

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

UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov holds a briefing to Member States on the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe

Vienna, 28 January 2014: UNODC Executive Director held the annual briefing on the UNODC RP SEE focusing on the results of UNODC work in the region in 2013 and the plan of work for 2014. Mr. Fedotov stressed that the RP represents a tool which can support the EU integration and assist in building a comprehensive response, which is directed both to the West and the East. The UNODC Inter-Regional Drug Control Approach (IRDC) and responses to trafficking along the Northern, Balkan and Southern routes were explained. Country Representatives expressed support to the RP, appreciated donor contributions and encouraged their continuation. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*



UNODC fosters cooperation with the South Eastern European Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC)

Zagreb, 25 January 2014: In accordance with the MOU between the two agencies, a UNODC mission visited RACVIAC to explore possibilities for partnerships. The RACVIAC colleagues presented, inter alia, their 2014 working programme and its three pillars: Security Sector Reform, International and Regional Cooperation and Co-operative Security Environment with focus on Arms Control. The UNODC delegation informed the RACVIAC counterparts on the work within the RP SEE and IRDC. The two sides identified activities to be pursued. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*



UNODC team participates in the 4th meeting of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe (PCC SEE), Slovenia

Ljubljana, 13-14 February 2014: A UNODC team participated in the 4th meeting of the PCC SEE. As part of the dialogue with the PCC SEE Secretariat established in 2013, the UNODC team discussed common areas for cooperation, in particular the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) operating in the region and sensitized the audience on the CCP goals and mechanisms. *For info: Ela Banaj*

Paris Pact Initiative Expert Working Group on Improving Bilateral and Multilateral Information Sharing and Coordination of Investigations, Turkey

Antalya, 18-19 February 2014: The EWG was hosted by the Turkish Government and the Turkish National Police and supported by the EU's Heroin Route II Project. Among key emanating points were: the need to improve cross-border networking by proactively engaging in two-way communication and promoting concrete information sharing on a case-by-case basis; the need to build upon the UNODC Networking the Networks initiative with support of Europol, Interpol and WCO to facilitate information exchange; the need intra- and inter-regional concepts such as Border and Drug Liaison Officers. *For info: www.paris-pact.net or Ms. Marie-Anne Menier*



Consultations between UNODC and H. E. Mr. Bledi Çuçi, Minister of State for Local Government of Albania

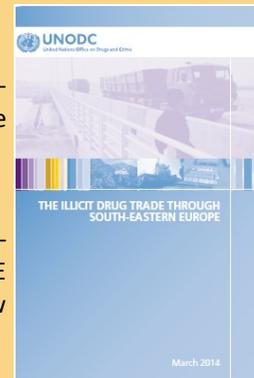
Vienna, 28 February 2014: H.E. Minister Çuçi visited Vienna for consultations with the Austrian counterparts, International Anti-Corruption Academy and UNODC. At UNODC, the Minister met with the Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov and the Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, Mr. John Sandage as well as senior anti-corruption experts. The counterparts exchanged views on possible areas of UNODC—Albania cooperation, including the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, educational programmes aimed at preventing and countering corruption and other initiatives. UNODC officials and H. E. Mr. Çuçi agreed on the importance of cooperation through all three pillars of UNODC work: normative, advisory/capacity building and the research. *For info: Ms. Ela Banaj*

UNODC Opens an Office in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo, 17 March 2014: UNODC has established its field presence in Sarajevo, following the generous offer of free of charge premises by the Ministry of Security and the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in line with the broadening of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme to this third country in the region with the funding of the DCAF/Swiss Development Cooperation. The new UNODC National Project Officer assumed his functions on 17 March 2014. *For info: Mr. Alen Gagula*

UNODC Launches Report on Illicit Drug Trade through South Eastern Europe

Vienna, 18 March 2014: At the margins of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC launched a report "The Illicit Drug Trade through South Eastern Europe" prepared under the umbrella of the UNODC RP SEE in close cooperation with the countries of the region and with support of the Government of Turkey. The Ambassadors of the SEE countries and the EU confirmed the usefulness of the report and agreed that a comprehensive assessment which it represents should be taken into account by policy makers and law enforcers in their countries. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*



GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)**UNODC and WCO Organize Awareness Workshop on Maritime Private Sector in Tirana and a Mentorship Visit to the Port of Durres, Albania**

Tirana, 4 March 2014: UNODC -Tirana in cooperation with the Customs Administration and the State Police Directorate of Albania organized a one day awareness workshop on the maritime private sector to develop effective interagency cooperation and improve information sharing with local and international maritime community and private sector.

