



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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EU AND UNODC JOINT ACTION PROMOTING RULE OF LAW AND GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH TARGETED BORDER CONTROL MEASURES AT PORTS AND AIRPORTS

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UNODC continues its partnership with the EU through the launch of a new initiative aimed at fighting organized crime, by supporting more effective and coordinated responses to illicit trafficking at seaports, land border crossings and international airports in the Western Balkans.

In January 2020, under the framework of the Regional Programme for South East-

ern Europe (RP SEE) 2020-2023, UNODC successfully initiated this EU-UNODC joint action promoting rule of law and good governance through targeted border control measures at ports and airports in South Eastern Europe. The action is implemented by the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) and the UNODC-WCO- INTERPOL Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) in cooperation with the RP SEE and is carried out in:

- ◆ **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (land border crossings Bijača and Gradiška and Sarajevo International Airport)
- ◆ **Montenegro** (port of Bar)
- ◆ **North Macedonia** (Skopje International Airport)
- ◆ **Serbia** (Belgrade International Airport)
- ◆ **Kosovo^{1*}** (boundary crossing Vermiče/Vrbnica).

The UNODC-WCO CCP's mission is to build capacity in countries/jurisdictions seeking to improve risk management, supply chain security and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. CCP has been operating in South Eastern Europe since 2013 with Port Control Units (PCUs) established in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo.

AIRCOP initiated its activities in the region in early 2020 along with the action. It applies passenger controls to supporting airports in tackling multiple threats, including all types of illicit drugs, illicit goods (such as wildlife, counterfeit medicines, weapons and others), as well as terrorism and trafficking in persons among others.

With these two complementary components, the action's objectives are: (i) to support more effective national and international responses to illicit trafficking in the region and establishing new units, and; (ii) to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement agencies active at the mentioned international airports to detect and intercept high risk passengers in an effort to counter transnational organized crime and illicit drug trafficking and prevent terrorism.

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

* For the EU, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

The action supports the implementation of synergies between law enforcement actors proving the security situation in the Western the UN Conventions on drugs and crime at the national, regional and international Balkans and Europe as a whole. and the EU Acquis, notably Chapters 23 and levels and builds bridges between various 24 addressing serious organized crime, rule thematic areas, as well as between the of law, good governance and security. The Western Balkans and other regions, im- action improves effectiveness and develops

While the action is not directly assisting the Albanian authorities, the work in Albania in this field is ongoing and is supported by other sources.

AIRCOP CONTINUES THE 2021 TRAINING CYCLE FOR THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP AT THE BELGRADE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

12-13 April 2021, online: AIRCOP in cooperation with the RP SEE organized the first two-day theoretical workshop for customs and borders police officers at the Belgrade International Airport. The training was delivered online due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and brought together 13 officers from various law enforcement agencies.

AIRCOP delivered the training on the module "World of Drugs - 1" enhancing the knowledge of the participants on all the aspects of cocaine trafficking. The goal was to highlight the strengths and weak-

nesses of the current counter measures and current detection methodologies, raising the awareness towards the adoption of a risk-based approach against the threats targeting international airports. The workshop was delivered by experienced international experts and marks the beginning of the 2021 training cycle for the officers, who will form part of the future AIRCOP Joint Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) in Serbia within the inter-agency group will be formally established following the signing of the related Letter of Agreement between UNODC and the Government of Serbia in the coming months.



CCP SUPPORTS COVID-19 RESPONSES FOR PCUs IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO

12-15 April 2021, Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 26-28 April 2021, Bar, Montenegro / online: CCP provided online mentoring to the PCUs at the land-border crossing Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Port of Bar in Montenegro aimed to support the officers during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way of adapting to the related everyday chal-



lenges. Online mentoring continues to provide a platform for the transfer of knowledge on a variety of topics and courses provided by the CCP for customs and border police officers constituting an impactful tool for capacity-building programming and support during times of unprecedented restrictions. The use of online mentoring provides flexibility in

order to manage various schedules and of-
fers convenience and the opportunity to en-
gage with more officers in activities, thus ex-
panding the benefits of the programme
throughout participating agencies. The online
mentoring activities were conducted in part-
nership with the authorities of Bosnia and
Herzegovina and Montenegro and with the
support of experienced WCO experts. In
Montenegro, the PCU at the Port of Bar con-
ducted regular controls of incoming contain-
ers and shipments, including document checks,
detailed physical inspections and rip-off con-
trols during this mentoring.

