



**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime

# Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe 2024 - 2029





**Regional Programme  
for South-Eastern Europe  
2024 - 2029**



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## Executive Summary

The Regional Programme (RP) for South-Eastern Europe (SEE) aims to interconnect and synergize UNODC programmatic efforts in South-Eastern Europe during a 5-year period from 2024 to 2029. This third iteration of the RPSEE, following two previous cycles from 2016-2019 and 2020-2024 respectively, places a strong emphasis on pursuing South-Eastern European priorities based on an integrated approach that supports the region's aspirations for European integration under the umbrella of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSCDFs) for the region.

The RPSEE framework for the delivery of UNODC's Programmatic work in SEE aims to:

- Support SEE jurisdictions in achieving national and regional priorities on drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism, and criminal justice;
- Enhance SEE's capacity to identify and address new and emerging criminal threats to regional security, stability, environment and economic development;
- Strengthen bilateral, regional and international law enforcement and judicial cooperation across the SEE region;
- Pursue and support the achievement of the overarching UN “*Sustainable Development Goals*” and the “*Leaving No One Behind*” principle, as well as advance human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, youth participation, disability and inclusion and diversity; and
- Increase efficiency and effectiveness of UNODC's support to SEE beneficiaries and partners in addressing emerging challenges based on a concerted effort that brings together UNODC expertise at national, regional and global levels in line with the “*UNODC Global Strategy*”.

To sustain this programmatic vision, the RPSEE consists of five interconnected Thematic Areas (TA):

TA 1: Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care

TA 2: Transnational Organized Crime

TA 3: Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery

TA 4: Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

TA 5: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

This RPSEE has been developed in close consultation with SEE jurisdictions, regional partners and HQ-based Global Programmes and Thematic Branches/Sections. Programme Steering Committee (PSC) recommendations, lessons learned, evaluations, and past/ongoing activities under the current cycle (2020-2024) have been taken into consideration.

Governance, strategic oversight and guidance for the delivery of the RPSEE will be provided by the PSC composed of designated representatives from the beneficiaries/partners.

The UNODC Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe (ROSEE) will be responsible for planning, coordinating and managing the implementation of the RPSEE, in close coordination with relevant Global Programmes, and in line with the Annual Workplan, which will be developed in close collaboration with the PSC. ROSEE will ensure continuous engagement with key regional bodies and cooperation frameworks, as well as the UN Development Coordination Office, UN Country Teams, the Resident Coordinator Offices and other international organizations in the region.

## Problem and Situation Analysis

### Problem Analysis

Vulnerabilities to drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism in SEE are impacted by a legacy of armed conflict, and ongoing democratisation and socioeconomic transformation. Addressing these vulnerabilities is a core priority for the SEE jurisdictions on their path to European integration.

The sustainable development agenda of SEE jurisdictions evolves in a challenging regional and global geopolitical environment characterised by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and wider instability in the Middle East and other regions. In this context, the SEE region has seen the emergence of what can be called the “Balkan Route 2.0”, an increasingly versatile, pluriform and two-way corridor for illicit trafficking and related financial flows, irregular migration, and vulnerability to exploitation.

A distinctive trait of this “Balkan Route 2.0” is the diversification of drug markets and the type of drugs transported and sold. Traditionally, the route served for the trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and South-West Asia to Europe. While opiates continue to be trafficked along this route, several countries in the SEE region, including Türkiye, have started to report significant seizures of methamphetamine (including Captagon), cocaine, cannabis and precursors.

According to the 2023 World Drug Report, while the global cocaine market continues to be concentrated in the Americas and in

Western and Central Europe in relative terms, South-Eastern Europe is one of the fastest growing markets.<sup>1</sup> The share of synthetic drugs, including Fentanyl, in the illicit drugs market is also growing.

The involvement of organized crime groups from the Western Balkans in the international drug trade, including cocaine from Latin America, is considered a present danger and substantial.<sup>2</sup> Criminal networks engage in poly-drug trafficking, i.e. the same networks generally traffic both heroin and cocaine, although it appears cannabis is handled by other groups in some instances. Given the high profitability of cocaine, some networks have switched their focus fully from heroin to cocaine.

Drug exchanges also occur. Countries have reported exchanges of heroin against cannabis, heroin against cocaine, cocaine against cannabis, and heroin against synthetic drugs. Cash is also trafficked and there have been cases of illicit smuggling of gold, cultural property and other commodities across SEE borders.

A second feature of the “Balkan Route 2.0” is the level of sophistication of concealment methods used to avoid detection during border checks. This can include liquid drugs in fuel tanks or under batteries and the use of other caches, which scanners may not detect. It is common for goods (e.g. carpets, cotton, clothes) to be impregnated with liquid drugs or mixed with drugs in powder form (e.g. tea). While drugs continue to be trafficked by road (using trucks and vehicles), maritime

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23\\_B3\\_CH8.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23_B3_CH8.pdf)



trafficking of drugs in containers has increased.

