

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@unodc.org) and Ms. Lejla Karahasanovic (lejla.karahasanovic@unodc.org).

NEWS AND EVENTS

UNODC joins the 17th PCC SEE Committee of Ministers

7 September 2017, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia: The Committee of Ministers of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe (PCC SEE) met in Brdo pri Kranju for the 17th time in its statutory capacity of the highest PCC SEE decision-making body. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Serbian PCC SEE Chairmanship-in-Office, in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the PCC SEE Secretariat as co-chairs, and the Slovenian Ministry of Interior as the host. Ministers of home affairs and authorised representatives from the contracting parties acknowledged the new strategic alignment of the PCC SEE implementation process - PCC SEE Plus, which paves the way for the implementation of the five PCC SEE core clusters dedicated to data protection, information exchange, operational cooperation, countering terrorism, and automated exchange of data, and reviewed other elements of the PCC SEE work.

Ministers of the Western Balkans launch an innovative EU initiative - the WB IISG

8 September 2017, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia: The Board of the Western Balkans Integrative Internal Security Governance (WB IISG) initiative, the highest-level monitoring body within the initiative's implementation process, was convened for the first time in the framework of the hosting Brdo Process, a regional ministerial-level initiative led by the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior. The Ministers of the Western Balkan countries and other Brdo Process members expressed their full support and endorsed the establishment of the WB IISG framework together with the Terms of Reference to guide its operation and division of tasks. The WB Chair and Support Group will be hosted by DCAF Ljubljana - the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. Regional, EU and international IISG Partners expressed their strong support for the WB IISG. The IISG Board also appointed Lead Partner functions in Pillar I (Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism Initiative), Pillar II (Western Balkan Counter-Serious Crime Initiative) and Pillar III (Western Balkan Border Security Initiative). UNODC is an active member of the IISG, in particular its Pillar II. *(For info on all on the above: Ekaterina Kolykhalova)*



MONEY-LAUNDERING, FINANCING OF TERRORISM AND ASSET FORFEITURE

UNODC holds consultations to address dirty money in the Balkans

11-14 September 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC held consultations with the national and international counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina with regard to the work in the priority area of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe - anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). The Regional AML/CFT Advisor based in Sarajevo servicing entire South Eastern Europe, provides policy advice, technical guidance and specializes tailored support to further improve the effectiveness of the UNODC work in this important area, benefitting from the global good practices and contemporary methods of tackling challenges related to money laundering and terrorism financing. UNODC is working in this thematic area on a basis of a multi-year workplan with support of the EU, Turkey, Russia and other donors.

UNODC assists Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to identify and interdict the illicit use of cash couriers

27-29 September 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe with support of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and with the generous contribution of the Government of Turkey organized an interactive workshop on enhancing technical skills of some 30 law enforcement officers in controlling cross-border transportation of cash. The workshop took place in Sarajevo and brought together participants from law enforcement agencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska and Brcko District. This workshop allowed the participants to enhance their technical skills in identification and interdiction of the illicit use of cash couriers and further investigation of illicit cash flows. The officers, analysts and investigators exchanged experience on how to apply risk assessment in creating a profile of cash couriers to perform cash controls at the border. The participants also shared their real-time examples of cash smuggling and learned about the application of the cash seizure procedures. It is expected that this training will result in an enhanced cooperation between various law enforcement agencies in this area and in an increased number of case-related investigations. In addition, the participants learned about the application of the FATF Recommendation 32 on having a proper system and instruments in place necessary for restraining a cross-border transportation of cash in relation to terrorist financing, money laundering or predicate offences or that is falsely disclosed or declared. *(For info on the above: Yulia Minaeva)*

GLOBAL CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME (CCP)

Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) in South Eastern Europe launched

3 July 2017, Tirana, Albania: UNODC launched the CCP Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in South Eastern Europe (SEE). CCP is paying particular attention to the gender aspect of law enforcement professions, including the work of the Port Control Units (PCUs). CCP has set up the Women's network which brings together the gender focal points of the Customs and Police structures, PCU female officers, female senior managers from law enforcement authorities and CCP staff. UNODC and WCO developed the Guidelines making SEE the first region to undertake such an initiative on country level. The aim of the Guidelines is to assist SEE countries in the CCP network to effectively integrate the gender perspective into all aspects of work, from planning strategic tools, developing normative standards, designing and delivering thematic and regional programmes and working through the project cycle. At the launch, UNODC and WCO offered gender analysis focused on examining public policies and their outcomes through a gender lens; the disaggregated data; recommendations and proposed activities to promote women's role in the CC area. This work is supported by One UN - Albania. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