CCP COMPLETES THE TRAINING CYCLE AT THE LAND-BORDER CROSSING GRADIŠKA

19-23 April 2021, Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Working towards the fulfillment of



the objectives of its training methodology, CCP delivered the second part of its basic practical training for customs and border police officers of the PCU at the land-border crossing point Gradiška. The training provided insights into recent cases of identification and interdiction of illegal tobacco and cigarettes found in cargo.

By completing the practical training, PCU Gradiška is advancing through the CCP training cycle and will be receiving region-focused trainings to further strengthen capacities of and the illegal cross-border movement of goods and other criminal activities in the international trade supply chain. In particular, the training provided insights into recent cases of identification and interdiction of illegal tobacco and cigarettes found in cargo.

UNODC MEETS WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO DISCUSS ENHANCED BORDER CONTROL

27-28 April 2021, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC met with the authorities in

The discussions with the authorities focused on the establishment of the AIRCOP JAIF at the Sarajevo International Airport and the related topics including staff and space allocation, working methodology, information sharing and inter-agency cooperation with a view to establish solid grounds for the implementation of the action, which would materialize through the signature of a Letter of Agreement between UNODC and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The authorities acknowledged the importance of the border control efforts in the country. Similarly, the meeting with the EU Delegation provided an opportunity for exchange on the latest developments in relation to the action, including visibility efforts and hear about the EU activities in the country.



UNODC HOLDS A WORKSHOP ON WCO CENCOMM AND INTERPOL CAPABILITIES

26-29 April 2021, online: In cooperation with RP SEE, AIRCOP organized a four-day online workshop on WCO CENcomm and INTERPOL capabilities for 28 customs and borders police officers in North Macedonia. As communication often represents one of the major challenges faced by law enforcement agencies worldwide, the capacity to exchange and disseminate information in a secure environment is imperative for any law enforcement agency during border clearance-related operations.

In this context, WCO's CENcomm and INTERPOL's I-24/7 were conceived as secure communication systems allowing a closed user group of officers to exchange messages securely, in real time, for the duration of an operation or project. These tools enhance the information sharing capabilities of the law enforcement

cement, while keeping connected different taskforces located worldwide through a safe network and allowing access to global criminal databases which facilitate the identification and detection of high-risk passengers, cargo and mail. They also connect national

on WCO and INTERPOL capabilities in terms of law enforcement support, familiarizing the participants with CENcomm and I-24/7 secured communication systems, specific search tools and global crime databases, highlighting the best practices and lessons learned from previous operations. The workshop also raised the awareness toward the adoption of a risk-based approach against the threats targeting international airports.

A number of the participants of the workshop will be part of the future AIRCOP JAITF within the inter-agency group comprised of an AIRCOP JAITF and a CCP ACCU at the Skopje International Airport, formally established following the signing of the related Letter of Agreement between UNODC



law enforcement authorities with other countries at the regional and international levels and offer the possibility to extend action beyond borders.

Delivered by experienced international experts from WCO and INTERPOL, the workshop aimed to enhance the knowledge

January 2021.

