Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Vienna, 2-5 July 2013
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe

I. Introduction

1. The present report summarizes the activities of UNODC with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe during the period under review (2012 and first quarter of 2013). It also presents recent developments concerning other relevant regional initiatives.

2. The UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe is in line with relevant thematic programmes and complementary to the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, as well as with the Paris Pact Initiative.

II. South-Eastern Europe

3. The challenge of illicit drug trafficking throughout South-Eastern Europe remains a constant threat to regional security. The traditional east-west smuggling of Afghan-sourced heroin along the so-called Balkan Route continues to be a persistent, if potentially declining, problem. Coming overland from Afghanistan into Iran and then Turkey, heroin is smuggled along the Balkan Route through South-Eastern Europe into destination markets in Western and Central Europe with relatively little remaining for the local market. Organized crime within the region control and often cut shipments of heroin which is then sent on to expatriate groups in the main heroin markets of Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and

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* English, French, Russian and Spanish are the working languages of the subsidiary body.
** UNODC/HONEURO/10/1.
Northern Ireland, Italy and France. A reverse Balkan Route is increasingly apparent in the form of amphetamine and “ecstasy” smuggling from the Netherlands into Turkey and the Middle East.

4. Other drugs are also present in South-Eastern Europe. Cannabis herb, by volume and value continues to be the most trafficked and consumed drug in the region, much of which is sourced within South-Eastern Europe with some coming from the Netherlands. Cocaine trafficking is more the exception but organized crime groups within the region (particularly from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Bulgaria) are building links with producers in South America for direct shipment of cocaine to destination markets in Western Europe. The region is also beginning to witness the penetration of new drugs in the form of new psychoactive substances commonly referred to as “legal highs”. These drugs are harder to detect and produced at an alarming rate, making them more difficult to combat. Over time the presence and importance of different illicit drugs varies. Organized crime groups within the region have learnt to become ever more flexible and dynamic by diversification into a variety of drugs rather than creating monolithic economies of scale.

5. According to the available data marijuana remains the most widely used drug in South-Eastern Europe, and heroin is by far the most consumed opiate, with only sporadic occurrence of opium or morphine. The usage of the amphetamine-type stimulants is generally on a stable level with a small increase in some of the South-Eastern European countries. Recent European Union surveys among high school-age respondents on the use of alcohol and other drugs show that the most frequently-used psychoactive controlled substances were marihuana and inhalants, followed by tranquilizers and sedatives. Other drugs are used by less than 2 per cent of students.

6. The supply of designer drugs (bath salts, legal highs, plant food, etc.) may pose increasing threats to the region. These drugs often have pharmacological properties and effects similar to those of internationally controlled drugs. As designer drugs are offered in specialized shops and could be legally procured, and particularly given their considerable public health consequences, this remains a high interest topic to be further followed.

7. UNODC launched on 23 May 2012 the new Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe (2012-2015) which is building up on the results of work of the Regional Programme 2009-2011 completed in November 2011.

8. The Regional Programme was prepared upon the request of the countries of the region that have demonstrated their willingness to work with UNODC and reaffirmed the added value and the complementarity of the Programme. The Programme is owned by the countries and its governing body is the Programme Steering Committee which consists of the representatives of the countries the Programme covers (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, including Kosovo\(^1\) under the UNSCR 1244), the partner country Croatia and the donor countries of the Programme.

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\(^1\) All references to Kosovo in the present document should be understood to be in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
9. As of 2012, UNODC started issuing a quarterly newsletter on the UNODC work in the region of South-Eastern Europe. UNODC has also revitalized the web page for South Eastern Europe (www.unodc.org/southeasterneurope/) and this process is ongoing.

10. Since June 2012, the Programme Steering Committee held two formal and one ad hoc meeting. It identified common work priorities, partnership and resource opportunities, as well as communication and coordination measures. It adopted the Implementation Plan of the Regional Programme and reviewed its terms of reference. Meetings of the Committee were used to brief and consult all key stakeholders on relevant developments and to foster commitment and continuous support for the Programme. The Committee acknowledged the good results of the substantive work and the improved communication channels, as well as the added value of the Programme for the accession of the countries into the European Union. UNODC also presented initial plans and results for 2013, as well as updates on the funding situation and ongoing resource mobilization efforts.

11. Between June 2012 and March 2013, the Executive Director visited Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe. These countries have fostered regional cooperation and used UNODC support in different areas, including surveys on corruption, the Container Control Programme, drug dependence treatment, as well as UNODC’s programme entitled “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries”, which was launched by UNODC in South-Eastern Europe in mid-2010. UNODC has also been invited to provide assistance to the Anti-Corruption Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A. Organized crime and illicit drug trafficking

12. A link between the Paris Pact Initiative and the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia has been strengthened, resulting, among other, in positive reviews of the Paris Pact Initiative by the national counterparts in these countries within the Independent Survey’s evaluation as well as in a mention of the Paris Pact Initiative’s significance in a media statement by the Serbian Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. Through the National Strategic Analyst based in Serbia, the Paris Pact Initiative was present at the Mini-Dublin Group and EMCDDA meetings in Belgrade and contact was also established and reports received for Mini-Dublin Groups in Zagreb, Podgorica and Sarajevo.