Third, modern technologies are increasingly used by organized crime groups for communication and money laundering. Organized crime groups are known to have installed surveillance cameras in public places. Drones, helicopters, and small planes are employed for surveillance and delivery of drugs. Encrypted telephone apps are used for communication and fraudulent biometric identification documents for travel. The illicit



use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is also explored by the Regional Programme in its diverse and multifaceted criminal exploitation in different areas.

Given that the SEE region is well connected to international financial markets but falls short of European and international standards in some aspects of financial market regulation, vulnerability to money laundering is deemed high. Organized crime groups mainly invest their criminal proceeds in real estate and construction, tourism and gambling, often involving dedicated front companies. Criminal networks from the region are known to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking in the EU and offshore locations.

Available analysis of organized crime trends in the region, combined with the main findings and recommendations stemming from UNODC's Regional Policy Brief for South-Eastern Europe, point towards persistent strategic challenges.<sup>3</sup> These challenges include endemic corruption and a high risk of organized crime groups infiltrating the economy. Analysis and expert reports emphasize that the line between political elites and organized crime groups may become blurred in some instances, eroding confidence in governments and stifling economic growth. Cybercrime and broader cybersecurity concerns, including the potential illicit use and lack of governance of AI, are present in the region with several countries (e.g. Albania, Montenegro) facing cyber-attacks, which compromised various public services and caused significant financial loss.

Drug use in SEE is relatively low overall by international standards, albeit with differences between jurisdictions in terms of patterns of use and the substances involved. Cannabis is the most consumed illicit drug in the region, and its use appears to have increased in recent years, especially among young people. Cocaine, the second most used drug, appears to be more frequently used by the urban middle class. Heroin is the most commonly used opioid across the region, although methadone is more commonly used in Kosovo<sup>4</sup> and North Macedonia. An illicit market for diverted methadone and buprenorphine has been reported in some jurisdictions. Methamphetamine is the most seized and consumed synthetic drug in the region. Levels of MDMA use are thought to be comparable. Fentanyl is considered as a clear and present

<sup>3</sup> See:

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/tools\\_and\\_publications/Strategies\\_Toolkit/Regional\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_South-Eastern\\_Europe.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/tools_and_publications/Strategies_Toolkit/Regional_Policy_Brief_South-Eastern_Europe.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).



threat, which might grow in terms of dimension and presence in the years to come.

The 2023 World Drug Report notes a recent surge in the consumption of and trafficking of methamphetamine in Europe, particularly in SEE. Seizures of methamphetamine and analysis of wastewater in selected cities, located mainly in Western and Central Europe and, to a lesser extent, in Eastern and SEE, indicate an overall increase in methamphetamine consumption and trafficking in the continent over the past decade. This trend appears to be driven by countries and cities in SEE given that in 2021, a significant number of cities in the region reported an increase in methamphetamine consumption (11 as opposed to only 3 cities reporting a decline).

High-risk, long-term, and chronic drug problems in the region appear to be associated with heroin and other opioids such as buprenorphine and methadone, although in some jurisdictions cocaine and crack cocaine are known to be used among certain vulnerable groups of people.

According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)'s regional report on drug-related health and security threats in the Western Balkans, drug use is reported more by men than women. Social stigma associated with drug use is considered common. Women in particular may be less inclined to report drug use due to

social stigma and a lack of female-specific treatment services.<sup>5</sup>

The HIV epidemic in the region remains at a relatively low level compared to other parts of Europe. In 2021, the rate of new HIV diagnoses was 0.3 per 100,000 – a decline from 0.5 in 2012. Trends are heterogeneous at the country level. Of those countries reporting more than 10 cases in 2021, the rate increased in some of the countries (Albania, Serbia) and remained stable in others (i.e. Türkiye) compared to 2020.<sup>6</sup> The male-to-female ratio in the grouping in which SEE falls (i.e. 5.1%) is higher than in other parts of Europe. Sex between men and heterosexual intercourse are the predominant reported modes of transmission with infection through injecting drug use much less common.

In recent years, SEE has progressively become a geographical hub for migrants trying to reach Western Europe. According to Frontex, nearly 100,000 irregular crossings of the EU's external border from the Western Balkans were detected in 2023.<sup>7</sup> Criminal groups offer their services to migrants in places like reception centres and transport hubs. The demand for facilitation of border crossings has led to the professionalization of smuggling networks with an increased risk of violence as groups compete for control of routes.<sup>8</sup>

Migrants may face heightened risks of exploitation during their journey. Their vulnerability increases when smugglers request increasing amounts of money for their services and migrants may become indebted

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<sup>5</sup>See: [https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/regional-reports/drug-related-health-and-security-threats-western-balkans\\_en](https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/regional-reports/drug-related-health-and-security-threats-western-balkans_en)

<sup>6</sup> See: [https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2022-Annual\\_HIV\\_Report\\_final.pdf](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2022-Annual_HIV_Report_final.pdf), pages 25-27. NB. This report places countries in South-Eastern Europe in a broader group of Central European countries.

