

UNODC in South Eastern Europe

NEWSLETTER | Vol. 36

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 \(2020-2023\)](#) is structured along the three main pillars: (I) Support to law enforcement, enhanced border security and related topics, (II) Strengthening the fight against organized crime and countering illicit financial flows, (III) Drug use prevention and treatment of drug use disorders, and a cross-cutting pillar (IV) on research and emerging types of crime. 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 joins the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia in a meeting with the new Minister of Interior of Serbia

22 December 2020, Belgrade, Serbia: The UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia and the Head of the UNODC Programme Office in Serbia met with the new Minister of Interior of Serbia to discuss a number of key priorities for the UN and Serbia, including the UNODC mandated areas such as countering trafficking in persons, firearms and wildlife, combating corruption, illicit financial flows and asset recovery as well as other crucial topics. During the meeting, UNODC present-

ties for an enhanced partnership between the Ministry of Interior and the UN and its



agencies in Serbia including UNODC and agreed on the importance of further cooperation and strengthening collaboration on key priority areas in the country. The Minister expressed support and commitment to the joint efforts in achieving results in the mentioned areas.

forts aimed at practical results, despite the ongoing pandemic. The meeting allowed the presentation of the results of work in 2020 as well as plans for 2021, along with the new RACVIAC Strategy for 2021-2026 which aims to further deepen the security cooperation and strategic dialogue between countries in the region, build stronger ties with regional and international organizations as well as enhance the exchanges with the civil society and academia. The members also approved MAG Chairmanship by North Macedonia for the next year. Cooperation between UNODC and RACVIAC is based on the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2013.

UNODC efforts highlighted in the UN Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization 2020

1 October 2020, online: The UN released the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization 2020, which showcases how the United Nations Secretariat translates resources into impact. The 2020's edition highlights progress of the past year as well as the collective work to drive the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals. For the first time, it also provides a sampling of the work of the broader

UNODC joins RACVIAC's Advisory meeting

20 October 2020, Rakitje, Croatia/online: UNODC participated in the 44th Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting of the Centre for Security Cooperation in SEE (RACVIAC). During the meeting, the importance of the regional cooperation was reiterated by the RACVIAC members and observers. They underscored the necessity to remain committed to continued ef-



ed the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe 2020-2023 (RP SEE), which provides the framework for the UNODC involvement in the region and shared an overview of the activities currently implemented in Serbia as well as the upcoming initiatives. The counterparts also discussed opportuni-

NEWS AND EVENTS

UN family as well as the system-wide efforts to help respond to COVID-19 and to build a more inclusive and sustainable world. Among the examples, UNODC work in the area of anti-corruption was highlighted, particularly the eighth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) held in 2019, where the UNODC Civil Society Team, as part of an all-woman panel, presented ideas and best practices in collective action initiatives for the implementation of

UNCAC in SEE in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). During the event, UNODC had mentioned conducting three multi-stakeholder workshops in SEE and training over 70 CSOs, 40 private sector entities and governments on the Convention and on the way to make good governance more effective. The workshops proved to be instrumental in fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration in the region. The panel was a follow-up to the UNODC project in SEE to support

the anti-corruption work of civil society organizations.

(For more info: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)



PROMOTING BORDER CONTROL MEASURES/CCP/AIRCOP

UNODC continues its partnership with the EU through the initiative within the UNODC RP SEE entitled "EU-UNODC joint action promoting rule of law and good governance through targeted border control measures at ports and airports in SEE". The action involves the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) and the UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP). It supports the implementation of the UN Conventions on drugs and crime and the EU Acquis, notably the Chapters 23 and 24 addressing serious organized crime, rule of law, good governance and security. More information on the initiative is available in [the UNODC-SEE webpage](#). (For info on the below: Alen Gagula and Bill Wood)



Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Tirana International Airport. At the opening of the event, the Government's commitment to the implementation of the Programme in Albania was underlined, while highlighting the importance of the role of the relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in border control and combatting organized and cross-border crime. The meeting reviewed the results of work in 2020 and the objectives to be addressed in 2021, including the creation of effective national and regional actions; establishment of linkages with other border control and anti-organized crime entities; ensuring sustainability; ensuring the Government's support and raising awareness of the private sector for a better support to the PCU and ACCU functioning. On this occasion, the 2021 workplan has been approved. Furthermore, with the aim of supporting the work and the enforcement interventions of the PCU at Durres Port and of the ACCU at Tirana International Airport, CCP donated operational equipment to the Units, i.e. 20 container trackers/GPS and one vehicle. The

Directors General of the Customs Administration and State Police noted that the donated equipment would assist the Units, particularly in their efforts to fight infringements and trace illicit consignments.

UNODC builds capacity of North Macedonia in risk-led approach to address threats at international airports

14-17 December 2020, online: AIRCOP organized an online training on risk-led approach to address threats at international airports for 50 participants from the Customs Administration and the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia. The training aimed to reinforce the understanding of intelligence, risk management, risk mitigation and their relevance and role in the law enforcement. Through the lens of inter-agency based action, the training focused on passenger information, the structure and the functioning of analysis processes aimed at identifying suspicious patterns from both known and unknown high-risk passengers. Based on the best practices of a European Passenger Information Unit (PIU), the participants also had the opportunity to understand the targeting rules watchlists, data gathering challenges and the integrated approach to tackle criminal organizations and disrupt their networks. The training was conducted using the UNODC E-Learning platform allowing for the participants to exchange views and experiences using multiple questions/answers sessions, instant polls and practical exercises. The training was concluded with final comprehension test, the completion of which generated a certificate of attendance/proficiency for the trainees.



