

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).

MONEY LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE

UNODC and TADOC support South Eastern Europe in countering money laundering and financing of terrorism

25-28 September 2018, Ankara, Turkey: UNODC and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) held the first in a series of training courses in the TADOC premises on the topic of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). The training is in line with the long-standing partnership between UNODC and the Government of Turkey in the Balkans and was undertaken with the Turkish financial support within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. Each of the delegations included representatives of the financial intelligence units, the police and prosecution. The delegations prepared detailed presentations on the overview of the AML/CFT systems in their jurisdictions. The topics addressed by the training agenda included but were not limited to the following ones: application of new techniques and tools in tax fraud and tax evasion, in weapon smuggling and in illegal trade of drugs; evidence collection and protection; financing of terrorism and financial intelligence; and others. According to the feedback provided by the participants after the course, the training has contributed to the reinforcing of partnerships and strengthening the contemporary responses to the challenges posed by the illicit financial flows in South Eastern Europe and beyond.



UNODC held first trainings on financial investigations in Serbia and Albania

4-7 September 2018, Belgrade, Serbia, and 18-21 September 2018, Tirana, Albania: UNODC organized the first series of national four-day trainings on financial investigations for some 20 experts in each of the countries. The experts represented the national law enforcement institutions and the judiciary involved in combatting serious and organized crime. The 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, and are implemented under the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. During these interactive trainings, the participants had the opportunity to work with the international experts on the real case studies, be involved in simulation exercises, had the opportunity to strengthen interagency cooperation in their respective countries, and share their experience and knowledge with peers. As a result of these trainings, a Working Group of National Trainers (WGNT) from the law enforcement sector, judiciary and training institutions was established in each country. The knowledge obtained in these courses will be utilized by each WGNT to develop national curricula on financial investigations during the course of this project.

Second Meeting of UNODC/CEPOL Focal Points

17 July 2018, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia: The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and UNODC organized the "Second Technical Meeting of the National Project Focal Points on the Implementation of the Joint UNODC/CEPOL Project on Capacity Building on Financial Investigations in South Eastern Europe" – the second partnership meeting held in the framework of the recently launched joint project, funded by the European Commission. The meeting aimed to present to the beneficiaries the results of the joint UNODC and CEPOL Training Needs Assessment missions, to introduce the workplan for the fall-winter period 2018-2019, and to announce the exchange programme for the law enforcement and judiciary officers of the Western Balkans jurisdictions. By implementing this workplan, the IISG Partners, CEPOL and UNODC will follow their common goal to develop capacities of law enforcement agencies in the Western Balkans jurisdictions for enhanced prevention, detection and investigation of transnational, serious and organized crime proceeds, countering financing of terrorism, anti-money laundering and enhanced capacity for financial investigations. The project will also result in the development of national curricula for financial investigations in the Western Balkan jurisdictions. (For info on: Yulia Minaeva)



ORGANIZED CRIME**Monitoring illicit arms flows and the SDGs: Regional Meeting for South East European, Eastern European and Neighbouring Member States**

17-18 July 2018, Vienna, Austria: UNODC organized its 4th regional meeting on firearms data collection and analysis aimed at facilitating and promoting participation in the global firearms data initiative through the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (IAFQ), identifying firearms data collection practices and challenges of target countries, and fostering the exchange of information and operational use of firearms data. The meeting gathered 18 experts and National Focal Points for the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire from 11 countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine, and was supported by experts from Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, UNODC, the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the European Union. In the event, UNODC stressed the importance of firearms data collection at national and global levels for evidence-based decision-making at policy and operational levels and explained that the mandate for UNODC's firearms data collection exercise is derived from resolution 8/3 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and also linked to UNODC's role as co-custodian for indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Meeting participants enhanced their understanding on the IAFQ - UNODC's data collection methodology to identify firearms trafficking trends and patterns and to report on indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through presentations, engaged discussions and practical exercises. The national representatives and experts also shared their national experiences in the collection and analysis of firearms related data and provided updates on their progress on filling in the IAFQ. A focus was also set on presenting best practices and the benefits of strategic and comprehensive firearms data collection for evidence-based policy-making and operational decision making. *(For info: Diman Dimov)*