<sup>7</sup> See: <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/significant-rise-in-irregular-border-crossings-in-2023-highest-since-2016-C0gGpmmm>

<sup>8</sup> European Migrant Smuggling Centre, 6th Annual Report – 2022 (Europol, 2022).

to them. However, anti-trafficking procedures are not always integrated in the existing reception and asylum procedures for new arrivals.

Migrant populations may also be vulnerable to drug use disorders. This can relate to stress and trauma, loss of livelihoods, violence, torture, and family separation. Further research on the potential risks of drug use and drug use disorders among migrants in SEE is required.

UNODC's 2022 study on the scale and scope of human trafficking in SEE notes that domestic trafficking is common and that the region remains a source of trafficking towards Western and Southern Europe.<sup>9</sup> Sexual exploitation is the most prevalent form of trafficking, with substantive changes noted in the profiles of victims (increasing number of foreign victims), the modus operandi of perpetrators (using more hidden private locations instead of night bars), and in the motivation and recruitment strategies as well as in the access of such services (increasingly through the internet). There is also a seasonal element when women and girls looking for jobs in tourism may fall victim to sexual exploitation in coastal areas in the summer.

Labour exploitation cases are also recorded. Men and women may face exploitation in various sectors, with men facing hardship in the construction sector for example, and women victimized more commonly in textile, entertainment and wellness industries.

<sup>9</sup> UNODC, *Exploitation and Abuse: The Scale and Scope of Human Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe*, May 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Human beings under the age of 18 years, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, No. 27531. C

Forced criminality is the third most common form of exploitation in the region, with children<sup>10</sup> and youth being the most vulnerable to this type of exploitation.

Adolescents with a history of substance use in some contexts might be more vulnerable to exploitation by organized crime groups. As in other regions, in SEE it is important to accommodate the unique characteristics of adolescents and be flexible in identifying and addressing their needs with regard to substance use and substance use disorders, in line with the UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders.

In SEE, there is a stockpile of firearms and ammunition dating back to the conflicts in the 90s. This legacy contributes to the proliferation and illicit trafficking of weapons. A recent EMCDDA report marks SEE as an important source region of firearms trafficking into the EU. The report notes that firearms are often smuggled together with drugs by the same criminal networks.<sup>11</sup>

Corruption remains of utmost concern in SEE. The SEE jurisdictions are at various stages of implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Continued efforts are needed to implement the recommendations from the first and second cycles of the Convention's implementation review mechanism.

Population surveys in the region generally highlight corruption as a key concern perceived by citizens, but also note

<sup>11</sup> See: [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/new-report-explores-links-between-drug-markets-and-gun-violence-eu\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2023/new-report-explores-links-between-drug-markets-and-gun-violence-eu_en)

progress.<sup>12</sup> According to the 2023 Balkan Barometer, “39% of businesses express some level of belief in the effectiveness of the fight against corruption”. Digitalisation is perceived as a positive development that can enhance transparency and accountability.

Challenges highlighted in reports produced by the European Commission on an annual basis vary per jurisdiction, but overall identify a need to step up the prevention and repression of corruption, increasing the confiscation of assets and targeting sectors most vulnerable to corruption.

In South-Eastern Europe, Türkiye remains the country most affected by terrorism in the region with human losses in the country increasing from six deaths in 2021 to 17 in 2022.<sup>13</sup> Violent extremist ideology constitutes a potential source of terrorism in SEE. Concerns vary, ranging from violent extremism in sports settings to risks posed by far-right groups with violent ideologies.

The risk of terrorism in the region is also evidenced by the high number of foreign terrorist fighters who joined the conflicts in Syria and Iraq<sup>14</sup>, and continued challenges with radicalization through the Internet and social media. While a number of citizens associated with these foreign terrorist fighters have been repatriated,<sup>15</sup> there are still foreign

terrorist fighters who must be repatriated and who will require prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Given the region’s complex history marked by ethnic and political tensions, economic challenges and instability, there is a perceived risk of violent extremism motivated by xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief (XRIRB). This is acknowledged in relevant national policies, which note potential security risks related to ultra-conservative, ethno-nationalist and right-wing organizations and associations, as well as prejudice-motivated incidents and hate crimes and possible abuse of the internet and social networks.<sup>16</sup>

Risks in the subregion are also posed by the illicit transit of people, funds, arms or goods, as well as possible interlinkages between terrorist groups and organized crime and/or arms trafficking.<sup>17</sup>

The European Commission’s annual reports related to the SEE jurisdictions’ preparation for EU accession stress various levels of progress in strengthening the SEE judicial systems. In some jurisdictions, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, measures are deemed necessary to increase public trust in the judiciary and strengthen its integrity. In

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<sup>12</sup> See: <https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/>

<sup>13</sup> Global Terrorism Index 2023.