Hands-on support to countering illicit trafficking in the region

3-5 July 2017, Land-border Bijača, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The IVth Mentorship visit to the PCU at Bijača was aimed to address challenges faced by the Unit in implementation of the daily work. Working closely with the PCU staff, the UNODC Mentor reviewed standard and other

practices of the PCU officers working on profiling of high-risk cargo containers to minimize risk of exploiting them for smuggling of narcotic drugs, weapons, precursor chemicals and other organized crime activities. During the mentorship visit the PCU members presented to the Mentor different tools and practices used to conduct profiling and risk assessment of containers, both for goods and persons involved in the trade supply chain. Particular attention was given to the existing Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) and Border Police databases as well as to the use of open sources of information used to complement the profiling process. Additionally, mentorship discussed existing legal and other challenges tackling the work of the Unit and possible solutions that might contribute to improving particular circumstances. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

28 August - 5 September 2017, Durres, Albania, and Bar, Montenegro: Further CCP mentorship visits took place in the PCUs of the Ports of Durres in Albania and Bar in Montenegro. They encompassed exchanges of ideas, monitoring of the day-to-day practices, including applied search techniques, creation of risk profiles, information on new trends of illicit trafficking and smuggling through containerized shipments; use of open and confidential sources of information, etc. The missions offered a hands-on combination of international and local expertise ensuring that efficient container control methodologies are put in place and applied. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*

The Second Public - Private Partnership Consultation held in Bosnia and Herzegovina

6 July 2017, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Second CCP Public-Private Partnership Workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina was organized jointly by ITA and UNODC and gathered representatives of the forwarding agents, transport operators and other private sector subjects. Containerized shipments represent an important part of the growing international trade supply chain, measuring up to approximately 90% of the world's cargo. The roles of private actors as well as law enforcement agencies in establishing effective trade security are vital. The Workshop supported building relationships between these two parties, discussed ITA's plans on establishing National Cargo Transit System (NCTS) that should further facilitate trade in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as looked into risk analyses and pre-arrival information and provided recommendations for the future work of ITA. *(For info: Alen Gagula)*

Afghan officials visit South Eastern Europe

5-15 July 2017, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro: 14 officials from the Afghanistan PCUs attended a CCP study visit to South Eastern Europe (SEE). The goal of the visit was share best practices on security related systems and processes, commercial operations, automation, management models and other trade enforcement activities. The CCP is closely working with the Governments of the three countries in SEE and the Government of Afghanistan to build the capacity of customs and border police through several initiatives, including the establishment of PCUs. Regional and inter-regional initiatives are also an important element of the CCP. The visit offered a range of sites and meetings with senior officials from the three countries of SEE. These meetings gave the participants first-hand experience on customs control cargo and vehicle at the Ports and BCP and demonstrated the possibilities for improvement and modernization of customs practices, in particular when it comes to export, import and transit procedures. The meetings also familiarized the Afghan officials with the customs risk management and investigation techniques; electronic clearance methodologies, best practices in detecting and managing the movement of illegal goods; import and export restrictions. Particular attention during the meetings was paid to strengthening the cooperation between border authorities, trust building and establishment of a more effective information exchange at national and regional level aiming at keeping a good balance between security and trade facilitation. Seizures in Afghanistan and SEE are a clear indication of the interdiction efforts contributing to the improved safety of the borders in the respective countries. *(For info: Ela Banaj)*



TERRORISM PREVENTION**UNODC develops a Manual for Judicial Training Institutes in South Eastern Europe on foreign terrorist fighters (FTF)**

6-7 September 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Within the UNODC project supported by the USA Government, a national workshop on the 'Investigation and Adjudication of Cases Involving FTFs' was organized by UNODC with the Centre for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Public Institution Center for Judicial and Prosecutorial Training of the Republika Srpska and the Judicial Commission of the Brcko District. The workshop was the final in the series of events in the region in 2017. The event focused on the Manual for Judicial Training Institutes in South Eastern Europe on FTF developed by UNODC and helped to enhance the understanding of the international and regional legal framework dealing with FTFs; familiarize participants with the criminal offenses related to FTF; discuss special investigative techniques in FTF cases; review the financial components of FTF related investigations; analyse online investigations and collection of e-evidence; promote and support the use of rule of law-based strategies and compliance with human rights standards to strengthen the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism related offences. The Manual for Judicial Training Institutes in South Eastern Europe on FTF was launched in Vienna in late October 2017. *(For info: Joaquin Zuckerberg)*