UNODC continues crime research work in the Balkans

16-17 July 2018, Vienna, Austria: Within the UNODC "Measuring and assessing organized crime in the Western Balkans" (MACRO) project, funded by the European Commission, a training workshop for the project national in-depth interviewers was organized for national counterparts from six beneficiary jurisdictions. The event has prepared the ground for interviews which will take place with victims, prisoners and criminal justice experts in the beneficiary jurisdictions in order to supplement the statistical data that is being collected to measure and monitor organized crime. The objectives of the workshop were: for the interviewers to become more familiar with the project's overall goals, objectives and methodology; to better understand the specific crimes that are being addressed in the interviews; to learn about the methodologies that will be used to gather this information and to receive training on how to carry out such interviews.

Regional training on measuring and assessing organized crime in the Western Balkans

24-27 September 2018, Becici, Montenegro: The first regional training under MACRO project gathered over 70 experts from the six project jurisdictions engaged in implementing project activities at the national level and have been involved through their National Technical Groups. The purpose of the training was twofold. It served as an opportunity for regional coordination and cooperation by sharing good practices to collect, store, analyze and disseminate criminal justice data. Institutions from each beneficiary shared their expertise and experiences in these areas, in particular data relevant to organized crime. The training also provided the attendees with first-hand information on collecting and storing data on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The training also provided hands on exercises and direct training for the implementation and use of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), which was requested by the MACRO beneficiaries during the data assessment phase of the project. The ICCS is a UNODC tool that provides a comprehensive framework for producing statistics on crime and criminal justice data and is a formidable instrument to improve its collection and support national efforts to monitor SDGs and targets in the area of public security and safety, trafficking, corruption, and access to justice. *(For info: on this and previous: Tejal Jesrani Haslinger)*

UNODC pursues the regional approach in tackling illicit use and trafficking of firearms in the Western Balkans

9-10 July 2018, Podgorica, Montenegro; 11-13 July 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC held a series of meetings with national and international counterparts in the two countries to discuss various avenues for cooperation with and support to the two Governments with the purpose of achieving the objectives set by the Regional Roadmap for a sustainable solution to misuse of and trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024 (Regional Roadmap). The meetings in both capitals were held with the high-level officials, including representatives of law enforcement bodies, UN and the EU. During the meetings, UNODC shared an overview of planned activities aimed to support the existing efforts to combat trafficking in firearms and discussed opportunities to further increase cooperation, in particular in the areas of capacity building on investigation, detection and prosecution of firearms trafficking. Additionally, UNODC identified areas for technical assistance, including the development of Standard Operating Procedures for prosecutors for conducting prosecutions against firearms trafficking and the delivery of a specialized training course on identification and tracing of firearms, and international cooperation for collection of relevant and admissible evidence in firearms trafficking cases. *(For info: Diman Dimov)*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**UNODC empowers Southeast European Civil Society Organizations to fight corruption**

24-27 September, Belgrade, Serbia: Corruption affects all countries and undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. UNODC organized a regional multi-stakeholder workshop to train civil society, private sector and government representatives from Southeast Europe to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the only international legally-binding anti-corruption instrument. The event aimed to facilitate collaboration between the various stakeholders in implementing UNCAC and its Review Mechanism, and to advise them on applying the methodology and tools available through the Convention. Among other things, this enabled them to build on the momentum of their country reviews and ensure that preventing and eradicating corruption is at the forefront of their national agendas. The event was a good opportunity for the 60 participants to engage in a constructive dialogue on good practices and lessons learned, thereby building trust and confidence among each other. Representing the host country, the representative of the Serbian Ministry of Justice stressed that prevention is better than cure, highlighting the decisive commitment from the Serbian authorities to eradicate corruption from its roots, which falls in line with Chapter II (Preventative Measures) of the Convention being reviewed under the current cycle. The UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia emphasized that in order to succeed collectively, civil society organizations and the private sector must be involved in the State's effort to combat corruption. *(For info: Lindy Muzila)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Knowledge in addressing environmental crime in South Eastern Europe raised

24-26 September 2018, Bar, Montenegro: Workshop on environmental crime gathered 23 officials from the Port Control Units (PCUs) and other agencies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The main objectives of the workshop were: i) to introduce the attendees to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); ii) to discuss and receive feedback on the selected case studies presented through videos; iii) to trigger some reflections on the usefulness of studying environmental crime and investigating whether the lessons from such case studies can be generalized across South Eastern Europe. During the workshop, the participants shared their perspectives and views on the enforcement and efficiency of environmental legislations and corruption. The workshop was an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices among the UNODC-WCO trainers, the PCU officers and the external experts who attended the event. The workshop contributed to the prioritization of the environmental public awareness, increased availability of data, better networking and enhanced exchange of information among investigative agencies and enforcement authorities. The workshop was financially supported by the Government of Luxembourg.