<sup>14</sup> See: Extremism Research Forum, British Council (2018) “Regional Report: Understanding Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans”, [https://www.britishcouncil.ba/sites/default/files/erf\\_report\\_western\\_balkans\\_2018.pdf](https://www.britishcouncil.ba/sites/default/files/erf_report_western_balkans_2018.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> See: European Commission (2022), “Dealing with returned women in the Western Balkans: challenges and opportunities from a practitioner’s perspective”, [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/publications/dealing-returned-women-western-balkans-challenges-and-opportunities-practitioners-perspective-august\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/publications/dealing-returned-women-western-balkans-challenges-and-opportunities-practitioners-perspective-august_en)

<sup>16</sup> For example, see the 2021-2026 Strategy for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<sup>17</sup> See: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/security-council-holds-first-open-briefing-counter-terrorism-efforts-south-east-europe>.

others, such as Albania, further work to improve the case management system and the training system for magistrates is suggested. Further progress with judicial reform is considered necessary in all jurisdictions, including Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. This should be done through the implementation of various reforms in human resources and digital capacity (ICT) to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the judiciary.

Population surveys, such as the Balkan Barometer, note that trust in institutions is low and many people believe the law is not applied equally. The 2023 Balkan Barometer also showed that 28% of respondents at the regional level are worried about public safety, with illegal possession and misuse of weapons a concern, as well as safety of children and cyberattacks.<sup>18</sup> This points to a need to invest more in addressing cybercrime.

Violence against women is deemed widespread in SEE with an urgent need to strengthen the criminal justice response and to implement comprehensive approaches that provide support, offer protection, and advance sustained preventive measures.

While the size of prison populations in the region fluctuates, the imprisonment rates have largely worsened if a 10-20 year perspective is taken.<sup>19</sup> This complicates prison management and increases risks of criminal recruitment in prison settings. Prisoners are mostly men, with small percentages of female prisoners at 4% or below. The European Commission's progress reports note various levels of progress in prison reform. Overall, further investment in dynamic security and social rehabilitation of

offenders remains necessary across the region.

In some jurisdictions, enhanced forensic capacity, regulation, training and quality management are still required based on international standards and practices. Infrastructure for the conservation and destruction of confiscated assets is also needed.

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<sup>18</sup> See: [https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/media/files/Balkan\\_Barometer\\_2023\\_Infographics\\_new.pdf](https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/media/files/Balkan_Barometer_2023_Infographics_new.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> See: [Prisonstudies.org](https://www.prisonstudies.org)

## Stakeholder Analysis and Capacity Assessment

The substantive elements of this RPSEE are based on close consultations with a wide range of partners across South-Eastern Europe. ROSEE has undertaken several scoping and programming missions to analyse the needs and capture the views of the regional jurisdictions. On the one hand, they face similar threats and challenges. At the same time, each jurisdiction has its own specific needs and priorities, which require tailored national-level solutions, as well as regional and international cooperation.



When it comes to drug prevention and treatment, it is common to see a focus on the provision of prevention initiatives in youth educational settings in SEE. Approaches used in these settings include skill development-oriented programmes with some evidence of effectiveness and awareness campaigns implemented by law enforcement.

Harm reduction services operate in all jurisdictions of the region. However, the provision of such interventions appears to be generally insufficient to meet the needs of clients and is often dependent on

international funding. Non-governmental organisations play a significant role in the provision of harm reduction and opioid agonist therapy. Drug use disorder treatment is mainly provided by public health institutions and is predominantly configured to meet the needs of those with opioid problems. Male users of opioids represent the majority of clients seen by treatment centres in the region. Very few enter specialised drug treatment services for problems with other substances.<sup>20</sup>

UNODC has contributed towards enhancing knowledge on the nature, prevention and treatment of drug use disorders among policy makers in the region (for example with a training held in Albania in 2021). In addition, UNODC is contributing towards the strengthening of quality assurance of treatment systems (e.g. with a training held in Serbia in 2023).

UNODC has also been working with the South-Eastern Europe region on strengthening evidence-based treatment of adolescent substance use disorders, through regional-level training on UNODC Treatnet Family (e.g. in 2021), a science-informed capacity building package on elements of family therapy.

There is a continued need to address social stigma attached to drug use and directed towards people with drug use disorders, in line with the UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. This would encourage men and women who use drugs to come forward and access treatment services more easily.

Overall, there is a need for the introduction of more evidence-based life and family skills

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<sup>20</sup> See: <https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/media/publications/documents/14949/TD0322106ENN.pdf>

programmes in view of rising occurrences of violence in schools and communities.

