

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 (2016-2019) is structured along three main pillars: (I) Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, (II) Enhancement of Integrity and Justice, (III) Prevention, Treatment and Care. The 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@un.org) and Ms. Lejla Karahasanovic (lejla.karahasanovic@un.org).

NEWS AND EVENTS

UNODC and Turkey further expand cooperation in South Eastern Europe

10 July 2018, Ankara, Turkey: UNODC and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) convened detailed consultations on the future expansion of the successful cooperation the two agencies lead in the Balkan region. TADOC was established in Ankara on 26 June 2000 (the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) under the Turkey's Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Department and within the framework of the Turkey-UNODC collaboration. With its experienced trainers, international subject experts, premises, facilities and equipment, and the training programs developed according to the needs of the region, TADOC provides various trainings not only to the personnel of the national law enforcement agencies, but also to the law enforcement personnel of South Eastern Europe (SEE) and West and Central Asia (WCA). Turkey is a strong supporter and donor to the UNODC work in SEE and, following the latest consultations, more capacity building events will take place in TADOC, in particular in the field of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism. Furthermore, Turkey will support the UNODC efforts aimed at strengthening inter-regional cooperation between SEE and WCA, as well as provide the Turkish expertise and national best practices within relevant UNODC events.



Building inter-regional synergies to disrupt illicit financial flows in South Eastern Europe and West and Central Asia

28-29 June 2018, Zagreb, Croatia: UNODC, under the framework of its Regional Programmes for South Eastern Europe and Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Croatia and with support of Turkey and EU, convened an Inter-Regional Meeting between SEE and WCA on Building Partnerships in Countering Illicit Financial Flows (IFF). The event was attended by over 80 participants, including heads of drug control agencies, heads of financial intelligence units, and other relevant stakeholders from Albania, the I.R. of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, I.R of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, I.R Pakistan, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as Kosovo under UNCSR 1244, and members of the donor community. The meeting included contributions of a wealth of experts from the public and private sectors, including ABN AMRO Bank, Western Union, EUROPOL, MONEYVAL, The Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Center of Afghanistan (FINTRACA), Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC), the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of Russia (Rosfinmonitoring), Financial Crimes Investigation Board – FIU (MASAK) of Turkey and others. The representatives of the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro have presented the SEE experiences in the subject field. The event also provided an overview of the trends and analysis of IFF along the three drug trafficking routes from Afghanistan given by UNODC, which presented the updated Report on the trafficking of opiates along the Northern Route. The

meeting not only contributed to the exchange of good practices among participants of both regions, but also raised awareness on the critical importance of cooperation at the regional and inter-regional level and the need to support Afghanistan in its endeavour to fight drug trafficking and organised crime.

UNODC presents a unified approach to working in Europe and West/Central Asia

22 June 2018, Vienna, Austria: UNODC Regional Section for Europe and West/Central Asia and the UNODC Representatives in this wide region organized a briefing to Member States on the occasion of the UNODC Annual Field Representatives' Meeting. The meeting has given an opportunity to share the single UNODC vision for Europe and West/Central Asia with partners, including the countries from the region and donors. The inter-connectivity between drugs, crime and terrorism was highlighted and it was pointed out that these links were also mentioned in high-level policy fora, including, most recently, the Conference on Afghanistan in Tashkent in March 2018. The UNODC "Strategic Action to Respond to the Global Threats of Opiates" (SARTO) aimed at stepping up regional and inter-regional actions to counter opium cultivation and production increases, and to respond to related threats of crime, terrorism and corruption, was mentioned, as well as the Paris Pact initiative. The UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe was presented at the event, and it was pointed out that it represents an innovative, flexible and relevant framework for cooperation in the strategically important region.