UNODC PARTICIPATES IN A CONFERENCE ON PREVENTING DOCUMENT FRAUD – COOPERATION IN THE WESTERN BALKAN REGION

29 April 2021, online: UNODC joined the conference organized by OSCE in close cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) Center of Excellence. The conference gathered partners from the South Eastern Europe. The conference gathered par-

ticipants from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), INTERPOL, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Migration Asylum Refugee Integration (MARRI), Regional Initiative Regional Centre (MARRI), Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), Police Cooperation Convention participating organizations originating from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The main objective of the meeting was to present a draft document as a joint product of the participating organizations originating from

the conclusions of the initial conference on sources allocated for document check-in border control. All the participants recognized the potential to incorporate various criminal activities. UNODC acknowledged the subject in 2019. The draft document intended for the decision-makers as a reference for assessing the existing capabilities and identifying gaps in the processes and re-national security as it is a key element of various criminal activities. UNODC acknowledged the potential to incorporate that document and identity fraud remain one of the biggest challenges for international and national security as it is a key element of various criminal activities. UNODC acknowledged the potential to incorporate teaching activities regarding document fraud in its current programme work, particularly in the framework of the border control action.

CCP SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

4-6 May 2021, Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CCP supported a workshop for officers of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ITA to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the PCUs and ACCU operating in the country. The SOPs represent a written document / a set of instructions that outline the steps involved in a specific procedure or process. According to the global good practices, well-developed SOPs contribute to, among other elements, increased



productivity through consistency, optimized quality control processes, the retention of expert knowledge and continuous improvement.

gements through enhancement based on experience and technological advancements. This workshop represents the continuation of online meetings and desk review activities conducted during April 2021, which engaged experienced customs and border police officers in the drafting of the new SOPs document. The workshop enabled participating officers to further discuss and analyze all elements of the SOPs to be included.

MONTENEGRO SUPPORTED IN ENHANCED BORDER CONTROL

10 May 2021, Bar, Montenegro: CCP conducted a monitoring visit to the PCU at the Port of Bar, as part of the Programme's estab-

lished methodology aimed at supporting the Unit through discussions and direct engagement with PCU officers on implementation and challenges faced.

As a part of the visit, the CCP Coordinator for South Eastern Europe met with the officials of the Revenue and Customs Administration and the Border Police Directorate to discuss the CCP implementation in Montenegro and activities to be delivered further in 2021. The PCU at the Port of Bar also received additional tools, equipment and gear as a part of the



effort to support the Unit's operational needs in conducting physical inspections of suspicious containers.



UNODC CONTRIBUTES TO POLICE COOPERATION IN FIGHTING TRANS-NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

11 May 2021, Podgorica, Montenegro / rational data and implementation of joint online: UNODC participated in the first hybrid general assembly meeting “Police Cooperation in Fighting Transnational Organized Crime in the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Cooperation (SEPCA) Region” organized on the basis of the recommendations stemming from the SEPCA Threat Assessment Report 2019.

SEPCA is an organization of police directors, established in 2002, functioning on the Statute signed in 2007 by 10 police services from nine states of the region. The meeting was organized to discuss ways to identify and establish future models of cooperation in the work of law enforcement agencies for an improved exchange of operational data and implementation of joint activities to counter threats related to party crime, illegal migration, human trafficking, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime and other forms of organized crime, which are a priority for both the Western Balkans and the European Union.

The meeting was attended by the SEPCA member states and its partners including, Austria, Italy, USA, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, OSCE, PCC SEE Secretariat, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center Center (SELEC), the Berlin Process and others as well as UNODC. During his intervention, the UNODC representative commended the benefits of a strengthened international police cooperation and presented the current UNODC initiatives in the region, including the border control action and the development of a Regional Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap. UNODC remains committed to contributing to international cooperation between law enforcement agencies through various fora in the region, including SEPCA.