Geographical expansion of services, budgetary consolidation of existing services, quality management of available core interventions and continued investments in improving the monitoring of epidemiological and health response-related data remain priorities and challenges in the region.

Some SEE jurisdictions expressed interest in the establishment of a regional drugs-health and rehabilitation hub to support national and regional efforts in prevention and treatment.

Progress in the fight against organized crime and tackling related money laundering has been made in terms of legislation, the development of governmental coordination mechanisms and specialized courts and law enforcement units to adjudicate cases of serious organized crime. However, further follow-up on the recommendations emanating from UNODC's 2020 Study on Measuring Organized Crime in the Western Balkans remains necessary.<sup>21</sup> These include:

- Increasing availability and quality of data on organized crime;
- Enhancing concerted efforts to analyze related trends and patterns of organized crime;
- Rolling out holistic approaches to tackling specific forms of organized crime, including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;
- Strengthening strategic cooperation at the national level and regional and international cooperation to combat organized crime.

The region displays some notable examples of strategies tackling organized crime in its entirety – as well as ongoing efforts to that end

– although responses traditionally focus on securing law enforcement and criminal justice outcomes rather than on preventive efforts and a whole-of-society approach. Further analysis of structural drivers and enablers, as well as the effectiveness of States' responses to bolster resilience to organized crime is necessary. This should lay the foundation for the development of comprehensive strategies and policies against this phenomenon.

UNODC's engagement to strengthen integrated border management and address illicit trafficking in SEE has stressed the importance of continuous support through i.a. the conclusion of bilateral agreements, establishment of contact points in customs administrations and other law enforcement bodies and strengthened cooperation among law enforcement to promote targeted inspections, enhanced risk profiling of consignments and joint operations, and professional development of both male and female law enforcement officers, including through a women's network.

Since 2013, UNODC's Container Control Programme (CCP) in close coordination with the RPSEE has been supporting SEE jurisdictions in adopting new strategies to improve container control and establishing dedicated profiling units. UNODC's Airport Communication Programme (AIRCOP) started its implementation in the Western Balkans in 2020. Under these programmes, which have since been brought under the umbrella of the UNODC Passenger and Cargo Team and are implemented in close cooperation with ROSEE and the RPSEE, international airports of Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia have been equipped with interagency groups, currently in charge of both passenger and cargo segments. SEE jurisdictions expressed

<sup>21</sup> See: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/OC/Measuring-OC-in-WB.pdf>

their willingness to continue these activities to further strengthen their border control capacity and regional cooperation.

Some jurisdictions have expressed interest in receiving UNODC assistance in developing infrastructure and standardized procedures for stockpiling, incineration and destruction of confiscated goods (e.g. drugs, firearms).

The capacity of the jurisdictions to monitor flows of precursors and related information sharing and cross-border cooperation should be enhanced. Situation analysis to unpack the different features of the “Balkan Route 2.0” through facilitation of cooperation and liaison among law enforcement and other SEE stakeholders requires further consolidation. Regular inter-regional law enforcement knowledge and information exchange meetings are recommended. Emerging issues, such as cybercrime, theft of cultural property, environmental and maritime crimes, should be monitored and capacity development provided to ensure resilience to these phenomena when they occur.

UNODC’s previous engagement on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) positively impacted capacities to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate money laundering in the region. National trainers were certified to teach on financial investigations. Inter-agency cooperation at the national and regional level, including with some European Union countries, increased. Based on this experience, it is recommended to further institutionalize training curricula on financial investigations as part of mandatory professional development programmes.

Work should continue to regularly monitor new risks and trends in relation to AML/CFT; to increase the use of timely formal and informal interagency and international cooperation, including through joint investigation teams; and to invest in professional analytical

software and computer equipment for financial investigation and related training of experts and dedicated units.

Legislation can still be further shaped up in some jurisdictions, for example in terms of ensuring that the broadest catalogue of predicate crimes to money laundering is included in the respective criminal codes, by adopting non-conviction-based asset forfeiture measures and enforcing foreign confiscation orders emanating from civil or administrative proceedings. Other needs identified relate to the establishment of mechanisms to ensure timely and updated access to beneficial ownership information regarding legal persons; to prevent and detect criminal infiltration of the economy; and to unify databases at the national level for the generation of accurate statistics on predicate offences, money laundering, and asset recovery.

In the area of trafficking and persons and smuggling of migrants, UNODC research emphasises the need for support to address challenges in collecting data on trafficking in persons; improve victim identification, functioning of the national referral mechanisms and related inter-institutional cooperation; allocate more resources for long-term protection and victim assistance; enhance access to information about victims’ rights and access to justice; prevent requalification of cases under lesser offences and lengthy criminal proceedings; ensure victim compensation and non-punishment; tackle trafficking in persons facilitated by online technologies; conduct more financial investigations, use special investigative techniques and recover assets acquired as a result of trafficking in persons; promote regional cooperation, bilateral agreements, and build capacity of liaison police officers and magistrates.