UNODC meets with regional partners to discuss security related matters in South Eastern Europe

31 May - 1 June 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia: UNODC visited the Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance initiative (IISG) Support Group and the Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe (PCC SEE) in the premises of the DCAF Ljubljana. The consultations aimed at discussing the progress in the implementation of the IISG, as well as the role of the UNODC as the lead partner of the IISG's Pillar II on Counter Serious Crime (WBCSCi). The discussion focused on the policy planning and sharing vision for the next steps of the IISG and its Pillars. A separate component of the consultations was devoted to the evaluation of the WBCSCi, which has been therefore launched. (For info on all on the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)

MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE**UNODC rolled out first three trainings on financial investigations in the Western Balkans within the IISG**

26-29 June 2018, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 3-6 July 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 10-13 July 2018, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244: UNODC organized the first series of national four-day trainings on financial investigations for some 20 experts from the law enforcement institutions and the judiciary involved in combatting serious and organized crime. These trainings are part of the comprehensive UNODC train-the-trainers programme designed to strengthen the capacities of the law enforcement sector and the judiciary to effectively detect, investigate, prosecute and recover the proceeds of crime. The participants had the chance to work with the international experts on the real case studies, be involved in the simulation exercises, had the opportunity to strengthen the interagency cooperation, and share their experience and knowledge with the peers. At a later stage, the knowledge obtained in these courses will be utilized by the national experts to develop national curricula on financial investigations, which currently does not exist in the Western Balkans jurisdictions. The trainings were organized within the Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance initiative (IISG), the recently launched EU funded joint UNODC and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) capacity building project on financial investigations in SEE. *(For info on the above and below: Yulia Minaeva)*

UNODC and CEPOL joint Training Needs Assessment missions successfully concluded

6-8 March, Tirana, Albania; 10-12 April, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244; 24-26 April, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 10-12 May, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 22-25 May 2018, Belgrade, Serbia and 29-31 May 2018, Podgorica, Montenegro: UNODC and CEPOL completed the Training Needs Assessments (TNAs) of the law enforcement institutions and the judiciary in the field of financial investigations in all six jurisdictions of the region of SEE. This work is undertaken in the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme's component on anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism and within the above mentioned IISG. The TNAs covered over 100 institutions in the region and have collected important information. Based on their outcome national training plans on financial investigations will be developed for each jurisdiction in the region.

Anti-Money Laundering Capacity Building Course Held for South Eastern European Experts in Moscow

23-27 April 2018, Moscow, Russian Federation: The International Training and Methodology Centre for Financial Monitoring (ITMCFM) of the Russian Financial Intelligence Unit – the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation (Rosfinmonitoring) – and the UNODC Regional Programme for SEE organized a training on "Analytical methods in conducting financial investigations in the field of anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism". The training emphasized on building capacity of FIUs' and law enforcement agencies' officers in investigating financial crimes and enhancing cooperation between the Russian Federation and SEE countries in the field of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism. Participants' knowledge of new techniques used by drug traffickers, such as the use of electronic payment systems and the use of cryptocurrencies in relation with drug trafficking among others, was further enhanced. Improving international and inter-agency cooperation was also part of the agenda, in which SEE participants and their Russian counterparts were able to share experiences and have fruitful discussions on financial crime investigative techniques.

TERRORISM PREVENTION**UNODC supports regional capacities in normative and administrative challenges relating to the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) threat**

18-19 April 2018, Pristina, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244; 11-13 June 2018, Podgorica, Montenegro: UNODC, with support of the EU, is implementing a project on strengthening the legal regime against FTF in the Middle East, North Africa and SEE with the objective of enhancing the criminal justice response to FTFs, fully incorporating the rule of law and respect for human rights. In order to meet this objective and to enhance the capacity of local stakeholders to handle terrorist cases involving FTFs, UNODC with the support of UNMIK conducted the first workshop on normative and administrative challenges relating to the FTF threat. The event supported the capacities of local stakeholders to handle terrorist cases involving FTFs. Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of UNMIK, and by UNODC. Members of the Judiciary, Prosecution Service, Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, Kosovo Police, Financial Intelligence Unit and EULEX attended the workshop, and had the chance to exchange experiences in the handling of cases involving FTFs. International experts from Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands also shared their practice on the subject. Presentations were delivered on the international legal framework applicable to FTFs, international and regional cooperation on FTFs, and countering the financing of terrorism in relation to FTFs. In **Montenegro**, UNODC conducted already the second workshop within the subject project. Senior officials from the national law enforcement agencies and international anti-terrorism experts joined the event. The workshop was opened by a detailed presentation of the initiatives and achievements of Montenegro in the fight against terrorism in general, and notably regarding the phenomenon of FTF. The event provided the opportunity for the representatives of the judiciary and law enforcement institutions of Montenegro to exchange experiences in handling FTF-related cases and further build the in-depth knowledge in this field. The UNODC focal point for prison reform delivered a presentation on de-radicalization in prisons. The workshop also put emphasis on the subject of the returning FTFs. *(For info: Maria Lorenzo Sobrado)*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**UNODC conducts a country visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the context of reviewing the implementation of UNCAC**