13. A study visit to Gothenburg, Sweden, was organized by UNODC and hosted by the Swedish Ministry of Interior for five senior officers of the Organized Crime Department of the Albanian State Police in June 2012. The purpose of the study visit was to exchange and gain experience from the Swedish police in the use and functioning of covert operations, and to discuss cases of deportation and extraditions of Albanian citizens. UNODC closely coordinated the study visit with the Nordic Liaison Officers based in the region. The visit covered issues such as trafficking in drugs and human beings and witness protection and was assessed as very useful by the Albanian officers. Both parties agreed on the importance of such activities and initiated bilateral consultations.
14. In 2012, the Container Control Programme was launched in Albania (port of Durres) and Montenegro (port of Bar). The Governments of Albania and Montenegro agreed to the establishment of Joint Container Control Units (JCCU). In Durres, UNODC completed procurement and installation of communication and computer equipment, analytical software, furniture, office supplies and basic search and protection equipment. The Albanian Government provided premises which are already refurbished by UNODC. In September 2012, a training was organized in Durres for 12 officers from the Customs, Border Police and Anti-Drug Units from both ports. The training provided a combination of theory and hands-on exercises and covered various types of smuggling via maritime containerized traffic, such as risk analysis for commercial documents, risk indicators, container search, types of concealments, seal tampering and other methods of detailed search, as well as practical exercises. This first practical activity demonstrated that the UNODC/WCO Global Container Control Programme will indeed be useful for assisting the ports Bar and Durres in establishing sustainable enforcement structures, so as to minimize the risk of maritime containers being exploited for trafficking in various illicit goods, including drugs, precursor chemicals, weapons of mass destruction, nuclear material, and other forms of organized crime activity.

15. In October 2012, UNODC undertook an assessment and consultation mission to law enforcement agencies of the following countries/territories: Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (in order of visit). During the visit, over 35 law enforcement agencies were contacted and interviews were conducted with more than 65 officials. Additional information was collected from various public sources which included official websites and publications. The findings of the mission confirmed that existing capacities are insufficient to meet the growing expectations of the European Union and support counter-trafficking. Drug seizures remain low as does the identification of illicit financial flows coming from outside the region, mainly due to the law enforcers’ capacity constraints. An action plan has been developed to address the priority needs identified and UNODC is seeking resources to support its implementation.

16. The Third International Conference in combating drugs was held in Ohrid, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from 16 to 18 October 2012, organized by the Ministry of Interior and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces — DCAF. UNODC participated in the Conference with one expert from Vienna and the National Strategic Analyst. UNODC gave a presentation on the drug trafficking situation with emphasis on the afghan opiate trade and its impact on the Balkans and the new trends of the organized crime groups. The Conference aimed at exchanging information on the latest trends in drug trafficking and diverse modalities to tackle the drug trafficking and the organized crime groups and at establishing new and strengthening existing contacts with law enforcement officers and experts from different countries, embassies and organizations.

17. Under the Container Control Programme and Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe, UNODC supported a study visit to the Port of Gothenburg in Sweden in November 2012 for 15 officers from Albania and Montenegro in order to maximize the preventive and operational effectiveness of the Joint Container Control Units in Durres and Bar. The study tour was designed to illustrate each country’s position vis-a-vis European and global smuggling in narcotic drugs and
described the organized crime links to the smuggling in other prohibited, restricted and dutiable items. Further outcomes of the study tour were: to highlight current European and global narcotic smuggling risks, trends and concealment methods; to demonstrate the latest intelligence and enforcement techniques available to frontline border officials as they perform their daily duties; to provide an in-depth comparative analysis of the challenges and successes of law enforcement entities in fighting cross border crime; to generate a deeper understanding of the role of different agencies in effectively fighting cross border crime; to highlight different models of how police and customs advance their performance by using criminal intelligence; to offer the participants a chance to provide feedback and advice on their local efforts; to expose the participants to different approaches from a European Union country.

18. On 17 December 2012, the National Strategic Analyst based in Serbia met with the head of the forensic laboratory of the Serbian Ministry of Interior. The forensic lab, which is part of the Ministry of Interior’s National Criminology-Technical Centre, is the only institution in Serbia which is in charge of verification of presence of drugs in substances seized by the police. As per legislation only quantitative analysis is done in case of each drug seizure (i.e. only presence of drugs is ascertained). Qualitative analysis (verification of percentage of drug in the substance) is only done in case it is commissioned by a court for trial purposes. There is currently no data base with drug purities of seized drugs in Serbia but thanks to funding provided by the European Union, a data base is being established. Much like other national institutions, the drug testing laboratory is experiencing difficulties due to understaffing related to cuts in public spending and due to limited resources for keeping the equipment up to date and fully operational.