The SEE jurisdictions have made significant progress in arms control since the adoption in



2018 of a Regional Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition. This Roadmap is a comprehensive plan aimed at addressing the challenges posed by the illicit circulation of these weapons in the region. Key objectives of the roadmap include strengthening regional cooperation and information exchange, ensuring full implementation of international standards, and enhancing the capacities of relevant institutions. The SALW Roadmap also aims to improve stockpile management and security, increase weapons collection and destruction programmes, and raise public awareness about the risks associated with firearms.

The implementation of the SALW Roadmap involves the collaboration of the SEE jurisdictions, international organizations, and relevant partners. Each jurisdiction in the region developed its own strategy and action plan tailored to its specific needs and challenges outlining the measures, resources, and timelines needed to achieve the agreed objectives. The jurisdictions have worked together through regional platforms, such as the South-Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), to share information, best practices, and coordinate efforts to synchronize combating firearms-related issues.

The SALW Roadmap emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions, such as law enforcement agencies, customs authorities, border control agencies, prosecutors and judiciary. This is achieved through training, resource allocation and provision of equipment to effectively combat firearms-related threats. In this context, UNODC support could further focus on strengthening cross-border cooperation, better aligning national legislation with international standards, and investing in the

criminal justice response to firearms trafficking in combination with prevention and public awareness raising on the risks of firearms.

UNODC's work on anti-corruption is channelled through a regional platform to fast-track implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. A key mechanism available under this platform is the Regional Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance (ACIF) Roadmap endorsed by 6 jurisdictions in 2021. From 2022 onwards, UNODC has established a Secretariat to support ACIF Roadmap implementation, carry out assessments and develop jurisdictional action plans.

Data gathered through regional meetings held under the Regional Platform, showed progress on the prevention of corruption in public procurement and strengthening conflict of interest legislation and asset declaration policies and systems. At the same time, new regional priorities are being identified and work is ongoing to further strengthen regulatory frameworks, implement prevention measures, including electronic tools, and promote integrity in public procurement and other relevant areas. Further progress is needed on beneficial ownership registers and measures to prevent conflict of interest.

The Western Balkans jurisdictions joined the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) in 2022 and launched a regional component of this network in 2023. This should be further supported and backed up by capacity development on investigation and prosecution of corruption and expansion of communication channels for mutual legal assistance on corruption cases. The jurisdictions in the region have been working on the implementation of various national policies and strategies for financial

investigations and asset recovery. This requires further follow-up.

Governments in the region, civil society and the international community agree that more intensive regional and international cooperation is necessary to take targeted actions against corruption and organised crime and strengthen the capacity of national agencies for investigating and preventing corruption.<sup>22</sup>

UNODC has been engaged in efforts to increase the participation of civil society in UNCAC implementation, as well as initiatives to promote the leadership of women in anti-corruption, including through the launch of a SEE Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Women Leaders Forum under the auspices of the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for Good Governance of North Macedonia in 2023. This initiative should be sustained in partnership with UN Women, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative and other stakeholders.

The Southeast Europe Together Against Corruption (SEE-TAC) programme, implemented by UNODC in collaboration with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, has contributed to enhancing the capacities of civil society, the private sector, and public authorities on the UNCAC and its Implementation Review Mechanism. To date, all second cycle UNCAC review country visits have included non-state actors, a result that can be attributed to the regional multi-stakeholder trainings, platforms, and channels of communication established under the programme. The programme has been active since 2015 and represents the largest UNODC initiative in the region for engaging civil society in anti-corruption efforts.

The SEE-TAC programme is expected to continue with activities, such as private sector training on compliance and business integrity, empowering anti-corruption advocates for grassroots action, and workshops dedicated to addressing the recommendations stemming from the two cycle UNCAC reviews, which is an emerging necessity in the region, currently at the juncture of new anti-corruption policies and reforms.

While various jurisdictions in the region have strategies in place for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, money laundering and financing of terrorism, as well as cybersecurity, further work on improving legislative and policy frameworks is needed. SEE jurisdictions should further strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of relevant stakeholders, such as counter-terrorism coordinators or task forces, counter-terrorism sections in prosecutor's offices and others. Regulations for processing of data on passengers in air transport can be a focus area, as well as the need to establish and implement human rights-compliant legislation regulating terrorist content online.

In some jurisdictions, there is good experience with community-based approaches to the prevention of violent extremism and working with multi-disciplinary teams. Efforts are also being made to better manage the execution of criminal sanctions imposed on terrorist offenders. SEE authorities can nevertheless improve prison-based rehabilitation and inter-agency coordination to prepare for the release of inmates. Probation services, including for violent extremist offenders, should also be strengthened.