15-17 May 2018, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC conducted a country visit in the context of reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). During the visit, the reviewing States parties, Republic of Moldova and Montenegro, engaged in a direct dialogue on the review of implementation of the Convention (Chapter II on Preventive Measures and Chapter V on Asset Recovery) with relevant experts and representatives from national institutions of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as civil society organisations and the private sector representatives. Following the country visit, a country review report and executive summary will be published. *(For info: Lindy Muzila)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Cocaine seized at the Port of Bar in Montenegro

14 June 2018, Bar, Montenegro: 38 kg of cocaine coming from Ecuador to the Port of Bar in Montenegro were seized by the Port Control Unit (PCU). The drug was concealed in two containers with bananas while it was forwarded for customs clearance. The Customs Risk Analysis System showed red channel and both containers were scanned using the mobile scanner. One of the containers was marked as suspicious and was sent for further detailed examination. During the examination, the PCU officers found 32 packages containing a gross weight of 38 kg of cocaine. Investigation is going on.

Coordination and policy making activities are in place with the Container Control Programme in the region

8 May 2018, Tirana, Albania: The Joint CCP Steering Committee Meeting for Albania and Montenegro was attended by customs officials, border police and anti-narcotics services of the two countries, officers from both PCUs, the UN Resident Coordinator in Albania, representatives of the international organizations and foreign diplomatic missions in Albania. UNODC welcomed the attendance of the Director General of the Albanian Customs Administration, Director General of the Anti-Organized Crime Department, Director General of the Border Police and Migration of Albania, and the Head of the Risk Assessment Department of the Customs Administration of Montenegro who also co-chaired the meeting. During the meeting the report on the CCP 2017 achievements and the 2018 workplan were presented, presentations by the Heads of the PCUs in Albania and Montenegro were made, and discussions on the current situation of the Programme implementation, its perspectives and priorities took place.

26 April 2018, Budva, Montenegro: The Heads of the PCUs in South Eastern Europe (SEE) met to discuss new developments and further cooperation. The meeting brought together nine officials from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. It presented an opportunity to get an update on the daily work of each PCU in the region, including the achievements and challenges they face. Each participant made a presentation offering examples of best practices by pointing out the challenges and recommendations to overcome them. The discussions echoed the key points of the presentations on the use of criminal intelligence, risk profiling, exchange of information, cooperation with private sector and potential undertaking of joint regional operations. The Heads of PCUs adopted the following initiatives: * Continue PCUs capacity building through joint training, transfer of know-how and participation in joint activities and operations; * Continue to make use of the information exchange tools available for PCUs members to better facilitate analysis in drug trafficking and contraband cases; * Foster the trust between the PCUs with other domestic and international partners; * Strengthen PCUs capacities to provide effective regional and international cooperation in interdicting illicit drug trafficking and contraband of goods with the purpose of enabling timely interventions; * Issue an updated list of indicators for identifying suspicious consignments and share it among the PCUs in the region. (For info on the above: Ela Banaj, Alen Gagula)



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNODC is building sustainable capacity to address smuggling of migrants in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

