

Corruption (and Organized Crime) in the WESTERN BALKANS

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GLOBAL CORRUPTION

- * SDG 2030: retarding economic and human development (Goal 16)
- * Inverse correlation between competitiveness and corruption (free market)
- * Undermining democracy: weak institutions and no trust in institutions (de-based politics)
- * Decreasing equal opportunity (socio-economic and political credo)
- * Undermining moral virtues of integrity and work

ORGANIZED CORRUPTION

- * Organized Crime and **Corruption** are profit-driven
- * Organized Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering are increasingly interlinked
- * While control over territory, goods and services is of utmost importance

TRADING IN INFLUENCE

par excellence

ORGANIZED CORRUPTION

ORGANIZED CRIME CONFIGURATION in SEE

- * Predominantly ethnic based
- * Albanian Organized Crime (Albania, Kosovo and FYROM): traditional hierarchical clan-based with distribution network in diaspora
- * Few big organized crime groups in Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina (diaspora)
- * Many smaller multitask groups and free-lance criminal operators (e.g. during the first wave of migrant crisis)
- * More cooperation with Italian organized crime (Camora; 'Ndrangheta; Santa Corona Unita)
Controlling criminal markets but also shadow economy
Increasingly present in formal economy and politics
Large urban areas; border areas; tourist and costal areas

MAIN WORRISOME FEATURES of the SEE

- * UNEMPLOYMENT
 - * POVERTY
 - * ORGANIZED CRIME & CORRUPTION
 - * LAWFULNESS
- POLITICAL TUTELAGE (B&H; Kosovo but also all others in different form)
- * Predominant **governance style: clientelism and patronage networks with widespread and high-level corruption**

CRIMINAL MARKETS IN THE SEE

- * The Balkan Route: heroin (still the most propulsive with the NE and SW streams)
- * Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (2016: 174.000)
- * Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products: Illicit Whites-legally produced but smuggled (Bulgaria; Greece; Turkey; Montenegro)
- * Cocaine: (Cartels and Albanian Mafia) and NSP
- * Arms Trafficking
- * Match-Fixing and Illicit Gambling in Sports

MAIN FEATURES OF THE SEE CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE

- * Nexus between organized crime and political and law enforcement structures (secret services)
- * Corruption of the weak government and financial institutions
- * Criminal privatization
- * Huge money-laundering and tax evasion operations
- * Blocking of migrant flows creates larger and more profitable people's trafficking market
- * Terrorism threats: Wahhabi movement and terrorist recruitment

REGIONAL RESPONSES

- * SEE ratified all UN anti-drug anti-organized crime anti-corruption conventions and protocols
- * SEE EU countries in line with the EU instruments and SEE non-EU countries
- * All SEE countries updated and/or promulgated new legislation and agencies in accordance with the UN, EU and CoE instruments
- * OSCE
- * Regional Cooperation Council (Sarajevo), Southeast Europe Law Enforcement Center - SELEC (Bucharest) and Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization - BSEC (Istanbul)
- * Bilateral treaties and agreements

SEE

- * SEE is today as it was historically at the cross-road
- * Although the EU appears to have the central political position the regional geopolitical interest and influence based configuration is much more complex (Russia; USA; Turkey; Gulf States)
- * The geopolitical configuration is well reflected in the SEE's criminal enterprise configuration
- * The blockage towards the EU favours criminal enterprise development



THANK YOU

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HVALA

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