CCP in Albania holds its Annual Steering Committee Meeting and donates border control equipment to Customs and Police

28-29 December, 2020, Korce/Tirana, Albania: CCP organized the Annual Steering Committee Meeting co-chaired by the Director of the Anti-Trafficking Directorate of the Customs Administration and the Police Director of the Tirana International Airport, attended by the representatives of the Albanian State Police, Customs Administrations and officers of the Port Control Unit (PCU) at Durres Port and of the



PROMOTING BORDER CONTROL MEASURES/CCP/AIRCOP

UNODC coordinates action with EU partners in the region

9 and 11 December 2020, online: UNODC participated in the first Project Steering Committee meeting of the Countering Serious Crime in the Western Balkans – IPA 2019 (CSCWB-IPA 2019) project. During the meeting, the project team presented the initiative and its structure while the participants provided their perspectives on its implementation. It was also noted that the project will aim to avoid overlapping in the implementation of activities in the region and closely liaise with the relevant actors to further improve cooperation. UNODC's participation in the meeting was in line with the same goal of coordination and identification of synergies. UNODC emphasized that it will continue to liaise with the CSCWB project to explore possible collaboration in the future. In the same token, UNODC met with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) to discuss the respective initiatives in SEE with the aim to ensure complementarity of capacity building actions in the region. During the meeting, the counterparts provided overviews on respective initiatives in the region and expressed readiness to cooperate in the spirit of non duplication and synergy of efforts. The counterparts agreed to continue updating each other on respective activities to avoid duplication of efforts and enhance complementarity of actions in the region. In addition to these coordination efforts, UNODC also maintains a close connection with the EU delegations in the region, notably through the provisions of quarterly updates on activities in the spirit of information exchange and synergy of actions. Likewise, the EU delegations have been convened to and attended the first Steering Committee of the action.

UNODC strengthens Serbia's capacity to address threats at international airports

7-10 December 2020, online: AIRCOP organized an online workshop on intelligence and risk-led approach to address threats at international airports for 13 experts and officials from the Ministry of Interior, the Customs Administration, and the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructures of Serbia. The event was attended by the UNODC Global Firearms Programme (GFP) with a view to enhance synergies within the border control action. The workshop

aimed to deepen the knowledge of the participants in intelligence and risk assessment as effective operational approach to tackle criminal organizations and disrupt their networks; the operational environment and assessing the key elements for full integration of border clearance procedures in international airports; and learning how to adapt the law enforcement countermeasures against the rising threats impacting borders. The training outlined different operational scenarios and illustrated different border clearance methodologies, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses and raising awareness on the adoption of a risk-based approach against the threats posed by criminal organizations at international airports. The workshop, delivered in partnership with the Interpol Regional Counter-Terrorism Node for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF) and Europe, was conducted using the UNODC E-Learning platform. The participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and thoughts using the live sessions integrated into the course with multiple questions/answers sessions and instant polls. The training also included a final comprehension test, the completion of which generated a certificate of attendance/proficiency for the trainees.

UNODC conducted a refresher training for ACCU at Sarajevo International Airport

2-3 December 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina/Montenegro: CCP delivered an online refresher training for the officers of the ACCU at the Sarajevo International Airport. The training revisited modules and topics delivered during previous training events and presented new law enforcement materials and practices of the law enforcement structures on successful prevention of smuggling and detection of illegal activities in air cargo operations. Delivered by the trainers from UNODC and WCO, the training was attended by the appointed ACCU officers com-

prised of the Border Police and the ITA of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as officials of the Sarajevo Airport Authority.

UNODC builds capacities of the border control officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

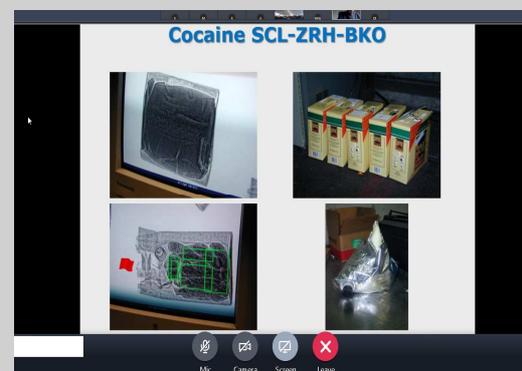
16-18 November 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina/Montenegro: CCP delivered a Joint Condensed Refresher Training for the officers of the PCUs at the port of Bar and the land border crossing/customs point Bijača. The course presented to the PCU officers included topics related to smuggling modus operandi, updates related to container tracking, drug precursors and inter-agency and international cooperation. A specific segment was dedicated to the issue of dangerous goods storage and security lessons learned from the ports in Tianjin, China and Beirut, Lebanon, and the devastating consequences in the case of latter. The training was also used to discuss future training prospects for both PCUs and joint activities to be implemented over the course of 2021.

UNODC meets with the new Ambassador to the EU in North Macedonia

20 October 2020, Skopje, North Macedonia: In line with the continued UNODC-EU dialogue in the region, the Head of the UNODC Programme Office in North Macedonia met with the new Ambassador of the EU



in the country to discuss the cooperation in the region, including in the context of the RP SEE and the EU-funded joint EU-UNODC action on enhanced border control in the region, as well as other UNODC initiatives. UNODC briefed the Ambassador on the overall framework of the UNODC-EU partnership and the progress and implementation of the said action to date within other UNODC programmes.



PROMOTING BORDER CONTROL MEASURES/CCP/AIRCOP

Passenger Data Exchange organized jointly by the OSCE and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to discuss ways to responsibly use passenger data and promote the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017), which focuses on preventing the return of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) by mandating States to adopt and use both Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data systems. The objective of the event was to further support the States in developing data collection tools and provide opportunities to identify potential partnerships by focusing on several thematic areas, such as use of API/PNR for public health in times of crisis; building a PIU; collecting and analyzing the data along with the CT Travel Programme and the related goTravel software. The seminar brought together over 150 passenger data experts and representatives from international organizations and the private sector who stressed the importance of information sharing, interagency cooperation and the adoption of a risk-based approach aimed at fully integrating the civil aviation requirements with law enforcement needs in terms of border clearance. Several experts briefed the participants on legislative considerations and provisions for collecting and using passenger data for public health purposes. The event enabled the exchange of experience and best practices with OSCE and other partners with regard to UNODC mandate in this area in SEE. AIRCOP contributed to the seminar by presenting its activities on border control at global level, including the current action.