UNODC is implementing, in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity to fight the smuggling of migrants in South Eastern Europe", funded by the USA INL. Within this project, UNODC provides technical assistance to the Judicial Academy for Judges and Prosecutors "Pavel Shatev" in Skopje (*the Academy in Skopje*) to develop a multi-disciplinary training curriculum on the smuggling of migrants, using blended learning and interactive methodologies based on case law. Before the end of the project, the expert group members will need to pass the e-learning tests as a pre-requisite for certification and the case-based simulation module for classroom training will be pilot-tested. In line with the requests of *the Academy in Skopje* to offer avant-garde trainings to its trainees on migrant smuggling, a team of five trainers will deliver the pilot training, applying facilitation techniques instead of traditional lecturing and case study analysis training modules. Upon successful completion of the initial national training, the training curriculum materials were made available to *the Academy in Skopje* and a pool of trainers for the curriculum was officially nominated and certified by *the Academy in Skopje* for future multi-disciplinary target groups of practitioners from the criminal justice and protection sectors on migrant smuggling. As part of the project, the UNODC e-learning modules on smuggling of migrants were also translated and localized in the Macedonian and Serbian languages, and customized training materials were adapted to national legislation, existing procedures and recent jurisprudence. On **21-22 May 2018**, UNODC organized the national pilot training within this project in **Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The activity provided an opportunity to test the training curriculum with a control group of peers. On **19-20 June 2018**, UNODC, in partnership with *the Academy in Skopje*, conducted the next stage of the project – the initial national training within this project. The training provided an opportunity for the established group of five national trainers to independently deliver the training based on the curriculum developed within the project to 14 participants coming from the judiciary, law enforcement, protection authorities and civil society, with support of a control group consisted of eight of their peers. The UNODC national pilot training took place on **29 May - 2 June 2018** in **Vrsac, Republic of Serbia**, within the same project. It was undertaken in partnership with the Permanent Task Force on Combating Smuggling of Migrants of the Republic of Serbia (*TF in Serbia*) and provided an opportunity to test the training curriculum with the control group of peers as a follow-up to the previously reported. Upon completion of the activities by the end September 2018, the training curriculum will be finalized and made available to the *TF in Serbia* for training multi-disciplinary target groups of practitioners from the criminal justice and protection sectors on migrant smuggling. (For info on the above: Davor Raus)



ORGANIZED CRIME

UNODC holds two trainings on detection of firearms trafficking at land border crossing points

18-22 June 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC conducted two trainings for 20 customs officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina on the detection of firearms at land border crossing points, investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. The first training targeted officials from the regional centers in Tuzla, Mostar, Banja Luka and Sarajevo. The second training was attended by members of the mobile Customs' units within the Law Enforcement Department. UNODC has adopted a unique approach to these trainings by bringing together key actors responsible for the control, detection and prosecution of firearms trafficking cases. The representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade responsible for the establishment of the national import-export arms regulations, provided guidance on the legislative framework and elaborated on key provisions and specific administrative procedures to be followed during the customs control of arms transfers. Representatives of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed with the trainees the specific requirements under the state Criminal Procedural Code for securing evidence and follow-up activities after the detection and seizure of firearms, which will ensure successful prosecution of the cases. UNODC delivered the training components on persons and car search, including practical exercises on the use of equipment, hands-on search techniques to detect firearms, developing local risk indicators with the customs officials as well as profiling and selection of passengers and vehicles. With these activities, UNODC contributes to the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve the goals established under the regional Roadmap for a sustainable solution to misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 20125 (*the Roadmap*). All work related to the Roadmap is supported by the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe and funded by the Government of Germany.



UNODC holds a regional practitioners meeting on firearms control

29-30 May 2018, Vienna, Austria: UNODC organised a regional meeting on "Exchange of good practices and experiences in prosecution of illicit firearms trafficking and its links to other forms of organised crime". The workshop was attended by prosecutors from the Western Balkans and the EU with experience in prosecuting cases of firearms trafficking, organized crime or terrorism. The workshop focused on identifying measures on how to increase the number of prosecuted cases on firearms trafficking and thus contribute to reaching the goals, established by *the Roadmap*. The participants presented many concrete cases on trafficking in firearms and engaged in in-depth analysis of the national regulations, factual and normative context of the cases, the investigative and prosecutorial strategies applied to those cases and shared good practices and lessons learned. The exchange of information yielded concrete results by closing several gaps in international cooperation and by identifying experts, who can provide support to on-going anti-trafficking investigations.