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<sup>22</sup> Conclusions by the Chair of the meeting of ministers responsible for internal security and migration in the countries participating in the Berlin Process, 20 October 2022.

SEE jurisdictions have established anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks, in accordance with international standards and recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). They are engaged in the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MoneyVal) and members of the “Egmont Group” of financial intelligence units, which allows enhanced information sharing.

SEE jurisdictions have benefited from UNODC training on AML/CFT – however, a range of institutional and operational deficiencies remain, including in the investigation, collection and legal use of digital evidence. Support is therefore suggested to focus on further enhancing parallel financial investigations and strengthening the use of counter-threat finance tools combined with comprehensive, coherent, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to the prevention of terrorism and radicalization to violence.

UNODC support in this area should be aligned with relevant regional mechanisms, such as the Joint EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on counterterrorism and the Western Balkan counter-terrorism initiative, under the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG), and build on the use of EUROPOL counterterrorism tools and engagement through the EU Radicalisation Awareness Networks (RAN).

All jurisdictions have made efforts to strengthen their crime prevention and criminal justice systems. However, further measures remain necessary to ensure effective independence, integrity, accountability, professionalism and international cooperation.

The jurisdictions engage with the Council of Europe and its Committee for the Prevention

of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). The visits undertaken by the CPT to the SEE jurisdictions highlight the need for further progress on prison reform, improving prison conditions, ensuring effective prison management, facilitating prison staff training, strengthening independent oversight, implementing gender-specific approaches and introducing more comprehensive work to implement purposeful out-of-cell activities, promote social rehabilitation of offenders and expand alternatives to incarceration.

The SEE jurisdictions need to strengthen advocacy, policy development and capacity building on matters of access to justice, due process, prison and probation management, e-court, and social reintegration of offenders. Addressing violence against children and women is an increasing focus area, together with other emerging areas, such as digitalization in law enforcement and the justice system, forensics and addressing cybercrime.

## Evidence Used

The evidence-base that underlies this programme is built on three foundations: the global UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 and other relevant UN-wide guidance; ongoing and continuous consultations with the Programme’s counterparts and targeted, structured discussions, assessments and evaluations.



In addition to data produced by UNODC globally, such as the World Drug Report, key analytical material used include fact sheets produced under the Paris Pact Initiative, the report “Exploitation and Abuse: The Scale and Scope of Human Trafficking in South Eastern Europe” and a regional policy brief on transnational organized crime in South-Eastern Europe, which relied on information shared by governmental experts during a UNODC regional multi-stakeholder event on strategies against organized crime, held in 2022.

The existing UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in the SEE region were also used to better understand the situation and ensure alignment. Given the importance of accession to the European Union for the SEE jurisdictions, annual progress reports published by the European Commission on the related preparations have also been taken into consideration. Addressing corruption and organized crime, as well as preventing terrorism are core elements in adopting the EU *acquis*, as well as broader objectives of good governance, human rights, judicial and penal reforms, and overall adherence to the rule of law.

The structure of the RPSEE has been developed with these priorities in mind. Specific directions have been defined based on national needs, identified during consultations with each jurisdiction in the margins of activities implemented during the previous cycle of the RPSEE, as well as in the context of various programmatic missions to the region. These consultations assisted UNODC in understanding national priorities and comprehending the challenges in each jurisdiction. Relevant UNODC staff based in HQ and in the region contributed to this process and provided their inputs and expertise based on the totality of UNODC’s

engagement under national, regional and global initiatives.

## Uptake of Recommendations and Lessons Learned

This RPSEE 2024-2029 builds on the results of the previous RPSEE 2020-2024. Lessons learned and gaps identified during the past cycle emphasized the importance of:

- Promoting national and regional coverage of evidence-based drug use disorder treatment and care, and comprehensive drug and crime prevention, including through the institutionalization of family strengthening programmes in educational curricula and practice in SEE;
- Addressing transnational organized crime in all its forms, new and emerging criminal threats along the “Balkan Route 2.0” and promoting integrated border management.
- Enabling sustainable mechanisms for cross-border law enforcement and judicial cooperation, such as inter-agency units at land border crossings, seaports, and airports established in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia;
- Building and supporting frameworks for regional coordination, such as the Regional UNCAC Platform and related Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap, endorsed by all jurisdictions with the support of UNODC in 2021;
- Promoting national ownership through support for the development and implementation of relevant national laws, policies and strategies, such as the National Strategy for Financial

Investigations and Confiscation of Assets in North Macedonia or the Strategy against Organized Crime in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

- Investing in research and data collection for evidence-based drug and crime prevention and criminal justice in the region, through the publication of reports, such as the 2022 report on the Scale and Scope of Human Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe and the 2024 Regional Policy Brief - An Aid to Strategic Responses to Organized Crime in South-Eastern Europe.

