014. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

Paris Pact Initiative Expert Working Groups (EWGs): with EUROPOL on diversion of precursor chemicals; on Drug Demand Reduction (DDR)

The Hague, 28-29 November 2013: The EWG, hosted by EUROPOL and supported by the EU Heroin Route Programme, was held under the auspices of UNODC Paris Pact initiative. Diversification of Afghan trafficking routes is a prominent development as organised criminal groups target the EU as a source region for acetic anhydride. In view of the developing inter-regional approach to stem Afghanistan-originated heroin, importance of information sharing was stressed, along with the need for standardizing analytical forensic methodologies, stronger forensic intelligence and investigative capacities, proper risk profiling and increased cooperation with the chemical industry. The EWG was attended by experts from SEE - a region of bi-directional transit of precursors from EU and heroin in the opposite direction. **Vienna, 22 October 2013:** At a PPI EWG on Effective DDR for Children, Adolescents and Families, a RP SEE expert presented DDR activities in the region. *For info: Mr. Sinisa Durkulic*

UNODC and the South Eastern European Center for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Vienna, 21 October 2013: The MOU is a framework agreement aimed at results-oriented and practical cooperation avoiding duplication. It is part of the efforts for building up networks within the UNODC RP for SEE. According to the MOU, the main cooperation areas are coordination, terrorism prevention and countering its financing, preventing TOC, including trafficking in humans and firearms, fighting emerging forms of crime, such as cybercrime. Dialogue on these and other fields for cooperation will continue. The signing ceremony was followed by expert consultations resulting into a 2014 workplan.

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Rotterdam, 2-6 December 2013: UNODC and WCO, supported by the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) / US Embassy in Tirana, organized a study visit for officers of the JCCU from the Albanian port of Durres to the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The visit was hosted by the Dutch Customs Authority and focused on operational work (including operative team building, improvement of knowledge through exchange of practices, review of different perspectives and methods of work, building bridges between the two Ports, improvement of language skills of the officers).

Banja Luka, 6-7 December 2013: A UNODC mission visited Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet with Government officials to discuss requirements for the implementation of the CCP in the country. As of 1 October 2013, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has provided funding for the implementation of the CCP in SEE, including B&H. **Tirana, 22 October 2013:** A meeting was organized by UNODC and WCO in Tirana to inform DCAF on the main results and challenges of the CCP implementation in the Durres Port. *For info: Ms. Ela Banaj, ela.banaj@unodc.org*

ANTI-CORRUPTION



Sarajevo hosts a Regional Anti-Corruption Conference organized by UNODC, UNDP, EC and hosted by Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, 9-10 December 2013: The conference gathered government experts and civil society to take stock of anti-corruption efforts, policies and strategies and to identify areas for improvement, particularly in light of the EU accession. "Corruption fuels and enables transnational organized crime and drug trafficking," said UNODC Executive Director in his address. The conference reviewed the implementation and the Review Mechanism of the UNCAC in the region, assessed best practice and national experiences, considered preventive policies with a special focus on awareness-raising activities, reviewed the criminal justice and law enforcement aspects of anti-corruption, paid significant attention and gave floor to civil society. The conference also looked into asset recovery and the role of Financial Intelligent Units, with the Stolen Asset Recovery "StAR" Initiative, and received a presentation of the studies (below). As the way ahead, the conference approved a technical assistance proposal under the auspices of the UNODC RP for SEE. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

UNODC launches surveys 'Business, Corruption and Crime in the Western Balkans: The impact of bribery and other crime on private enterprise'

Brussels, 24 October 2013 / the region, November-December: UNODC and the EC released surveys showing that corruption plays a significant role in the daily business of many companies in the SEE. Based on interviews with more than 12,700 companies, the survey shows that corruption is the third biggest obstacle to doing business in the region. On average, one in ten businesses that had contact with public officials paid bribes over a 12-month period. Over one-third of bribes to public officials are paid in cash. The frequency and prevalence of bribery are substantially higher among small businesses, as well as among those companies in which foreign capital has been invested. The building and construction is the sector most seriously affected. The largest shares of bribes are paid to local public officials (municipal or provincial officers) and to officials in tax and customs administration. The surveys highlight that corruption, together with crime, place a considerable burden on the economic development of the region. Further details and e-copies of the launched studies are available at the UNODC webpage. UNODC appreciates financial support of the EC in the conducting of the surveys and cooperation of the relevant authorities in the region. *For info: Mr. Michael Jandl, michael.jandl@unodc.org*



ANTI-TERRORISM / COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNODC Promotes the International Legal Framework against Terrorism and its Financing in Montenegro

Podgorica, 8-10 October 2013: A National Workshop was organised by the Government of Montenegro with the support of UNODC and financial support of the Government of Slovakia with the main purpose of strengthen the capacity of Montenegro criminal justice and law enforcement officials to implement the international legal framework against terrorism including the most relevant aspects pertaining to the prevention and suppression of terrorist financing. The workshop was particularly appreciated as it was one of the first steps in the implementation of the recently adopted Montenegro Action Plan for Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing, prepared with the assistance of UNODC. *For info: Ms. Maria Lorenzo Sobrado, maria.lorenzo-sobrado@unodc.org*

UNODC helps build capacity of Montenegro Criminal Justice Practitioners in Trafficking in Persons matters

Podgorica, 26-27 November 2013: UNODC held a training workshop on trafficking in persons to enhance national stakeholders' capacity for deterring human trafficking affecting the Western Balkans region. Representatives of investigative law enforcement agencies, judiciary, civil society and the National Coordinator's Unit were exposed to relevant international legal framework and human trafficking dynamics in the region. The workshop emphasized also the victims' perspectives and the growing need to apply a regional approach. In 2014, UNODC will follow this event with a regional workshop for the central authorities for international legal cooperation for human trafficking and support the development of a regional anti-human trafficking curriculum. *For info: Mr. D. Raus davor.raus@unodc.org*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

Albania, November-December 2013: The UNODC-WHO in cooperation with an Albanian NGO Aksion Plus undertook a series of trainings on treatment of drug dependence in the cities of Shkodra, Vlora, Elbasan and Korca with the main objective to familiarize the healthcare staff from Emergency Units and hospitals with the concepts and knowledge on substance abuse treatment and specifically with the screening elements and the short interventions; to discuss the implementation of the methods of data gathering and their application in the daily work and to increase knowledge and information among drug users population about harm reduction programme. 120 nurses, doctors, primary health care professionals and social workers benefited from these training. The training was accredited by the National Center of Continued Education (QKEV). At the end of each training, the participants received a certificate of participation. *For info: Ms. Ela Banaj, ela.banaj@unodc.org*

Belgrade, 27 November 2013: UNODC held a workshop on Sustained Recovery Management / Drug Dependence Treatment to support the expansion of drug dependence treatment services in Serbia. During the workshop, which targeted practitioners from the regions of Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, the drug dependence treatment quality standards assessment report was presented as a result of cooperation between UNODC and Republican expert committee on prevention and drug abuse control. *For info: Mr. Milos Stojanovic, milos.stojanovic@unodc.org*