**A series of UNODC events is organized in the region on criminal justice responses to FTFs**

12-13 September 2017, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; 20-22 September, Podgorica, Montenegro; 29-31 October, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC held a series of national workshops for some of the countries of the region on normative and administrative challenges related to the FTF threat. The events brought together judges, prosecutors, representatives from the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Justice, and the Financial Intelligence Unit. Experts from the region as well as from other countries, including the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the European Union and INTERPOL shared their experiences relevant to cases involving or related to FTFs. The events aimed to respond to one of the needs identified during the first regional event for South Eastern Europe organized in Vienna in February 2017, to efficiently investigate and prosecute FTF cases. The workshops provided a platform that facilitated an important exchange of ideas as well as a debate on practical solutions to common challenges faced by different national institutions in investigating and prosecuting FTF cases. By the end of 2017, UNODC will have carried out similar tailor-made workshops in other South Eastern European jurisdictions. The workshops were organized with the support of the national Governments and members of the Steering Committee of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe. The workshops were implemented within the framework of UNODC's Initiative on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Middle East, North Africa and South Eastern Europe, funded by the European Union. The project aims to assist beneficiaries in improving their criminal justice responses to FTFs, in compliance with the UN General Assembly resolution 68/276 and UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). *(For info: Maria Lorenzo Sobrado)*

ANTI-CORRUPTION**First multi-stakeholder workshop on UN Convention against Corruption in South Eastern Europe**

26 September 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC hosted the first in the region multi-stakeholder workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption to develop capacities of 60 participants from across the region to contribute to the implementation of the Convention and its Review Mechanism. Speaking at the first review cycle, approximately 85% of Governments involved civil society organizations in their country visits, building momentum to uphold their treaty obligations. The workshop, in this regard, reiterated the importance of this practice during the second review cycle, especially in the SEE region. It also aimed to promote collaboration between all relevant stakeholders. Pointing to the 2030 Agenda, UNODC official said: "All Sustainable Development Goals can be hampered if corruption prevails. The fight against this peril is deeply rooted in Goal 16, which aims to provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Supported by the Austrian Development Agency through the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, and by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the training informed participants about the methodology and tools for country reviews and built their capacity to reproduce workshop sessions at the national and regional levels. Participants were engaged in a constructive dialogue by sharing their experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as undertook practical exercises. *(For info: Mirella Dummar Frahi)*

**ORGANIZED CRIME****UNODC joins the dialogue on arms control in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

4-6 July, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: UNODC delegation visited Sarajevo to assess possibilities to engage the authorities in activities related to regulating, preventing and combatting illicit trafficking in firearms, as well as to attend the Arms Symposium in South Eastern Europe organized by the Centre for Security Cooperation in South East Europe (RACVIAC). The main focus of the mission was to identify areas of cooperation and counterparts among Bosnian authorities for the implementation of UNODC activities in regulating, preventing and combatting illicit trafficking in firearms, as well as raise awareness among the regional member states about the work of UNODC in arms control. In particular, meetings were held with senior representatives of the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. UNODC also presented the synergies between the Arms Trade Treaty, the Firearms Protocol and other international instruments that contribute to countering illicit trafficking in firearms, at the Arms Symposium organized by RACVIAC. Special focus was made on the issue of the criminal justice response to illicit trafficking - a topic which is not covered regularly in this forum and therefore was well received by the participants. The issue of end user certificates was highlighted as one of the main challenges, particularly enforcing their legal use. UNODC will step-up its cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of arms control in the course of 2017. *(For info: Diman Dimov)*

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNODC and Serbia focus on sustainable approaches to smuggling of migrants