19. On 17-19 December 2012, UNODC conducted a legislative assistance mission on the implementation of the international drug control conventions, as requested by the Ministry of Interior, supported under the One United Nations Coherence Fund. The mission met with the national authorities including the civil society and reviewed the Albanian Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and other relevant documents. The UNODC experts prepared a report, containing their observations and suggestions on possible amendments to the drug control legislation. The report provides recommendations particularly with regard to the decriminalization of personal drug use by offering best practices from other countries which Albania can apply in its national anti-drug legislation.

20. On 22 December 2012, UNODC organized in Albania a hand over ceremony for equipment procured for the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Albanian State Police. The ceremony was attended by the General Director of the Albanian State Police, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Albania, representatives of the international police missions and other dignitaries. The donated equipment will contribute to the enhancement of the daily work and operations of the anti-trafficking officers. The General Director of the State Police called UNODC a traditional partner of the Albanian police in the combat against organized crime in Albania.

21. Within the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe and the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, a one week basic classroom training was delivered to six participants from Customs, Border Police and the Anti-drug Police from Durres Port (Albania) and Bar Port (Montenegro) at the WCO Regional
Training Centre in Budapest, respectively on 4-8 March and 18-22 March 2013. The training covered various aspects on different types of smuggling via maritime containerized traffic, such as risk analysis on commercial documents, risk indicators, container search, different types of concealments, advanced container search techniques, as well as practical exercises.

22. Under the Container Control Programme and Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe, a one week joint training for six participants from Durres Port and six participants from Customs, Border Police and the Anti-drug Police from the Port of Bar (Montenegro) was organized in Vlore, Albania on 11-15 March 2013. The training covered various WCO and UNODC conventions and regulations on human rights and integrity, CITES, IPR and precursors. Likewise, a UNODC expert on Firearms provided training on the global, regional and national legal frameworks for transfer controls on controlled goods; review of the decision-making process for issuance or denial of import/export licences and authorizations; licensing control and reporting.

23. Following up on one of the recommendations of the Steering Committee of Regional Programme and the requests of the countries of the region, UNODC initiated the drafting of a comprehensive study of drug trafficking routes through South-Eastern Europe. This study will cover all the participating countries of the Regional Programme and will represent a thorough and detailed analysis of illicit trafficking of every major illicit substance throughout their territories.

24. New psychoactive substances (NPS), commonly referred to as “legal highs”, are an emerging drug phenomenon that has only recently begun to have an impact on Europe and in particular South-Eastern Europe. Yet from a slow start NPS have spread through the region. Since 2009, Romania has consistently reported seizing over 1 kg of synthetic cathinones. Bulgarian authorities report that they witness 30 new NPS appearing on the market every month. Yet other countries, particularly Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia, are not (yet) affected by NPS. Effectively addressing the challenge of analysing these new and dynamic drugs requires increased regional cooperation.

**B. Drug prevention and treatment, HIV treatment and care**

25. The prevention component of the UNODC Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe has been taken forward in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

26. In Albania, 350 professional staff from polyclinics, hospitals, health promotion units of public health directorates, prison staff, police staff, staff from the toxicology centre in Tirana and staff from high risk regions were trained on the TREATNET package during 2012, with the aim of establishing multidisciplinary teams on drug treatment and care, which fully concurs with the objectives of the new national anti-drug strategy. In March 2012, UNODC and WHO in close cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Health initiated and supported the opening of the first Drug Dependence Treatment Centre in Albania.

27. An assessment of policies for comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services for drug users and prison settings was carried out in January 2012 in
Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. The assessment was presented to stakeholders during meetings in each of the countries in January and February 2012. National Technical Working Groups were established at the end of these meetings. A training was delivered in each country on best practice approaches in HIV/TB/HBC prevention and care among injecting drug users in prison settings to relevant civil society organization participants and representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice, with the aim to raise their awareness in regard to international standards related to the comprehensive HIV/HCV/TB prevention and care in prison settings.

28. UNODC continued to train families, trainers and facilitators in Albania on the Strengthening Families Programme (SFP), which aims at reducing delinquency and drug abuse by children. The purpose of the training for trainers of facilitators was to strengthen their knowledge and skills to adequately prepare facilitators who would ensure the sustainability of the programme. In the period September 2011-June 2012, UNODC-Tirana organized trainings for over 50 facilitators, more than 10 trainers and over 180 families.

29. On 25 May 2012, UNODC and WHO, in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health and the Drug Dependence Treatment Centre in Albania convened a meeting of expert working group to share information and experiences on drug related deaths. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Public Health, the Drug Treatment Centre staff, NGOs, the Legal Medicine Institute and the Institute of Statistics. The meeting emphasized the importance of inter-sectorial cooperation in ensuring good quality registers in general and special death registers, which should have a national coverage.

30. On 10-14 June 2012 UNODC, in coordination with WHO, conducted an expert mission to Tirana to assess the national capacities on evidence-based drug treatment with a specific focus on methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) and provide recommendations on increased accessibility of the MMT services, as well as on their sustainable funding. The final report with recommendations for improvement of MMT in Albania was published in October 2012.

31. The hospitals in Albania are often faced with crises related to drugs and there is strong evidence of the value of using rapid interventions or rapid treatments when a person comes to a hospital emergency unit or is admitted for issues related to drugs. UNODC and WHO organized on 18 July 2012 an expert working group meeting which brought together representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, the Institute of Public Health, professionals from the regional hospitals and NGOs.