UNODC participates in national and regional activities in Albania on the firearms control

25-27 April 2018, Tirana, Albania: UNODC participated in a regional workshop organized by the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) with a focus on the links between firearms trafficking and cybercrime. UNODC presented its holistic approach on addressing firearms trafficking and provided an overview of the activities of UNODC's programmes - on countering money laundering and cybercrime, which were relevant for this workshop. The participants of the event provided examples related to firearms, drugs, and human trafficking offences, where a specific action of the offence was taking place in Internet or special investigative techniques were used in Internet, including undercover investigation. The participants discussed the notion of cybercrime and the contemporary electronic communication methods that could be related to it. The legal and administrative elements of this type of crime were also reviewed, along with specificities of such investigations and prosecutions, in particular in the context of firearms. UNODC also attended the national meeting on *the Roadmap*, organized by the Ministry of Interior of Albania and UNDP/SEESAC. The objective of the meeting was to review the Zero Draft of *the Roadmap* and collect comments from international counterparts on the key performance indicators (KPI) and the goals identified in the roadmap. UNODC provided specific inputs for amendments of 6 KPIs, general comments on 8 KPIs and a proposal for the amendment of Goal 4. UNODC presented to the national authorities and international counterparts UNODC's Education For Justice (E4J) initiative and described the outputs, which UNODC expects to produce in the areas of integrity and ethics, smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, cybercrime, terrorism, organized crime and firearms. UNODC proposal to include in Goal 4 of the draft Roadmap a reference to education was accepted and will be further reviewed in the process of review and approval of the final draft of *the Roadmap*. UNODC also held a meeting with the Ministry of Education of Albania and described the activities of E4J project at the primary and secondary educational level.

UNODC participates in a coordination meeting to counter firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans

18 April 2018, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC took part in the Meeting of the local coordination group on illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Interior, as well as the French and German Ambassadors to Serbia. The meeting is a part of the process for developing *the Roadmap*. UNODC participates in this process and contributes towards the formulation of the goals and targets of *the Roadmap* with substantive inputs in the area of criminal justice and crime prevention. (*For info on all above: Diman Dimov*)

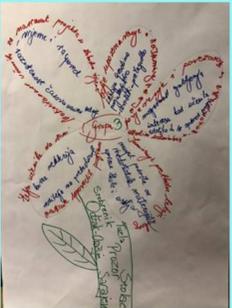
A Framework to Measure and Monitor Organized Crime – side event at the Crime Commission

17 May 2018, Vienna, Austria: During the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), UNODC presented the framework to measure and assess organized crime in the Western Balkans, as part of a project funded by the EC geared towards strengthening the rule of law through the fight against organized crime in the six countries and territories. The event explained the mechanisms being used by the project to develop a measurable statistical framework to quantify, assess and analyse organized crime. The framework is composed of a comprehensive set of indicators on organized crime activities, the state response to these crimes, estimation of the economic value of the markets and the modus operandi and structures of the groups. The data will come from various sources, such as crime statistics, in-depth interviews with experts, victims and prisoners and court verdict analysis. The result of this project will lead to, for the first time, standardization of indicators to measure organized crime at the national and regional level, assist in monitoring trends and patterns of organized crime, lead to the development of tailor-made technical assistance and operational activities and contribute to evidence based policy making that can be evaluated against established bench marks. (*For info: Tejal Jesrani Haslinger*)

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE

Albania joins the UNODC campaign "Listen First"

26 June 2018, Tirana, Albania: The UNODC slogan on the occasion of the International Day against Illegal Trafficking and Drug Abuse "Listen First – Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them growing healthy and safe" has been conveyed, within the pamphlet overview on the global and national dimension of drug phenomenon released by Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Albania. The main goal was to increase drug use prevention efforts as key to anti-drug social interventions and an effective investment in the welfare of children and young people, their families and their communities. As per the figures provided by the Albanian Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the number of drug users in the country varies from 70 to 80 thousand, out of which 8-10 thousand are reported to be problematic drug users. New psychoactive substances (NPS), which are entering Albania with a growing trend, present a significant public health risk and an added challenge in anti-drug policies. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*