UNODC DISCUSSES ENHANCED BORDER CONTROL WITH MONTENEGRO

10-13 May 2021, Podgorica, Montenegro: The UNODC continued support to the established with UNODC help PCU at the Port of Bar is seen as useful and relevant by the Montenegro authorities, as was reiterated inter alia at the border control action's Steering Committee meeting in October 2020, whereby the Government's willingness



to be part of the AIRCOP and CCP-Air components was expressed. On this basis, UNODC convened meetings with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Revenue and Customs Administration, Criminal Police Directorate and Border Police Directorate as well as with the management of the Police Administration, the UN Resident

Coordinator and the EU Delegation in Montenegro. The meetings allowed to review the existing cooperation with the counter-parts within the border control action, discuss common priorities and explore the possibility of extending UNODC activities to the airports in Montenegro. The consultations with the authorities were welcomed and allowed not only to strengthen the ongoing cooperation but also to secure formal support from the Government for the potential future expansion of the UNODC activities in the area of border control, which would entail the creation of inter-agency groups at airports, composed of an AIRCOP JAIF and a CCP ACCU. In addition, UNODC also met with the UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro and the EU Delegation to present the future expansion of the UNODC activities in ongoing work within the border control action as well as the Government's request for the expansion of these activities.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA SUPPORTED IN CAPACITY BUILDING ON ENHANCED BORDER CONTROL AND FIREARMS TRAFFICKING

17 May 2021, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina / online: As part of building capacities of the officers of the ACCU at the Sarajevo International Airport, CCP organized a CCP Air Cargo workshop for 21 customs and border police officers, as well as representatives from the Directorate for Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sarajevo Airport. The workshop, held in a hybrid modality, provided the participants with the opportunity to review training topics covered in previous training events, while introducing new information and approaches to successfully identifying and interdicting illicit cargo transiting through the Sarajevo International Airport. The human rights module, which is part of the Basic Theoretical Training for the ACCU, was also introduced to the partici-

pants, focusing on key aspects of human rights in relation to law enforcement. The topics included, among others, human rights instruments, the code of conduct for law enforcement officials, application of human rights law and principles and measures pertaining to law enforcement violations of human rights.

In addition, and building on cooperation with other programmes, the UNODC Global Firearms Programme (GFP) also attended the event and presented activities implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the project "Halting Arms and Lawbreaking in the Trade" (HALT). The UNODC GFP representatives informed the participants about the requirements for the successful prosecution gaps and needs analysis conducted jointly with the Customs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

on the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels and the SOPs developed for the public and private sectors on the detection of firearms in postal and fast parcels.

The UNODC GFP also introduced its training tools on the identification of firearms, their parts and ammunition and shared information on two court cases concerning the trafficking of firearms across the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina and through a postal parcel. The participants received feedback on the process of collecting evidence in arms trafficking cases and its importance for convicting arms traffickers, which resulted in the raised awareness of the criminal procedure of firearms related cases.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA'S EFFORTS IN COUNTERING TRAFFICKING AND COUNTERFEITING SUPPORTED

7 June 2021, Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CCP conducted a monitoring visit to the PCU at the land-border cross-

sing Gradiška, as part of the Programme's standard methodology aimed at supporting the unit through direct engagement with PCU officers on implementation and challenges faced. In addition to regular support and discussions on CCP implementation in

Bosnia and Herzegovina and activities to be delivered in the second half of 2021, the visit allowed to discuss and analyze the recently achieved significant result of the PCU in intercepting a machine for packaging cigarettes that was deceptively reported for import to Bosnia and Herzegovina as a machine for food products packing. According to intelligence and open source data collected by the unit, the machine had the capacity of producing 2000 cigarettes/ minute, or more than 1.000.000 cigarettes per working day. The production of cigarettes was, most likely, intended for sale on the EU market.

CCP SUPPORTS CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO

8-9 June 2021, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CCP supported technical meetings between the customs officials from ITA of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Revenue and Customs Administration of Montenegro, as well as Coordinators of the PCUs in Gradiška and Bar respectively.

The meetings allowed to discuss further development of cooperation through information exchange and mutual support in operational matters with the focus on profiling and identifying high risk containers and other shipments with the aim of discovering, retaining and seizing counterfeit and/or illegally traded goods entering, or being in transit through the territory of Bosnia and Her-

zegovina and Montenegro. The significance of the meetings between the customs officials from both administrations has been assessed as considerable by the officials of both administrations, as it will support not only law enforcement, but also the business industry in both countries.