Delegation of German and French Foreign Ministries received at Durres Port Control Unit

18 September 2018, Durres, Albania: A delegation of the representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Germany and France, accompanied by the Ambassador of France to Albania, the Deputy Minister of Interior of Albania, the Director General of Customs Administration and other local dignitaries visited Durres Port in the framework of the coordination initiative of Germany and France on illicit firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans to promote a more integrated and coordinated action to tackle small arms proliferation in the region and implement the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The meeting with the PCU officers provided an opportunity to discuss the ongoing CCP activities to address border control issues and the typology of cross-border crimes at the Durres Port as the main port in Albania and one of the most dynamic ports in the region as regards imports/exports of goods and traffic of passengers. The delegation also visited the container terminal, the ferry terminal and the scanner location as part of their examination of the port infrastructure. The national authorities called for more advanced technologies to be introduced in order to support the joint work of law enforcement agencies at the port premises.

Work study visit of officials from Nepalese Customs Administration to Bosnia and Herzegovina

17-21 September 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina: A delegation of senior Nepalese Customs Administration officials visited the Regional Centers Sarajevo and Mostar of the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the land-border Bijača, where a PCU is established. The Head of Customs Affairs of the ITA Regional Center Sarajevo highlighted that the work study visit presented for both parties a unique opportunity to learn first-hand from experienced law enforcement officials and discover different working techniques compared to their home port and added that it will enable both parties to acquire new skills and experiences which they can apply in their daily work practice in their home countries. The Nepalese delegation visited the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Field Office Doljani - discussing inter-agency cooperation modalities, within the CCP implementation framework. The excellent level of cooperation was highlighted with reference to the specific structural and other settings in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the receiving authorities were also representatives of the State Prosecution Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who brought their angle into the discussion, adding on the inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information related to operational actions targeting cross-border and other organized criminal activities.

Illicit goods seized at the Port of Bar in Montenegro

17 August 2018, Bar, Montenegro: A shipment containing 7,680 fake batteries of a renowned brand has been seized by the PCU officials established in the Port of Bar. After investigation with the support of the Customs Office in Podgorica, it was confirmed by the brand representatives that the batteries were fake. This seizure shows that types of seized goods are being diversified. The origin of the shipment appears to be Hong Kong.

Port Control Unit at the port of Durres seizes Cannabis destined for Italy

15 August 2018, Durres, Albania: An estimated 6.1 kg of Cannabis Sativa were found concealed in a Fiat vehicle owned by an Italian citizen. The drugs found in a secret compartment in the trunk belonged to the Italian driver and owner of the car, however the country of origin of the seized drugs remains unclear. The seizure took place during a routine car search by the PCU officers at the ferry terminal in the port of Durres, Albania. The driver of the car is in custody and the case is being handed over to the prosecution for further investigation. *(For info on the above: Ela Banaj, Alen Gagula)*