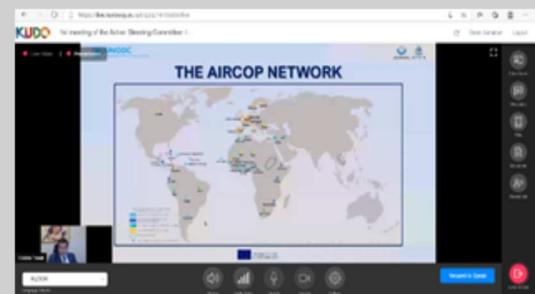


logical or nuclear (CBRN) materials. As part of the integral CCP training cycle for PCUs participating in the Programme, the STECT contributes to exploring the relationship between effective profiling of containers and its implications for the economy, and aims at building the capacity of PCUs to detect illicit trade within the containerized supply chain



through the detailed examination of pre-arrival information. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to the officers of PCU Bijača, the training was also attended by a number of customs and law enforcement officers involved in the Working Group on strategic and dual-use goods within the ITA, which was established to facilitate the work of frontline customs and other relevant officers by providing guidance and support in matters related to strategic and dual-use goods. In Montenegro, the event was used to review topics and content introduced in the first STECT delivered in 2019 and also present new topics related to the proliferation of CBRN materials and explosives, as well as other challenging subjects, such as military hardware identification.

(DG NEAR); implementing partners of the action (WCO and INTERPOL) and the EU Delegations in the region. This first session of the action's Steering Committee Meeting was moderated by UNODC and addressed by UNODC and EU senior officials in its opening session. In his opening remarks, the Head of Western Balkans Regional Cooperation of the DG NEAR provided the context for the EU engagement in the region, particularly in terms of economic convergence and stressed that economic development in the Western Balkans requires strong rule of law and that this joint action is instrumental in that respect. Subsequently, UNODC provided an overview of the objectives and goals of the action, as well as an update on the implementation and status of activities. The Governments' perspectives were heard with the addressed jurisdictions' updates on progress, successful operations in the framework of cooperation with UNODC and next steps within the action, specific to each jurisdiction and allowing to target priorities and



tailor the project activities accordingly. Finally, the action workplan for 2021 was discussed. The meeting concluded with an overview of the action's visibility work to date and future undertakings. The action's Steering Committee is aimed at providing specific guidance and support to the action as it al-



lows for all the stakeholders to meet and discuss key issues aimed at reviewing the progress of the action and deciding on future undertakings. In doing so, the national ownership of the governments in the region is ensured leading to greater coordination and coherence in the action implementation. The action Steering Committee meetings will be held annually.

UNODC organized trainings on Strategic Trade and Export Control in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

26-29 October 2020, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 2-5 November 2020, Bar, Montenegro: CCP delivered Strategic Trade and Export Control Training (STECT) for frontline officers of the PCUs at the land border crossing Bijača in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Port of Bar in Montenegro. The STECT is an intense training that explores the risk of non-state actors exploiting the containerized supply chain, as is regularly seen with drugs and other illicit commodities, to traffic or deliver weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or their component parts, comprising chemical, biological, radio-

UNODC held the first Steering Committee Meeting of the border control action

22 October 2020, online: UNODC organized the first Steering Committee Meeting of the action in SEE. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders of the action, including the Focal Points of the action, senior representatives from the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

PROMOTING BORDER CONTROL MEASURES/CCP/AIRCOP

UNODC provides practical training on the use of preliminary drug test kits for border control officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina

20 October 2020, Sarajevo/30 October 2020 Gradiška, Bosnia and Herzegovina: CCP delivered a hands-on training on the use of drug identification kits, which were donated to the PCU at the land border crossing Gradiška and ACCU at the Sarajevo International Airport to further support the operational capacities of the Units. The training falls within the CCP training curriculum that follows the “Crawl-Walk-Run” approach – a staged training cycle delivered to PCUs and ACCUs worldwide. The hands-on training was delivered in cooperation with the



Federal Police Directorate – Center for Forensic and Information Technology Support and its experts, who trained representatives from the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ITA on the use of drug identification kits and other practical techniques required in field conditions. As part of the training, the participants were provided with practical demonstrations on the use of the kits, allowing for their active participation. The UNODC test kits, developed and produced by the Laboratory and Scientific Sec-

tion, are intended to provide law enforcement officers with rapid and simple color tests for the preliminary field identification of drugs and precursors most commonly encountered in the illicit traffic. The high-end scales have multiple features and are a valuable tool in precision weighing, which is necessary for the precise measurement of the quantity of seized drugs.

UNODC participated in the webinar on Southeast Europe / Mediterranean Border Challenges

14 October 2020, online: UNODC participated in a webinar on Border Challenges in the Southeast Europe-Mediterranean Region in the Context of Counter-Terrorism and Related Transnational Organized Crime organized by World Border Security Congress and United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT). The UNODC representative briefed the participants on the regional border control challenges and provided an overview on UNODC involvement and its efforts in the region in the framework of the RP SEE, as well as the EU and UNODC joint action. The discussions included presentations from key experts from the region, with particular focus on current threats, the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, main gaps and challenges for border management, and the need for border security strategies, plans of action, and processes that incorporate counter-terrorism components as well as crisis and risk management mechanisms within the current pandemic context.



the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the OSCE. The meetings with the national and international counterparts in association with the technical assessment of the Belgrade airport helped establish a commitment to the action and presented an opportunity to better address the foreseeable implementation steps, discuss administrative details and build relationships installing confidence on both sides and enhancing the cooperation at international level.