32. In October-November 2012, UNODC conducted an assessment of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s drug dependence treatment and care system to guide decision makers to take appropriate actions, and allow the planning of initial low-cost interventions on drug prevention, treatment and care. The assessment was performed in Tuzla, Banja Luka and Sarajevo, and resulted in a comprehensive report and recommendations for future actions.

33. In 2012, a drug dependence treatment and prevention assessment was conducted in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to assess the current situation as well as potential gaps, and to produce recommendations for future enhancement of the drug dependence services. The assessment report provides
guidance for decision makers to take appropriate actions, and to allow quick planning of initial low-cost interventions on drug prevention, treatment and care.

34. The Strengthening Families Programme (SFP) was also initiated in Macedonia. In September 2012, a cultural adaptation team composed of staff from the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health was established and provided comments and inputs to a training manual. In October 2012, the first cycle of SFP started with a training for 28 facilitators from the five elementary schools, which were provided with equipment for the training sessions. A training of 23 trainers was held in March 2013 and five new elementary schools received technical equipment. Further training sessions in selected schools started on 15 April 2013.

35. In Montenegro, the SFP continued in 2012 and 2013 on the basis of 2011 work on adapting the tools for piloting the evidence-based family skills training programme. An evidence-based drug dependence treatment and care TREATNET training for 27 experts from relevant health institutions was organized in January 2012. Local cascade TREATNET trainings for 139 professionals were conducted with assistance of newly educated TREATNET trainers in three cities in October-December 2012.

36. With assistance from UNODC, the Government of Montenegro drafted a new National Drug Strategy (2013-2020) and its Action Plan (2013-2016), in accordance with national priorities and needs, which will serve all drug policy stakeholders in the country as a guiding operational framework in the next 7 years. These strategic documents include human rights protection and reflect the Government’s proactive approach towards fostering efficient cooperation and developing a strategic direction for combating drug-related challenges and the involvement of all relevant national authorities.

37. In Serbia, a midterm review of the national drug strategy led to a final report with recommendations for future action, which could serve as a basis for the new strategic document in 2013.

38. Two study visits for Government officials and experts from Serbia were organized to Switzerland and Germany in February and May 2012, to study best practices in drug dependence treatment and care, to strengthen the professional networks and to potentially replicate the recognized models. Local cascade TREATNET training was delivered in 2012 with 316 experts trained.

39. On 11-24 November 2012, UNODC organized a Regional TREATNET training in Zlatibor, Serbia for 21 participants from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Serbia. The training focused on Screening, Assessment and Treatment Planning and on Elements of Psychosocial Treatment.

40. UNODC organized another regional training in December 2012 in Vienna, to present the UNODC TREATNET quality standard material, to discuss the quality standards and to design strategies toward achieving compliance. The “TREATNET Quality Standards of drug dependence treatment and care services” and the “Principles of Drug Dependence Treatment” were translated into the Serbian, Montenegrin, Bosnian, Macedonian and Albanian languages.
III. Eastern Europe

A. Organized crime and illicit drug trafficking

41. UNODC is working with Russia within a Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries, which focuses largely on counter-narcotics and the rule of law in order to respond effectively to drug trafficking and organized crime, but also envisages a component on health and impact/trends analysis across the region.

42. In this context, the Russian Federation and UNODC are collaborating within the project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel, which has been successfully implemented since 2006. Trainers from several NATO countries and the Russian Federation delivered the training. In addition, with regard to training activities, with the financial support of the Russian Federation, it was agreed in 2012, to plan a training of dog-handlers from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran at the Canine Training Centre in Rostov-on-Don, the Russian Federation.

43. Another example of successful regional cooperation between UNODC and the Russian Federation is the implementation of a project, financially supported by the Government of Japan, which provided training for 52 Afghan drug police officers in the Domodedovo training centre in the Russian Federation, under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior. The training delivered was a successful experience and consultations are ongoing among involved parties, including the donor country, to potentially extend this activity into a Phase II in 2013.

44. Under the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative, there is a National Strategic Analyst operating from the UNODC Programme Office in the Russian Federation. The National Strategic Analyst acts as the national focal point and liaison with the national counterparts as well as with the international community on the Paris Pact Initiative matters. In addition, the National Strategic Analyst is coordinating and implementing most of the law enforcement activities under the framework of regional initiatives, facilitating the implementation of projects related to, inter-alia, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring countries. In the course of 2013, the National Strategic Analyst was supporting the implementation activities related to a UNODC project on strengthening the drug detection dog capacity within law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan using the training base of the Russian MOI Canine Training Centre in Rostov-on-Don.