UNODC participated in the Society for Prevention Research Annual meeting

29 May - 1 June 2018, Washington DC, USA: UNODC presented the recently promoted UNODC-WHO International Standards on drug use prevention to a group of experts during the International Networking Forum session of the Society for Prevention Research Annual meeting, highlighting its strategic importance and comparative advantage with the first edition of International Standards. Furthermore, as a result of technical support of UNODC provided to Member States, evidence based interventions that were evaluated on their effectiveness were showcased. Results of the UNODC-LCIF (Lions Club International Foundation) multisite case control trials of Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence in South Eastern Europe were presented as part of the "Implementation of school based programmes to improve behavior and social emotional learning" interactive session, stressing the identified positive outcomes in intervention group of students comparing to the comparison group on substance use in the last 30 days and intention to use substances in the next three months among users. In addition, a very informative work on family skills programmes for families in challenging settings was showcased as poster presentation "A multi-level parenting skills package for families living in challenging settings (including refugees, internally displaced people and others)" presenting the efforts and results of UNODC in this particular field of work.

Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" programme follow-up sessions successfully completed in Bosnia and Herzegovina

16 April 2018, Bijeljina - 17 April 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, initiated the Lions Quest "Skills for Adolescence" programme in March 2017 in 29 elementary schools in Tuzla, Mostar, Sarajevo and Bijeljina reaching out to more than 700 students in total. Following the approved implementation methodology, the follow-up sessions are organized to collect relevant data from programme educators in order to get better understanding of the effectiveness of the programme delivery, as well as to report on best practices and experienced challenges of the programme utilization. As part of the comprehensive evaluation strategy, the follow-up sessions also availed the opportunity for programme educators to discuss the findings of the pre-test results conducted with the intervention groups on substance use, normative beliefs, refusal skills and intention to use substances. Representatives from the relevant Ministries, both on entity and federal level, applauded the initiative and highlighted the value of the implementation of evidence-based programmes that are closely in line with the International Standards on drug use prevention.

Policymaking in the field of prevention and treatment of drug use disorders in Bosnia and Herzegovina supported

11-13 April 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: In collaboration with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNODC organized a national training to assist policymakers in improving national drug demand reduction policies by strengthening their capacities to develop, promote and support effective strategies, compliant with the International Standards and the International Drug Conventions. A specifically prepared technical tool has been used addressing relevant topics, including appropriate legislation, strategies, programmes and interventions aimed at preventing drug use and providing comprehensive systems of care for persons with drug use disorders. The training gathered representatives from different institutions of the national drug response system of the two entities and Brčko district: policymakers from the Ministries of Security and Justice and law enforcement officers, as well as officials from the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education, the Institute of public health and the civil society organizations. This diverse combination of participants was important for the successful delivery of the training in view of the fact that appropriate drug demand reduction strategies require a multi-sectoral and comprehensive approach. As a result of the training, the policymakers are additionally equipped to build a health- and human rights-oriented response to the problem of illicit drug use and to reduce the burden caused by problematic drug use and its associated health and social consequences and able to precisely identify the missing programmes and services.

UNODC continues implementation of evidence based prevention strategies in Serbia

2-5 April and 13 April 2018, Belgrade, Serbia: Following the results of the pilot intervention of the UNODC Strengthening Families Programme 10-14 (SFP 10-14), implemented since 2010 in SEE, UNODC embarked on a new collaborative venture with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Science, Education and Technological Development of Serbia. The first training workshop for 15 law enforcement officers on the SFP 10-14 implementation methodology was followed by the workshop on trainers' skills. The latter was organized by UNODC in cooperation with the Ministry of Science, Education and Technological Development and aimed to build up trainers' capacities to deliver the programme in the future. The trained professionals from the Ministry of Interior will proceed with the direct pilot programme implementation of SFP 10-14 in 12 selected elementary schools in three municipalities in Belgrade (Stari Grad, Vračar and Voždovac). It is expected that 130 families in total will be trained on family and parenting skills, family relationships and techniques to reduce problem behaviours, positioning the family values and protective factors as crucial response mechanism to prevent or delay the onset of drug use. *(For info: Milos Stojanović)*