UNODC donates equipment to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

October 2020, Sarajevo/Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC handed over IT, basic search and protective equipment, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the inter-agency ACCU at Sarajevo International Airport and PCU of the Gradiška land border crossing, consisting of members of the ITA and the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The donation is part of the continuous support of the CCP in Bosnia and Herzegovina aimed to assist domestic institutions in establishing a sustainable inter-agency joint team working to reduce the risk of container misuse for the purpose of illicit commodities, organized crime and other forms of illegal activities. UNODC strives to build capacity of the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to improve security in the licit economy, promote cooperation with the private sector and strengthen controls at state borders.

UNODC assesses the Belgrade airport to support enhanced border control in Serbia

5-9 October 2020, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC conducted a technical assessment of the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport in view of the establishment of the joint team composed of a Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) and an ACCU. The mission provided an opportunity to discuss the progress and future steps of the initiative during the meetings with the Ministry of Interior, Customs Administration, Ministry of Communication and Infrastructure and Directorate for Civil Aviation of Serbia as well as international stakeholders, including the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX),



UNODC and OSCE hold a joint virtual regional training on organized crime, confiscation and social re-use of assets in SEE

15-16 December 2020, online: UNODC and OSCE organized a joint virtual regional workshop on organized crime, confiscation and social re-use of assets in SEE in the framework of the UNODC Education for Justice Initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration on “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation” and the OSCE project on “Strengthening the fight against transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe through improved regional co-operation in assets seizure, confiscation, management and re-use”. The workshop aimed at raising awareness on the security threats posed by organized crime to societies, the benefits of social re-use of assets confiscated in organized crime and corruption cases, and the role that academia and youth in particular can play in this context. Officials from SEE attended the event with representatives among the participants from the criminal justice system, including law enforcement and asset management agencies, ministries of education and youth, representatives of youth associations, civil society organisations, think tanks, academia and higher education institutions. The event also provided the opportunity to present the [UNODC report on Measuring Organized Crime in the Western Balkans](#), which further bolstered the discussion and exchanges among the participants.



Skopje. The event brought together senior officials from the Government of North Macedonia, including the Deputy Prime Minister for the Fight Against Corruption, Sustainable Development, and Human Resources and the President of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption as well as the UN Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia and international counterparts. During the event, the statement of the United Nations Secretary General was highlighted. He said that “Corruption is criminal, immoral and the ultimate betrayal of public trust” and “It is even more damaging in times of crisis – as the world is experiencing now with the COVID-19 pandemic”. In the light of preparatory work on the COVID-19 vaccine deployment, the UNODC Anti-Corruption Advisor stressed that the scale and complexity of COVID-19 vaccines manufacture, allocation and distribution globally will present corruption risks that may threaten the health public goals. These corruption risks, such as the entry of substandard and falsified vaccines into markets, theft of vaccines, nepotism, favoritism and others, should be identified and mitigated by public institutions to help advance access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for the population. The UNODC advisor said that “The governments, the private sector and civil society must adopt and apply more robust systems for accountability, transparency and integrity without delay”. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), provides a solid global framework for these efforts.



UNODC launches the development of a Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance in SEE

1 December 2020, online: At the third meeting of the Security Commitments Steering Group (SCSG), established through the Berlin Process, in January 2020 in Sofia, Bul-

garia, the SCSG agreed to create and deliver the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance (Roadmap) to improve implementation of existing anti-corruption and illicit finance measures in a small number of shared priority areas. The SCSG also agreed that UNODC should lead the facilitation and design of the Roadmap for ministerial consideration and approval at the 2020 Berlin Process Summit in Sofia. Accordingly, UNODC initiated the preparatory works to develop the Roadmap for the six jurisdictions of SEE and held the first consultation meeting with the authorities of Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 to identify top anti-corruption priorities. In preparation of the meeting, UNODC produced a desk-based analysis of the most relevant recommendations stemming from the voluntary gap analysis of Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 implementation of the UNCAC, the 2018 Anti-corruption Pledges, the European Commission, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) through the Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244. The consultation, which was organized in cooperation with UNMIK, allowed for the UNODC experts to inform the authorities in Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 of the purpose and objectives of the Roadmap and identify the first set of priority areas that would benefit from the initiative.

UNODC held consultations with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance

15 December 2020, online: UNODC continues the preparatory work for the development of the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance in SEE and held the related consultations with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to identify the main anti-corruption priorities in the country. The initial discussion with the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption of Bosnian and Herzegovina (APIK) focused on a variety of technical priorities including the possible support in developing action plans for the Roadmap over 2020-2024, which would be aligned to the national strategy once approved; capacity building of the

preventive anti-corruption bodies; support to develop an electronic database to help verify asset and conflict of interest declarations; whistleblower protection; support to digitalization and other important issues. The meeting was also attended by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), who provided an overview of its current Whistleblower Protection programme and the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations, of which Bosnia and Herzegovina is part. The event provided an opportunity for UNODC to present the purpose of the Roadmap and ensure support from the authorities to further actions aimed at addressing the outstanding priorities in countering corruption and illicit financial flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNODC held consultations with the authorities in Montenegro to discuss the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance

22 December 2020, online: UNODC continues the preparatory work for the development of the Regional Roadmap on Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance in SEE and held the related consultations with the authorities in Montenegro to identify the main anti-corruption priorities in the country. The initial discussion with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC), the Financial Intelligence Unit, and the Procurement Office focused on a variety of topics related to received recommendations in the context of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Review Mechanism, the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and Moneyval evaluations as well as the anti-corruption pledges in order to identify a long list of anti-corruption and illicit finance priorities in Montenegro. The meeting was also attended by RAI, who provided an overview of its current Whistleblower Protection programme and the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations, of which Montenegro is part. The event provided an opportunity for UNODC to present the purpose of the Roadmap and ensure support from the authorities to further actions aimed at addressing the outstanding priorities in countering corruption and illicit financial flows in Montenegro.