45. In March 2013, the Russian Federation approved and launched a new comprehensive “State Programme of the Russian Federation on countering illicit drug trafficking (2013-2020)”. The State Programme has been allocated an estimated RUB 212 billion (USD 7 billion). The Programme, includes, inter-alia, ways to strengthen coordination at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The document includes a number of key measures to strengthening cooperation and coordination at all levels; legal reforms, increase of the operational and research activities, inquiries, investigations, and expert and criminal activities; enhance international and inter-regional cooperation, detection of organized crime in the sphere of illicit drug trafficking and coordination of the anti-drug activities on
behalf of the federal executive authorities. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of fighting criminality and illicit drug trafficking in the Russian Federation.

46. Ukraine and UNODC are cooperating under the framework of the Paris Pact Initiative — a partnership to counter traffic in and consumption of Afghan opiates. The UNODC Office in Ukraine is facilitating research and analysis on the trafficking routes.

47. In 2012, Ukrainian authorities developed a National Integrated Anti-Drug Strategy. UNODC has contributed to its technical appraisal. The formal approval of the document by the Cabinet of Ministers is envisaged during 2013. Once approved, an action plan for its implementation will be developed, including the elaboration of a set of operational interventions. UNODC offered its support in its implementation.

48. In May 2012, UNODC launched a project aiming at strengthening the capacities of the GUAM Member States (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan) to cooperate at the national and regional levels in combating money-laundering as well as in seizing and confiscating crime proceeds; and to strengthening cooperation, at both the national and regional levels.

49. During the reporting period the project supported the preparation of a report on review of the mechanisms of interagency cooperation in GUAM Member States for prevention and combating “money-laundering”, as well as seizure and confiscation of proceeds from crime. Two regional workshops specially tailored for Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova were conducted to meet the deficiencies and specific needs identified in the report.

50. On 5 February 2013, UNODC in close collaboration with the State Service of Ukraine on Drugs Control initiated a partners’ round table meeting on illicit drug trafficking issues in Ukraine. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate exchange of information on the current situation related to drug trafficking, drug related crime and drug abuse in Ukraine and to promote inter-agency and international cooperation for improved effectiveness of the collaborative response to drug-related challenges. The meeting brought together representatives of the law enforcement bodies of Ukraine (the State Service on Drugs Control, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Interior, Customs authorities, the State Border Guard Administration, the Ukrainian Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Alcohol), law enforcement/drugs/crime liaison officers of the embassies (Austria, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States of America).

51. On 10-16 March 2013, a mission to Ukraine was undertaken in order to discuss with the national authorities the extension of the Global Container Control Programme (CCP) to Ukraine, covering the Odessa region/port. This segment is covered financially under the framework of the European Union project “Fight against Trafficking From/To Afghanistan-Heroin Route/Black Sea”, which foresees the establishment of CCP operational units in the Black Sea area (e.g. in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine). The objective of the CCP is to strengthen capacity in searching illicit commodities and thus the establishment of container profiling units to identify high risk containers and facilitate legal trade. A similar assessment mission is planned to Moldova in the course of 2013.
52. With regard to the International Collaborative Exercise — part of the International Quality Assurance, UNODC is in the process of undertaking technical consultations with competent authorities of Belarus on the provision of reference samples of drugs under international control, their metabolites and precursors for comparative analytical purposes. Reference samples of selected impurities found in illicitly manufactured drugs can be provided to the laboratories in the framework and for the purposes of the IQAP International Collaborative Exercises.

53. At the regional level, cooperation between the Common Wealth of Independent States (CIS) and UNODC is based on the “Protocol on Cooperation between the UNODC and CIS Executive Committee”, which was signed on 1 July 2005. UNODC and CIS share a number of areas of common interest related to their respective mandates. The document includes joint actions on countering threats such as organized crime, illicit trafficking, particularly, in drugs in Central Asia, counter-terrorism, as well as drug abuse and prevention. The CIS Member States Programme of Cooperation for 2011-2013 adopted by Heads of State-parties to the CIS in Moscow on 10 December 2010 also underscores the need for enhanced cooperation in these areas.

54. There are a number of successful initiatives in countering narcotics implemented at CIS level such as the so called Operation “Channel”, which is a permanent regional anti-drug operation under the auspices of CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) and involves law enforcement officers from the CSTO member states. The Operation is aimed to uncover and block drug trafficking routes from Afghanistan; international and inter-regional channels of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) trafficking from Europe; illicit activities of clandestine laboratories; prevention of precursor diversion as well as to undermine the drug economy. Since its launch in 2003 and until 2010, 15 phases of the Operation have been implemented. In these activities CSTO member states were joined, as observers, by representatives of law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Spain, China, Colombia, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Finland and Estonia as well as international organizations such as OSCE and INTERPOL. Important seizures of drugs and other commodities have been reported under the framework of this Operation. A Permanent Secretariat has been established based in Moscow; a unified drug information system has been created and is being further developed with the objective of maintaining a permanent flow of data from national segments and consolidated through a unified system by the CSTO member-states. UNODC has been regularly informed about the progress made and invited to certain events under this “Channel Operation”.