Furthermore, both administrations agreed to further support the designation of contact offices within the respective customs authorities who will be responsible for further cooperation enhancing and promotion of specific goals relevant to the law enforcement measures. The counterparts from Montenegro also visited the PCU Gradiška, one of the most recent PCUs established in



Bosnia and Herzegovina, and regionally.

The visit provided an opportunity for detailed discussions among the PCUs Coordinators on challenges and specifics of work in the seaport (Bar) and land-border (Gradiška), which resulted in an agreement to continue cooperation among the PCUs in the region.

NORTH MACEDONIA AND UNODC REVIEW NEXT STEPS TOWARDS ENHANCED BORDER CONTROL

7-11 June 2021, Skopje, North Macedonia: AIRCOP and the Head of the UNODC Programme Office in Skopje met with officials from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office in charge of the Fight Against Corruption in North Macedonia as well as with senior representatives from Border Police



and Customs Administration in North Macedonia and INTERPOL to finalize the next steps of the establishment of the JAITF at the Skopje International Airport, to form part of the inter-agency group to be composed of an AIRCOP JAITF and a CCP ACCU.

The meetings allowed counterparts to agree upon the official designation of officers by the law enforcement agencies, including the numbers of staff to be assigned to the inter-

tional Airport for the inter-agency group was also confirmed, which will enable the refurbishment of the premises. In parallel to the meetings, UNODC conducted a full-day workshop in support of the agency group with focus on gender balance. The allocation of an office space inside the main terminal building at the Skopje Interna-

tional Airport for the inter-agency group, which is a key element of the way the group will function and report.

The draft SOPs will be prepared by UNODC

and incorporated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the participating law enforcement agencies (General/Analysis/Field Operations) of the country in late 2021.

CCP CONTINUES THE TRAINING CYCLE FOR THE INTER-AGENCY GROUPS AT BELGRADE AND SKOPJE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

14 April, 22-24 June and 29 June-1 July 2021, CCP delivered the opportunity to review new online: CCP delivered the second part of the basic theoretical training for the customs and border police officers who will form part of the future ACCU within the inter-agency groups at the Belgrade and Skopje International Airports. The online training for Serbian officers further explored training topics included in the basic theoretical cycle, such as detection of smuggling and insider threats,

2) delivered to officers in North Macedonia provided an overview of profiling and targeting techniques, detection of smuggling of illicit goods, air cargo safety and other topics covered in the previous training. A special emphasis was put on issues of smuggling and detection as well as insider threats that would help customs and border police officers understand and apply the relevant regulations and practices in their daily work.

The three-day Basic Theoretical Training (part

UNODC ORGANIZED A STRATEGIC TRADE AND EXPORT CONTROL TRAINING FOR PCUS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

21-25 June 2021, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CCP delivered a Supplemental Online Strategic Trade and Export Control Training (STECT), for the frontline customs and border police officers of the PCUs at the sea-port Bar, Montenegro and the land border crossing Bijača in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training also facilitated participation of officers from the customs and law enforcement agencies involved in the Working Group on strategic and dual-use goods within ITA of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This training is a follow-up to the training

segment delivered for both Units in 2020.

CCP STECT is an intense training that explores the plausible risk that non-state actors may exploit containerized supply chain, similarly to drugs and other illicit commodities, to traffic or deliver weapons of mass destruction



(WMD) or their component parts, comprising chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) materials. The training (phase 2), delivered in a hybrid format focused on industrial equipment and materials, chemicals, weapons and ammunition, and other topics to support effective profiling of containers and other consignments.

Integrating these important topics enhances the capacity of the PCUs to detect illicit trade within the containerized supply chain through their efforts that include detailed examination of pre-arrival information.