UNODC provides legislative advice in anti-corruption field

24 November 2020, online: UNODC participated in the open consultations of the Ministry of Justice of Kosovo under UNSCR 1244 on the draft law on the Prevention of Corruption Agency. This bill establishes a broad mandate to implement the Law on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Exercising Public Function, Law on Declaration, Origin and Control of Assets and Law on Protection of Whistleblowers. It also covers administrative investigations and support to the corruption risk assessments, anti-corruption strategies and legislative initiatives. The draft law also aims to strengthen the man-



date of the Prevention of Corruption Agency, change its status and goals as an independent and specialized body for the implementation of state policies for the prevention of corruption that fall within its scope as well as changes and innovations in terms of status, redefining and redesigning the competencies of the Prevention of Corruption Agency and scope of the Agency in the area of corruption prevention. UNODC provided advice on various matters related to the structure of the agency, recommended timelines to conduct investigations, the role of the agency to support Kosovo's anti-corruption legislative initiatives, accountability and transparency measures as well as advice on good practices.

UNODC continues cooperation with the Berlin Process for the Western Balkans

6 October 2020, online: UNODC contributed to the Fourth Conference of the Berlin Process Security Commitments Steering Group (SCSG) held under the joint presidency of Bulgaria and North Macedonia. Within the event's first session, UNODC briefed the participants on its work within the Regional Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap, where UNODC acts as the independent secretariat, leading the Roadmap's development and implementation. The initiative aims to build and foster partnerships and create the Regional Roadmap to fast-track the implementation of existing anti-corruption and illicit finance commitments, including the

United Nations Convention against Corruption, in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The overall objective of the Roadmap is to accelerate the effective implementation of these commitments by leveraging regional capacities and knowledge, assisting jurisdictions and development partners to fast-track existing commitments, including UNCAC implementation priorities (also GRECO, MONEYVAL, etc.), and carrying out activities that serve to achieve tangible results in advancing jurisdictions' efforts to implement anti-corruption and illicit finance commitments. The work of the Regional Roadmap is in line with the RP SEE and complements the large-scale new UNODC project in the asset recovery area, which is being launched in SEE. The UNODC's engagement in the Regional Roadmap is supported by the Governments of the UK and Germany and the work on asset recovery – by the Government of the UK.

UNODC participates in the anti-corruption academic workshop of the Southeastern European Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative (SEE ACAD)

17-18 November 2020, online: UNODC took part in the Academic Group Meeting of the SEE ACAD Initiative, organized by the Washington and Lee University School of Law and the University of Tirana, Albania, Law Faculty in cooperation with the Beirut Arab University and La Sagesse University Faculties of Law in Beirut, Lebanon. The meeting aimed at enhancing the capacity of participating professors, academics, and students to deliver and participate in high-quality anti-corruption education and activities in their respective institutions. The discussion was led by academics from the Western Balkans, the United States and Lebanon, RAI, the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), the Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC) in Geneva and UNODC. The UNODC expert contributed to the discussion by presenting the Regional Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap, an initiative conducted in partnership with RAI. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion among students with presentations on practical anti-corruption clinical legal education from the students' perspective. *(For more info on all in this section: Virginia De Abajo Marques)*

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM

OSCE and UNODC help Bosnia and Herzegovina to detect and combat terrorist financing

9-11 December 2020, online: The OSCE Secretariat in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNODC organized a train-the-trainer course with the aim of strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacities to analyze terrorist financing risks and threats. Senior experts and practitioners from the Ministry of Security, the Prosecutor's Office, the State Investigation and Protection Agency and other authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the training, which emphasized the key role of inter-agency and international cooperation and of multi-stakeholder approaches in countering terrorist financing. Participants further went on to adapting, together with leading trainers, the OSCE-UNODC training course to the needs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The senior experts participating in the courses, jointly with OSCE and UNODC lead trainers, will go on to train

fellow experts from relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the coming years. The multi-year training programme on countering terrorist financing aims to increase the country's capacity to detect and combat terrorist financing and strengthen compliance with international standards in this area.

OSCE and UNODC support Bosnia and Herzegovina in countering the financing of terrorism

23-25 November 2020, online: OSCE and UNODC organized an online train-the-trainer course with the aim of strengthening Bosnia and Herzegovina's capacities in countering the financing of terrorism. Senior experts and practitioners from the Ministry of Security, the Prosecutor's Office, the State Investigation and Protection Agency and other authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the course. Together with the OSCE lead trainers, the participants co-produced

scenario-based exercises, adapting the OSCE-UNODC training courses on countering terrorist financing to the needs of the country. They also learned how to facilitate presentations and discussions with representatives from multiple agencies at the upcoming training courses. As part of a sustainable training programme delivered by OSCE and UNODC, the senior experts participating in the courses, jointly with the OSCE and UNODC lead trainers, will go on to train further experts from relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the coming years. The multi-year training programme on countering terrorist financing aims to increase the country's capacity to detect and combat terrorist financing and strengthen compliance with international standards in this area. The train-the-trainer course emphasized the key role of inter-agency and international cooperation and of multi-stakeholder approaches in countering terrorist financing. *(For more info on all in this section: Oliver Gadney)*

FIREARMS CONTROL

Currently, UNODC through its GFP is implementing the following projects in SEE: (i) A regional project on Criminal Justice Response against Arms Trafficking, aimed at supporting the six Western Balkan jurisdictions in strengthening their criminal justice response to firearms related criminality, particularly illicit arms trafficking and their links to transnational organized crime; (ii) the joint UNODC – UNDP project on Halting arms and lawbreaking trade (HALT) aimed at enhancing the capacities of the ITA, as well as Border Police, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and three postal agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina to better combat illicit arms trafficking through development of standard operating procedures, provision of training, and procurement of specialized equipment for the detection of smuggled firearms. The financial support for these projects is provided under the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024 (Roadmap) Multi-Partner Trust Fund by Germany, UK, Netherlands, France, Sweden and Norway.