14-15 September 2017, Vrdnik, Serbia: UNODC organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Curriculum Development for the Permanent Task Force on Combating Smuggling of Migrants. The event is part of the UNODC project 'Strengthening the capacity to fight the smuggling of migrants in South Eastern Europe', funded by the Government of the USA, and implemented by UNODC in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Within this project, UNODC is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Interior and Republic Public Prosecutor's Office/Permanent Task Force on Combating Smuggling of Migrants in Serbia to develop specialized training capacity on smuggling of migrants, using interactive methodologies based on case law and e-learning modules. Through this project, customized training materials will be developed/adapted and made available for multi-disciplinary target groups of criminal justice practitioners. The proposed methodology foresees the use and adaptation of a broad range of existing materials such as the translation of three UNODC e-learning modules on smuggling of migrants, UNODC training manuals, analysis of recent court cases from the two countries (2015-2017), and other relevant materials. The EGM devoted its attention in particular to mapping the specific needs of Serbian professionals; identifying existing training programs that are related to migrant smuggling and organized crime to ensure complementarity; analysing court cases and jurisprudence on smuggling of migrants and determining what cases are suitable for training purposes and exchanging information on emerging trends, operational tools and instruments. The EGM will be followed by further meetings in the region led by UNODC.

UNODC, IOM, OSCE zoom into tackling migrant smuggling in the Balkans

19-20 September 2017, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: The third Regional Seminar on "Moving Forward in Addressing Migration-related Crimes in South-Eastern Europe (SEE)" was jointly organized by the OSCE, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNODC, in co-operation with the OSCE's Office of the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Office of the Co-ordinator of the Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the past few years, the flow of migrants, originating especially from the Middle East and North Africa, has been a challenge for European States, in particular for Southern European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Considering the complexity and the permanence of the situation, the responsibility placed on countries of origin, transit and destination is immense and entails a substantially pressing obligation to react not only to human rights violations and security challenges, but also to criminal organizations making large profits from migrants' and refugees' vulnerable situation. The seminar aimed at strengthening co-operation between criminal justice, law enforcement and relevant public and private actors, in order to address irregular migration-related crimes, such as migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, in SEE. The seminar has issued recommendations and findings which will be basis for the future work in the region and beyond.

UNODC works with the Government of Montenegro on anti-human trafficking

24-29 September, Bijela, Montenegro: UNODC delivered a training workshop entitled "In-depth training on identification, investigation and proving of trafficking in persons cases and respect of victims' rights in criminal proceedings" to a group of 30 judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and civil society professionals from Montenegro with support of the US Government and in close cooperation with the Office for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings of Montenegro. In September 2015, UNODC successfully conducted a Multi-disciplinary training workshop, entitled "Protection of human trafficking victims in criminal proceedings". The workshop took place in Budva, Montenegro and reached 31 professionals and practitioners, from law enforcement, prosecution, courts, diplomatic representation, international organisations and civil society. In March 2017, UNODC received a request from the Government to conduct a follow-up training on the prosecution of human trafficking cases and the protection of the rights of trafficking victims. In accordance with the needs and priorities defined by the Office for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings of Montenegro, this latest week-long multidisciplinary training workshop for practitioners was held in order to improve efficiency of criminal prosecution and sanctioning of human trafficking in Montenegro. The UNODC Anti-human trafficking manual for criminal justice practitioners and the Case Digest on Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases were used as a basis for the workshop, as well as the selected cases from the UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database. The Case Digest on Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases was translated into Montenegrin language and used for conducting Mock Trial during the training. Follow up activities to the event will take place in spring 2018. *(For info on all of the above: Davor Raus)*



DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

UNODC results in South Eastern Europe presented to over 30,000 people in the Lions Clubs Centennial convention

1-4 July 2017, Chicago, USA: The results of partnership of UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation and its significant impact in preventing substance use in South Eastern Europe (SEE) was presented to the Lions Clubs Centennial convention. The event represented an important scientific and political occasion to highlight the UNODC efforts in the field of prevention of drug use, as well as the excellent cooperation with the Governments in SEE. The results of the UNODC-LCIF pilots of Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence were presented in a special session during the convention, which included an intervention by Dr. Yamada (outgoing President of the Lions Clubs International) commending the positive collaboration with UNODC. UNODC was invited to attend a meeting of the Lions Clubs liaison to the UN discussing 2016 results and planning for the Lions Clubs UN-days to come, the collaboration with UNODC was presented as a model to present in Lions UN Days. The convention was attended by well over 30,000 Lions Clubs members and the plenary session featured several high level key note speakers including the former US VP Al Gore, the former UN SG Ban Ki Moon and many others. A UNODC video on the results of the partnership was featured in the plenary session accompanying the address of Mr. Ban Ki Moon. UNODC continues to implement the partnership programme with the LCIF in SEE. *(For info on all of the above: Milos Stojanović)*