B. Drug prevention and treatment, HIV treatment and care

55. In the Russian Federation, the project on prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug use has been completed in December 2012. There are currently no activities implemented in this thematic area. A technical mission by UNODC Headquarters from the Drug Prevention and Health Department is planned in the course of 2013 to undertake consultations with national counterparts on potential future activities.
56. During his visit to Ukraine in May 2012, the Executive Director met with a number of high-level officials and discussed UNODC’s cooperation and presence in the country. He participated in the International High Level Conference on Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Prevention and Treatment of Drug Dependence and related HIV/AIDS, organized by the Government of Ukraine.

57. In the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine there is an ongoing project which aims to promote sustainable system-wide reforms in addressing HIV epidemics among injecting drug users and detained populations through technical assistance provided to countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The project started in January 2010 and the end date is June 2013.

58. UNODC also cooperates with Ukraine and Moldova in the implementation of the Regional Project on “Effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care among vulnerable groups in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”. The project aims at assisting the countries to provide people who use drugs and prisoners with evidence-informed, comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services through (i) advocacy; (ii) support in developing effective legislation and policies; (iii) support in developing comprehensive evidence-based strategies and programmes; (iv) building capacity of national stakeholders including government agencies, civil society and community organizations to ensure optimum coverage of these population groups with HIV services.

59. UNODC has established and maintained close cooperation and partnership with the law enforcement, drug control, public health and criminal justice sectors in Ukraine. UNODC facilitates enhanced understanding of the role and accountability of these sectors in the development and implementation of the national response to HIV/AIDS, especially in ensuring universal access to the most-at-risk populations to the comprehensive package of HIV services. Series of bilateral and multilateral meetings were held in 2012 with the key decision makers and officials from the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Health, Drug Control and Prison Authorities to promote and facilitate human-rights based and evidence-informed policy approaches and practices to address HIV and AIDS among people who use drugs and in prison settings.

60. UNODC has been providing advisory and technical support to the State Service of Ukraine on Drugs Control in the development of the new National Anti-drug Strategy. The draft strategy was presented and discussed at the International High-Level Conference on Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Prevention & Treatment of Drug Dependence and related HIV/AIDS, entitled “Ukrainian Society and Drugs: Building a New Strategic Approach” (Kyiv, 21-23 May 2012). The Strategy envisages development and introduction of modern evidence-informed interventions for drug dependence treatment and HIV prevention.

61. UNODC conducted a review of the existing HIV related policies and strategies of the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine to document the level of involvement of the law enforcement sector in the development and implementation of the national response to HIV/AIDS. Key findings and recommendations were presented and discussed at the stakeholders’ round table meeting in May 2012, which was initiated and facilitated by UNODC. The participants of the meeting developed a joint action plan to promote more active involvement of the law enforcement sector in the
national response to AIDS and requested UNODC to facilitate regular stakeholders consultations, and make available various models and good practices on effective partnership between law enforcement, public health and civil society in addressing HIV/AIDS needs among police staff and key affected populations.

62. Following the success of the national round table meeting, in collaboration with Law Enforcement and HIV Network, UNAIDS, ILO, USAID, OSI and other partners, UNODC convened the First Regional Consultation on enhancing the role of law enforcement in planning and implementation of the national response to HIV/AIDS epidemics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (October, 2012). The event brought together about 50 participants representing law enforcement, public health sectors and civil society including the drug users’ community from 7 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to explore opportunities for regional and national multi-sectorial partnerships in enhancing the role of law enforcement in the response to the HIV epidemic in general, and particularly in HIV prevention among people who use drugs and other key affected populations.

63. UNODC, in close collaboration with the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine and the Ukrainian AIDS Centre, conducted an integrated study on monitoring awareness, behaviour and prevalence of HIV-infection among prison population as a component of the HIV second generation surveillance. The study consisted of 3 components: (i) desk review of the prison sectorial policy on HIV prevention and its correspondence to the needs of the people serving the sentence in the penitentiary facilities and pre-trial detainees; (ii) monitoring of awareness, behaviour and HIV prevalence among convicts and people in pre-trial detention facilities as epidemiological surveillance component; and (iii) assessment of the availability, accessibility and quality of prevention and treatment services for HIV/AIDS in penitentiary system facilities.

64. Data obtained from comprehensive research on HIV response in the Penitentiary system of Ukraine were presented to the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine high rank officials and medical staff at two series of advocacy meetings. These meetings have been designed as a part of advocacy efforts and technical support for endorsement of the comprehensive package of HIV services promoted by UNODC, ILO and UNDP for prisoners. The essential part of UNODC’s efforts is focused on the acknowledgement of HIV risky behaviour among prisoners and endorsement of a comprehensive package of HIV programmes for inmates and the further development of a HIV sectorial programme for the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine.

65. At the request of the national AIDS authorities, UNODC took a lead role in undertaking an evaluation of the prison component of the 2009-2013 National HIV/AIDS Programme. An International Evaluator, made available by UNODC, conducted a desk review, a field mission and key informant interviews and provided the national partners with the evaluation report. Key findings and recommendations of the evaluation will be used for the development of the new National AIDS Programme for 2014-2018.