HUMAN TRAFFICKING**UNODC supports smuggling of migrants' curriculum in Serbia**

24 - 28 September 2018, Sabac, Serbia: A national UNODC initial training took place in Sabac, in partnership with the Permanent Task Force on Combating Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) of the Republic of Serbia (Task Force). It represents the final activity under the initiative "Strengthening the capacity to fight the Smuggling of Migrants in South Eastern Europe", funded by the USA INL and implemented by UNODC in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Under this initiative, UNODC provides technical assistance to the Task Force to develop a multi-disciplinary training curriculum on SoM using blended learning and interactive methodologies based on case-based simulation. The training provided an opportunity for selected members of the expert group, tasked with developing the training curriculum on SoM, to independently train a multidisciplinary group of practitioners from the police, prosecution and protection authorities. The multidisciplinary group of trainees, prior to the initial training, passed three e-learning modules on SoM, in Serbian language, and was provided with classroom segment of the curriculum with customized training materials adapted to the national legislation, existing procedures and recent jurisprudence to go through the case-based simulation module. A training team of five trainers had the opportunity to deliver the initial national training, applying facilitation techniques instead of traditional lecturing and case study analysis training modules. Other members of the Expert Group supported delivery through structured feedback to the training team as a control group. Upon completion of the initial training, the training curriculum will be finalized by the Expert Group and will be made available to the Task Force, and formally incorporated into the regular training programme, for training multi-disciplinary target groups of practitioners from the criminal justice and protection sectors on SoM. *(For info: Davor Raus)*



and applying facilitation techniques instead of traditional lecturing and case study analysis training modules. Other members of the Expert Group supported delivery through structured feedback to the training team as a control group. Upon completion of the initial training, the training curriculum will be finalized by the Expert Group and will be made available to the Task Force, and formally incorporated into the regular training programme, for training multi-disciplinary target groups of practitioners from the criminal justice and protection sectors on SoM. *(For info: Davor Raus)*

TERRORISM PREVENTION**UNODC holds national workshop on challenges related to foreign terrorist fighters in Skopje**

12-13 September, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC organized the second national workshop for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on challenges related to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter (FTF) threat, which gathered representatives from Ministries of Interior and Justice, customs, financial police, Financial Intelligence Unit, Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Prosecuting Organized Crime and Corruption, the National Committee for the Prevention of Violent Extremism and the Fight against Terrorism, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Defense. Experts from France, EU and UNESCO shared their experiences relevant to cases involving or related to FTFs. The event aimed to respond to one of the needs identified during the first regional event for South Eastern Europe organized in Vienna in February 2017, namely capacity-building on efficient investigation and prosecution of FTF cases. The workshop allowed for the exchange of experiences and good practices on the common challenges faced by national institutions in investigating and prosecuting FTF cases, with a focus on the illicit trafficking in cultural property and its linkages with the financing of terrorism, as well as on the prevention of radicalization. *(For info: Maria Lorenzo Sobrado)*

DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE**UNODC supports Macedonian policymakers on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders**

25-27 September 2018, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: UNODC and the Ministry of Health organized a national training for policymakers on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders. The training brought together representatives from various governmental and non-governmental institutions who contribute to the national drug demand reduction response. The training used the precisely designed implementation methodology developed by UNODC relevant legislation, strategies, programmes and interventions aimed at preventing drug use and providing comprehensive systems of care for persons with drug use disorders. The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of the relevant policymakers with the applicable knowledge on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders to assist them in improving national drug demand reduction policies and to promote and support effective strategies that are compliant with the International Standards and the International Drug Conventions. The most significant outcome of the event was comprehensive inter-ministerial workplan that will further strengthen the development of health- and human rights-oriented response to illicit drug use.

UNODC widens implementation of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme in Serbia

14-16 September 2018, Belgrade, Serbia: Expanding the successful cooperation between UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation on the dissemination of evidence-based drug use prevention strategies, a training of educators for the further implementation of Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme (LQSFA) was held in 10 additional elementary schools in Belgrade. The LQSFA is an evidence based programme targeting school population by means of addressing the developmental factors with groups of adolescents. The programme is delivered with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological development of Serbia. This particular programme was initially piloted in Serbia with 21 elementary schools in 2014-2016 reaching more than 1,300 students from the central city municipalities in Belgrade. The pilot programme generated 78 educators and trainers as a resource for continuous and sustainable implementation. The programme was rigorously monitored and evaluated with regard of its effectiveness, where particular positive outcome was evident on the enhancement of the refusal skill among the students, who participated in the programme, as well as on the reduction of the reported substance use. The expansion process of the programme entails a slightly different implementation modality following precisely the list of recommendations from the cultural adaptation report that was produced as a result of the initial pilot phase in Serbia. Following the suggested implementation outline, the programme will be conducted in 10 additional elementary schools, both from central Belgrade and municipalities on the outskirts of the city, in the period of two academic years, contrasting the initial pilot implementation period that lasted for one academic year. *(For info: Milos Stojanović)*