UNODC supports Western Balkans in countering illicit firearms trafficking

2 December, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC GFP met with the Director of the Judicial Academy in Serbia to explore the potential for partnership on countering illicit manufactur-

ing of and trafficking in firearms in Serbia and the region, within the UNODC regional project on countering firearms trafficking. The scope of engagement and upcoming publications were discussed, in order to ensure national ownership and maximum impact. UNODC GFP efforts were welcomed and future cooperation with the Judicial Academy will secure the sustainability in strengthening the capacities of judges and prosecutors in Serbia.

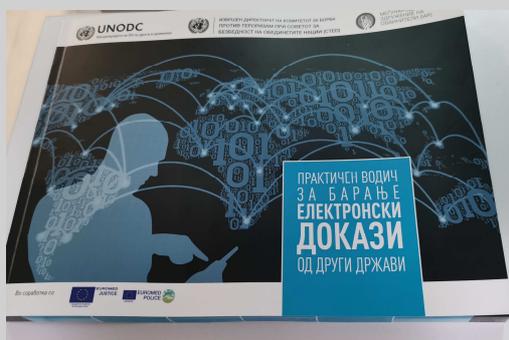


27 November 2020, Skopje, North Macedonia: UNODC GFP met with the Public Prosecutor's Office of North Macedonia, including the Republic's Chief Public Prosecutor and Public Prosecutor specializing in firearms cases, to discuss cooperation in the area of countering illicit arms trafficking. The participants discussed the Regional Roadmap and other initiatives and agreed on the need to work together to achieve tangible results. The mentioned areas for cooperation included developing Guidelines for investigating and prosecuting firearms trafficking, capacity building for the prosecutors on electronic evidence and identification of firearms, as well as inter-agency information.

FIREARMS CONTROL

The mentioned areas for cooperation included developing Guidelines for investigating and prosecuting firearms trafficking, capacity building for the prosecutors on electronic evidence and identification of firearms, as well as inter-agency information sharing also involving the customs administration, the judiciary and the border police. The counterparts also discussed creating a legal framework for cooperation between the offices through a Memorandum of Understanding, to be developed and signed in the future. During the meeting, UNODC took the opportunity to share with the counterparts the UNODC Practical Guide for Requesting Electronic Evidence Across Borders, translated into Macedonian language.

20 November 2020, online, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC GFP participated in the 4th Local Coordination Meeting of the SALW Roadmap hosted by the SALW Coordination Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina to review the progress of the implementation of the SALW Strategy as well as to discuss challenges brought by the COVID-19 crisis. The participants were briefed on the progress



achieved in the corresponding areas of the Roadmap to date and next steps to be taken. The meeting also highlighted the findings of the 4th Roadmap Progress Report, presented by South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). Finally, the participants shared an overview of ongoing and planned activities and contributions related to the implementation of the Roadmap in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this occasion, UNODC provided an update on the status of its activities within the HALT project and the UNODC regional project on countering firearms trafficking.

3 November 2020, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC GFP held a coordination meeting of the UNODC regional project on countering firearms trafficking with the national author-

ities of Serbia, including the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs, the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, the High Judicial Council the Customs Administration. The meeting presented an opportunity to discuss UNODC's contribution towards countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms in Serbia and the wider region. The UNODC efforts in Serbia were welcomed by the authorities and concrete suggestions were discussed to ensure effective implementation of the planned activities. In the upcoming period, the specific activities and the scope of engagement of UNODC GFP in Serbia will be defined in cooperation with the national authorities.



21-23 October 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC GFP met with the national authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Chief Prosecutor, the President of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and the Director of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Center of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the implementation in the country of the UNODC regional project on countering firearms trafficking. The scope of the discussions included the applicable legal framework to arms trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the identification of trainings and capacity building needs for judges and prosecutors. Through this project, UNODC GFP aims at tackling the immediate needs of the national authorities, building on past and ongoing efforts and initiatives carried out in the Western Balkan region in countering illicit firearms trafficking and organized crime. During the discussions, the counterparts welcomed the support of UNODC GFP in Bosnia and Herzegovina while agreeing on future cooperation focusing on training and capacity building. Strengthening the capacity of national authorities in the Western Balkans to detect, investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking and its links to other serious crimes is recognized to be very important as it contributes to the reinforcement of the rule of law. The importance of

harmonization of national legislation with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes and its Protocols has been emphasized as it is an essential pre-requisite for effective and sustainable efforts to effectively control firearms and prevent the diversion and trafficking.



20 October 2020, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC GFP met with the Assistant Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the activities under the HALT project, in particular the importance of raising awareness in the private sector on prevention of arms trafficking and the organization of two workshops for the private courriers companies in the transportation and parcel deliveries sectors to help improve their procedures, increase cost savings and reduce operational risks. This will result in more efficient, smooth and closer cooperation of the Government with the private sector.

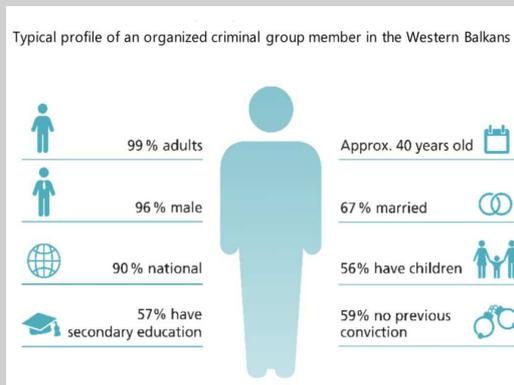


(For more info on all in this section: Dimitrije Ristic, Dubravka Piotrovski, Kiro Cvetkov)

ORGANIZED CRIME

UNODC Launches Comprehensive Regional Report on Organized Crime in the Western Balkans