66. UNODC has been also closely collaborating with the Ministry of Health and narcology services to mainstream and integrate HIV related services including opioid substitution therapy (OST) into the State drug dependence treatment system. UNODC organized and delivered a two-week Training-of-Trainers Workshop on
Contemporary Drug Dependence Treatment for 30 representatives of the narcology departments of the medical schools and service managers (14-24 November 2012, Kyiv, Ukraine). The training programme included sessions on screening and brief Intervention using the UNODC Drug Dependence Treatment Package. As a follow-up of the Workshop each trained trainer has committed to train at least 30 other professionals engaged in drug dependence treatment services.

67. UNODC actively participated in the expert group discussions for the development of a number of new normative documents related to HIV/AIDS. This includes a draft decree of the Government on revised rules and regulations for the use of controlled substances for medical purposes in the health-care settings; an Order of the Ministry of Health on rules and regulations for the Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST); and a joint Order of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Health and State Drug Control Service on ensuring continuity of OST services in police custodies, pretrial remand centres and correction prisons.

68. With the aim to improve the accessibility and quality of technical support and training programmes for HIV and harm reduction service providers, UNODC initiated close cooperation with NGO-based Resource and Training Centres on Harm Reduction in Ukraine. Assessment of needs and capacity of these centres was finalized and results were presented and discussed with key stakeholders in November 2012. Following detailed discussions with Resource and Training Centres and other stakeholders, an action plan on provision of technical support to the centres is now being finalized.

69. UNODC managed to mobilize US$ 365,000 for the implementation of a Women-for-Women Initiative in Ukraine. The initiative started with a five-day baseline evaluation mission to Ukraine of Austrian experts. The assessment resulted in developing a range of recommendations concerning the internal organization/structure of the service provision, the lack of capacity and specialized skills of first-line staff, the need for greater access and promotion of services available.

70. Six NGOs have been provided with grants (with total amount US$ 160,000) to make their services more accessible for women vulnerable to HIV. During the reporting year, 2,241 vulnerable women and 92 children have been reached with innovatively designed medical and social services, psychological counselling, housing and harm reduction services in 6 sites around Ukraine.

71. As part of this initiative, UNODC supported and facilitated a study tour for 15 representatives of civil society and government services to Vienna in February 2012 to learn from the Austrian experience in the organization and delivery of specific services for women. As a follow-up to the study tour, a one-week training workshop was delivered in Kyiv in April 2012 for 20 service providers to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to work effectively with vulnerable women and provide services that meet the needs of women. The section on the specificity of working with survivors of domestic violence has evoked a great interest. In order to promote and disseminate the Women for Women initiative outcomes, a short video spot was produced that highlights the needs of vulnerable women and achievements of the project.

72. In Moldova, UNODC in close partnership with Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Centre for Health Policies and Studies and WHO
supported the Government in identifying barriers towards improving and successfully implementing OST programmes in Moldova. In November 2012 the partners organized an assessment of OST in Moldova and related services (including in community and prison). Based on the report findings and recommendations, a roadmap for intervention was developed and agreed with key stakeholders.

73. In Moldova, following a desk review exercise of HIV/AIDS policies in the Justice and Law Enforcement sectors, UNODC offered technical assistance on HIV services for vulnerable groups, including injecting drug users (IDUs) and inmates, to the Ministry of Interior. More than 60 police officers and doctors working in field police stations, representing all regions of Moldova, were trained on topics such as: drug dependence treatment, harm reduction programmes for drug users, prophylaxis and prevention of HIV and TB.

74. In 2012, UNODC assisted Moldova prison authorities in conducting an assessment of prison health services. As a result, a dialog on the transfer of Department of Penitentiary Institutions health services under the authority of the Ministry of Health was launched. The dialogue on HIV services in prisons was launched. Therefore, a set of suitable mechanisms, regulations and curricula in order to ensure a scale-up process of appropriate medical practices in prisons have been developed in line with United Nations recommendations (of WHO, UNAIDS and UNODC), in order to better address the needs of vulnerable populations in prison settings.

75. Throughout 2012, UNODC in Moldova supported the national health authorities responsible for HIV/AIDS monitoring and evaluation in conducting Behavioural Sentinel Surveillance among IDUs and prison inmates. Assistance included trainings for the national team responsible for data collection among IDUs and financial support in conducting the survey itself in prisons.

76. UNODC will be conducting an assessment mission to Belarus in the fall of 2013 to evaluate the HIV/AIDS prevention situation in the country. The planned mission aims to provide recommendations on joint partnerships and technical assistance projects, including potential exchange of best practices and national expertise.

IV. Recent regional initiatives

A. South-Eastern Europe

77. The 9th Ministerial Conference on South East Europe Border Security Cooperation, organized and delivered by the Ministry of Interior of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the patronage of Denmark’s European Union Presidency, was held in Skopje on 14-15 March 2012. The gathering offered a review of the situation, of progress and action taken in the sphere of border security in the region. The conference brought together the MoI’s of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the deputy Ministers of Interior and senior police officials of Moldova, Romania, Albania, the Czech Republic, representatives of the European Commission, Europol, the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the diplomatic corps present in the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The two-day conference was wrapped up with signing of a ministerial declaration for SEE border security cooperation in 2012.