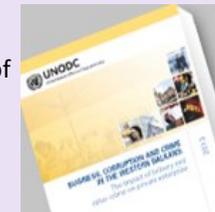
Durres, February-March 2014: Following a training course for the Durres Joint Port Unit held on 10-13 February, a UNODC-WCO mentorship visit to the port was organized on 3-7 March. The visit started with a one day in-door theoretical session during which the officers reviewed and analysed all manifested data and profiled risk containers. This was followed by outdoor practical exercises whereby the JPCU officers examined containers previously identified and selected on the basis of risk indicators. *For info: Ms. Ela Banaj*

**ANTI-CORRUPTION****UNODC and UNDP Sign an Inter-Agency Agreement in Support to the Anti-Corruption Efforts in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244**

31 January 2014: UNODC and UNDP agreed on joint implementation of a project 'Support to the Anti-Corruption Efforts in Kosovo'. UNODC will carry out activities aimed at addressing corruption within the judiciary internally and at enhancing the ability of the judiciary and prosecution services to effectively investigate and prosecute corruption cases in Kosovo. *For info: Ms. Ekaterina Kolykhalova*

UNODC Launches Survey 'Business, Corruption and Crime in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'

Skopje, 4 February 2014: Following the finalization of similar regional and country reports in 2013, the UNODC survey "Business, Corruption and Crime in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: The Impact of bribery and other crime on private enterprise" was launched in the State Statistical Office in Skopje. According to the survey, business representatives in the country rank corruption as the 5th most significant obstacle to doing business. Around 8 out of 10 companies had at least one direct contact with a public official or civil servant in the 12 months prior to the survey and the bribery prevalence rate among those businesses who had contact with public officials in that period is 6.5%. The research programme resulting into preparation of the studies was undertaken by UNODC with the EU financial support and in cooperation with the Governments in the region. *For info: Mr. Michael Jandl*

**ILLICIT FIREARMS****UNODC Participates in a Meeting of the South Eastern European Regional Steering Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Belgrade, 12 February 2014: In the course of the above meeting, UNODC presented its Global Study on firearms trafficking and provided a short training to the national focal points on how to access, download, collect, compile and submit data on seized firearms for the purpose of the Study. The 2014 workplan of the UNODC RP SEE includes, inter alia, collection of information from the countries of the region with regard to the UNODC Global Study. The Regional Steering Group is chaired by the Regional Cooperation Council and UNDP and is a part of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) governance structure providing political and strategic guidance and ensuring ownership. *For info: Mr. Diman Dimov*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE**UNODC and WHO Support the First National Drug Treatment Conference in Albania**

Tirana, 21 March 2014: The Conference provided a platform for 140 primary care physicians, clinicians, toxicologists, psychiatrists, pharmaceutical professionals, internists and representatives of relevant NGOs to discuss national drug treatment and new therapeutics. The conference was organized by the Clinic of Addiction at the Mother Teresa University Hospital Centre and the Albanian Ministry of Health with support of UNODC and WHO. It focused on the interdisciplinary fields of drug use, drug therapy and respective treatment and care. A new publication "The Multidisciplinary Treatment of Drug Use and Alcohol" was introduced at the conference. *For info: Ms. Ela Banaj*

**Start of the Implementation of the Third Cycle of Strengthening Families Programme (SFP) 10-14 in Montenegro**

Podgorica, 24-28 March 2014: The SFP 10-14 third cycle has started in Montenegro with a training of 15 facilitators and 5 trainers of facilitators selected from five Podgorica elementary schools delegated by the Ministry of Education. The purpose of the training was to strengthen knowledge and skills to adequately prepare facilitators who would ensure the implementation of the programme in their settings onwards. Furthermore, the schools were provided with equipment to support the qualitative implementation of the training sessions. The training was organized with the help of the Ministry of Education of Montenegro and NGO CAZAS. This training will be followed by training sessions organised in elementary schools for families and children in April-May 2014. *For info: Mr. Miloš Stojanović*