14 December 2020, online: UNODC launched a comprehensive [report](#) which sheds light on the nature, characteristics, and level of organized crime in the Western Balkans. The report offers a comprehensive overview of the structure and modus operandi of criminal groups in the region, and provides an in-depth analysis of devices that criminals resort to in order to evade justice—such as obstruction of justice and corruption—as well as the different forms of communication they use. The publication also



provides insight into women's roles in organized crime in the region – Covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, the report aims to improve responses to organized crime. This is particularly important, as the rate for convictions in cases related to organized crime show a steady decline throughout the region. While in 2013 there were 744 convictions, by 2017 this number dwindled down to 491 convic-

tions. Prosecutions, on the other hand, increased by more than six-fold. While there were 217 prosecutions in 2013, in 2017 the number of cases prosecuted grew to 1,328. The Report concludes that the discrepancy between the number of convictions and prosecutions suggests a gap in evidence gathering, constructing successful prosecutions, and properly adjudicating organized crime cases. The report serves as a useful reference tool for local policy makers, but also acts as a blueprint for any country or region performing systematic assessments of organized crime. *(For info: Tejal Jesrani)*

UNODC undertakes a fact-finding mission on trafficking in cultural property in SEE

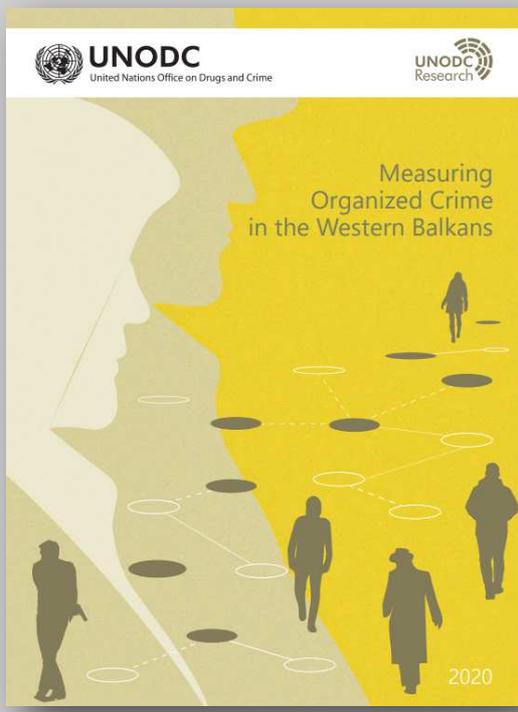
November/December 2020, online: UNODC in cooperation with the Government of Italy, in particular the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage, organized a fact-finding mission to review the situation on countering trafficking in cultural property in SEE, which was held in the form of online meetings with the relevant authorities in the region. UNODC consulted key stakeholders on the existing administrative and criminal legal frameworks, collection of statistics, databases, coordination mechanisms and measures to investigate, prosecute, adjudicate and recover trafficked cultural property. UNODC also gathered information on laws, regulations and statistics and analyzed reports and data available to partners and in open sources and can provide recommendations on the legal and institutional frameworks, and areas for their improvement in line with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offences. The purpose of the fact-finding mission was to provide UNODC with a better understanding of the current situation with regard to trafficking in cultural property in the region and the potential areas for UNODC's involvement in supporting institutional and legislative capacity as well as regional cooperation on this topic. Possible future UNODC's engagement in this topic will be on the basis of the requests of the Governments and subject to other factors. *(For more info on this and the below: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*

UNODC joins the EMPACT meeting on Tackling Illegal Waste Disposal and Shipment

19 November 2020, online: UNODC participated in the Operational Meeting of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) on Tackling Illegal Waste Disposal and Shipment, organized by the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service and the Embassy of France in Vienna. The event brought together the relevant experts from Western Europe and SEE as well as representatives from EUROPOL, INTERPOL, OSCE, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNODC. UNODC provided an overview of the Office's mandate and ongoing initiatives in the relevant area, such as the development of a legislative guide on illegal waste, as well as the UNODC approach in addressing other crimes that have an impact on the environment, i.e. wildlife, forest and fisheries crime. The RP SEE and the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime are jointly exploring possibilities to support the Governments of SEE in preventing and countering wildlife and forest crime and waste trafficking through strengthening their national capacities and promoting cooperation.

PCC SEE Secretariat and UNODC convene a regional dialogue in support of Joint Investigation Teams in SEE

3-4 November 2020, online: UNODC and the Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC SEE) held the PCC SEE 6th Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) Expert Network for Southeast Europe. The field of JITs remains a central priority for the operational cooperation of the PCC SEE Contracting Parties. The JIT Expert Network represents the working group, established to facilitate the setting up and organization of JITs in practice and discuss relevant practical and legislative issues pertaining to the cooperation among the EU and non-EU Contracting Parties to the PCC SEE. The meeting brought together the PCC SEE Contracting Parties and the relevant stakeholders in the region to discuss the countering illicit trafficking and use of firearms as well as controlled deliveries. The first day of the event focused on the cooperation within the EU and beyond. Emphasis was also pla-



ORGANIZED CRIME

ced on achievements and lessons learnt by the PCC SEE Contracting Parties. The next day's first session was dedicated to the criminal justice response to countering illicit trafficking and use of firearms. UNODC briefed the participants on fighting trafficking in firearms, their illicit possession and use. The second session, focused on the controlled deliveries, was facilitated by UNODC and other partners. The event provided an opportunity for fruitful discussions on the practical and operational ways of further improving cooperation in the field of JITs with specific emphasis on firearms and control deliveries. The participants shared their experience, discussed the legislative and operational challenges in practice and the importance of partnerships.