78. On 4 December 2012, UNODC and the Southeast Europe Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC)\(^2\) signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at furthering joint cooperation in countering illicit trafficking, crime and money-laundering.

79. From 3-5 December 2012, UNODC participated in a Conference “Promoting Security Strategies and Emerging Policy Priorities in South East Europe” held in Zagreb, Croatia, organized by the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC). This event aimed to contribute to a more cohesive and effective international and regional security cooperation in responding to global threats and challenges.

80. The Regional Programme for South East Europe has started building cooperation with the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. As the first activity in this context, a representative from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (a head of the law enforcement training academy) took part in a Regional workshop on strengthening coordination and quality of the counter-narcotics training programmes (September 2012, Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan).

81. UNODC conducted a mission to the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC). The purpose of the mission was to conduct talks with national counterparts in regards to establishing sustainable training programmes for SEE law enforcement officers in a variety of areas.

82. In December 2012, UNODC reached out to two regional initiatives active in South-Eastern Europe, especially in the Balkan countries — namely, the Adriatic & Ionian Initiative (AII), based in Ancona, Italy, and the Central European Initiative (CEI), based in Trieste, Italy. It has been agreed that RSELAC will maintain regular communication with these two regional initiatives in order to consider possible joint actions and interventions in the region.

83. On 25 February 2013, the Director of the Division for Operations of UNODC held consultations with the Director of the Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), based in Zagreb, Croatia. UNODC and RACVIAC agreed to work together in the future towards result-oriented and practical cooperation in the region of South-Eastern Europe, taking advantage of their respective mandates and expertise and complementing each other.

84. On 27 February 2013, UNODC and SELEC held consultations on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two agencies on 4 December 2012. SELEC’s mandate includes, inter alia, coordination of regional operations and support of investigations and crime prevention activities of

\(^2\) SELEC is a regional instrument for cooperation of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. It is situated in Bucharest, Romania. SELEC is a successor of SECI (Southeast European Cooperative Initiative established in the late 1990s). It consists of 13 member states: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey. Primary objective is to provide support to its member States in the enhancement of coordination in preventing and combating transnational crime, including serious and organized crime. Currently, UNODC has the status of Observer to SELEC.
the Member States in transborder cases; providing the Member States with the opportunity to exchange information and criminal intelligence and offer operational assistance; collection, analysis, processing and dissemination of information and criminal intelligence; production of strategic analysis and threat assessments. UNODC and SELEC agreed to focus the first phase of the implementation of the MOU on establishing a stronger inter-regional link between the Balkans and the countries and law enforcement institutions in West and Central Asia towards a more comprehensive response to illicit trafficking of Afghan heroin through the region.

85. The Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe has responded to the offer of the Government of Croatia with regard to the organization of the study tour to Croatia where drug dependence treatment services, preventive services and national coordinative mechanisms will be presented to the participants. The tentative date for the study visit is June 2013.

86. In response to the initiative from the Government of Romania, the Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe initiated the preparation of the following activities: organization of a three-day regional workshop on drug dependence treatment in prisons; a two-day study tour to Romania to present the national drug coordination system. Tentative dates for the activities are September-October 2013.

B. Eastern Europe

87. UNODC, jointly with the State Drug Control Service of Ukraine (SDCS), organized a stakeholders’ coordination meeting on drug-related issues on 5 February 2013. The aim of the meeting was to facilitate exchange of information on the current situation related to drug trafficking, drug related crime and drug abuse in the Ukraine and to promote inter-agency and international cooperation for improved effectiveness of the collaborative response to drug related challenges. The meeting brought together key officials from the State Drug Control Service, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Interior, national customs authorities and the Ministry of Health as well as representatives and/or liaison officers on drugs/crime issues of the Embassies of European Union countries, the United States and other interested countries.

88. On 29-30 May 2013, the Executive Director of UNODC is planning to visit Belarus, in order to meet with high-level officials in Belarus and international partners, with the view to discussing UNODC cooperation and potential technical assistance in the country.

89. In the context of strengthening UNODC’s cooperation and partnership with the Republic of Belarus, UNODC has planned a number of assessment missions and some technical activities, mainly in the field of training, envisaged to be held during 2013. UNODC has also been discussing with the Belarus officials the country’s expertise and best practice that could be promoted among the countries in the region and disseminated under the framework of regional programmes and inter-regional cooperation.

90. Among the future prospects for the region, there are also some activities planned within the framework of the Global Container Control Programme, which foresees the establishment of CCP operational units in the Black Sea area, including
Moldova and Ukraine, with a potential expansion in the region, to include and promote partnership, exchange of expertise and best practice.

91. In the course of 2012, UNODC has been working closely with CIS counterparts on a joint cooperation agreement that is being reviewed by both parties. The agreement aims at, inter-alia, facilitating and enhancing CIS border control; exchange of information and expertise; formulation and implementation of joint operational programmes, organization of international conferences and workshops; contribution to drafting and dissemination of publications. The Executive Director of UNODC met with the Secretary of CIS in March 2013, in the margins of an international Conference, and it was agreed to further strengthen the joint collaboration and actions in the region.