UNODC supports the regional efforts in countering trafficking in cultural property in SEE

20-21 October 2020, Venice, Italy/online: UNODC attended a sub-regional impact-assessment meeting on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property or-



ganized by UNESCO. The event was organized in the context of the 50th anniversary of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Pro-

hibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 25th anniversary of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, and brought together the main UNESCO partners in this field as well as representatives from the relevant authorities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Romania. The meeting was aimed at taking stock of the results following the approval of the Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation (Ohrid Strategy) by the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe – Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development in 2014, that included the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property as a priority.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

UNODC holds a regional expert group meeting on combating trafficking in human beings in SEE

26-27 November 2020, online: UNODC organized the first Regional Expert Group Meeting on “Facilitating Cooperation Between the Public and Private Sector in Combating Trafficking in Persons in SEE” in collaboration with the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of Bulgaria and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France. The event aimed at enhancing substantive knowledge of the participants about the UNTOC and its Review Mechanism, as well as the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The participants focused on how partnership with the private sector can assist the concerned jurisdictions in SEE in their implementation of UNTOC and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol with the view to tackle transnational organized criminal activities in the region while protecting the human rights of victims of Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and ensuring prosperous societies. In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity to collect inputs for the Compendium of Promising Practices on Public-Private Partnership to Counter TiP, which is one of the main results of the UNODC project “Public-private partnerships: Fostering engagement with the private sector on the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol” under which the event took place. The meeting was attended by 41 experts from ten countries of origin,

transit and destination of TiP victims. In addition to UNODC, other international and regional organizations were also present as well as representatives of civil society, Animus Association and Centre for the Study of Democracy, La Strada, Astra and Atina and the private sector (Western Union, MSC Cruise, Uber, American Express).

UNODC supports the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in countering trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labour

27-29 October 2020, Jahorina/10-12 November 2020, Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC in collaboration with the



Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centers for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with support of the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, organized two multidisciplinary trainings on Identifying and Investigating Cases of Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Labour in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The discussions were led by academia and the national authorities and included topics such as legal concept of TiP with focus on forced labour from international, domestic and comparative perspectives; identification of victims of TiP for the purpose of forced labour, indicators for identification and inter-agency cooperation as well as etiology and root causes, risk factors and victims' vulnerability, methods of prevention and role of private sector, victim's rights and possibilities of compensation. In addition, the participants discussed the investigative approach to TiP through presentation of procedures for interviewing, evidence collection and investigative measures, and crime scene management and indictment preparation and conduction of a mock trial. Over 29 officials in October and 25 officials in November including judges, prosecutors law enforcement officers and labour inspections representing the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina attended the trainings and participated in the work group exercises and mock trials. *(For more info on all in this section: Davor Raus)*

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

UNODC holds the Paris Pact Expert Working Group meeting on Investing in Families for Effective Drug Prevention and Treatment

15-16 December 2020, online: UNODC organized the Paris Pact Expert Working Group (EWG) on Investing in Families for Effective Drug Prevention and Treatment with the presence of delegates from the Paris Pact Initiative partner countries and organizations, including from the countries of South Eastern and Eastern Europe: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine. During the event, some of the recommendations from the previous Expert Working Group meetings under the Pillar IV of the Vienna Declaration on drug prevention and health were elaborated and updated and new ones were formulated. The meeting also included a series of interactive sessions related to drug treatment services in the participating countries. The focus was set on the role of families in the prevention and treatment of drug use and drug use disorders, as well as other problem behaviours. UNODC and experts from Paris Pact partner countries and organizations presented evidence-based programmes, including family prevention and treatment programmes that have been developed by UNODC, and good practices in involving families in effective drug prevention and treatment strategies.

UNODC introduces the Strong Families programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina and scales up drug use prevention

9-12 November 2020, online: In partnership with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the NGO Narko-Ne, UNODC supported the organization of an online training for educators in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the UNODC Strong Families programme. This tool is a family skills programme for challenged settings, that provides an evidence-informed prevention response, building family skills that benefits the health and safe development of children. The main component of this programme is to strengthen the family structure and functions to help families prevent drug use, violence and other negative social consequences in their children. Once trained, the professionals will be asked to test the effectiveness

of the online training approach with the application of the Strong Families programme directly with the chosen group of families. This pilot initiative will allow additional cultural adaptation of the training materials to the national context and customization of the implementation methodology of the programme accordingly. The group of professionals trained online will be invited to the in-person trainings, once the COVID-19 situation allows for it, to talk about their experience and support further development of the Strong Families programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This initiative is financially supported by the UNDP office in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Norwegian Embassy in Sarajevo with the overall support of the NGO Narko-Ne and UNODC Programme Office in Serbia.



UNODC supports Serbia in treatment of adolescents with substance use disorders

15 October 2020, Belgrade, Serbia: UNODC supported the development of a guiding document on "Mapping of services for the treatment of adolescents with substance use disorders" in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Serbia, the national Expert Committee for Addiction Diseases and with the support of international experts in the field of treatment of substance use disorders. This tool, which was released in English and Serbian, provides further analysis on the national capacities of treatment services for persons with substance use disorders in Serbia, including their availability and variety. It also identifies the areas for improvement in the treatment of adolescent

groups and effective care using a comprehensive approach to treatment involving all relevant actors. Following the release of this guiding document, evidence-based treatment modalities were suggested for consideration by the Ministry of Health of Serbia with a view to improve and further strengthen the national treatment system in line with the International Standards for the treatment of persons with drug use disorders. The next steps should entail the development of a national Action Plan along with the identification of key partners, institutions, technical documents and timelines to scale up treatment services for adolescents with substance use disorders on the basis of the identified recommendations.

UNODC joins the OSCE conference on Strengthening Effective Prevention of Drug Use among Youth through Community Policing

6 October 2020, Vienna, Austria and online: Under the auspices of the Albanian 2020 OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat, the 2020 OSCE-wide Conference on Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors: Strengthening Effective Prevention of Drug Use among Youth through Community Policing, was organized to provide a platform for experts of OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation, including UNODC, to discuss collective responses, including by means of community policing, to prevent youth from drug use and abuse, and to reduce the risk of them getting involved in criminal networks engaged in drug trafficking, supply and/or distribution. While traditional policing focuses on supply reduction and increasing the cost of drug use, community policing can embrace a broader, more effective approach that links supply and demand reduction by including prevention and treatment efforts. UNODC highlighted the importance of the evidence based response system to effectively address vulnerability to use substances during different ages of development. Moreover, in line with the envisaged multifaceted approach to substance use prevention among youth, Law Enforcement and Community Policing are playing constructive role in addressing these vulnerabilities. (For more info on all in this section: Milos Stojanovic)