The new RPSEE builds on the recommendations from independent evaluations of key UNODC initiatives in the SEE region, such as the EU and UNODC joint action promoting rule of law and good governance through targeted border control measures at ports and airports.



Key recommendations that feed into the RPSEE include the need to focus on greater regional cooperation and data-driven risk analysis to address illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime; to consider expanding the network of port and airport control units and expand related training and the pool of regional trainers and mentors; to develop technical assistance in the areas of operational risk analysis and passenger profiling, including capacity development to detect and support victims of trafficking in persons. Other recommendations include focusing on dual-use goods, narcotic smuggling, postal goods and small and light

weapons, and placing increased emphasis on gender, human rights and the protection of vulnerable groups and those with disabilities.

The development of the new RPSEE comes at a crucial time as UNODC is further strengthening its operational presence in SEE through its regional office in Istanbul and Programme offices in the region. With several UNODC Global Programmes embedded within the ROSEE structure, the RP is expected to guide the provision of tailored support in SEE and foster partnership with Türkiye and its law enforcement and judicial training centres to function as an inter-regional hub for capacity building and experience-sharing of law enforcement, customs and justice practitioners.

## Strategic Objective

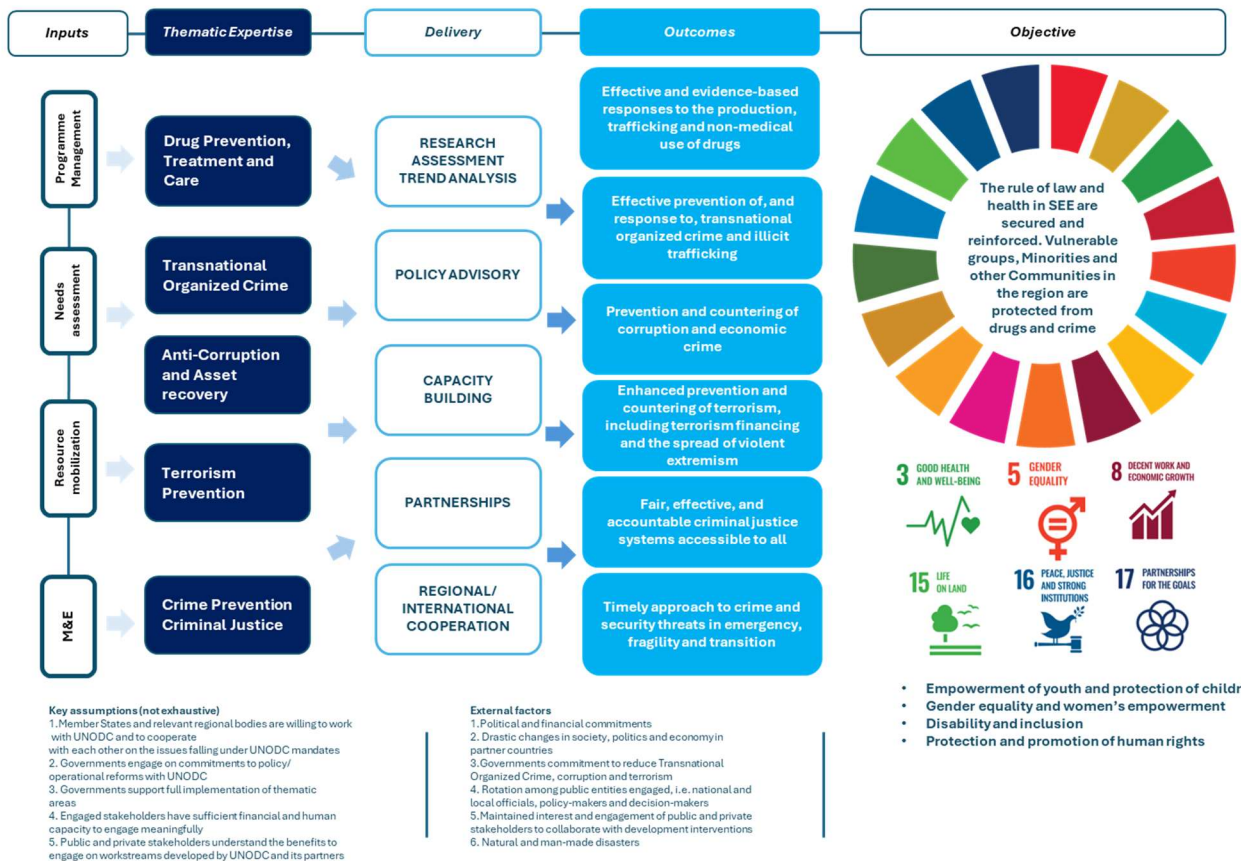
UNODC is committed to building its programmatic work based on a culture of “results” and “impact”. This transformative approach is evidenced by the RPSEE Theory of Change and supported by the work of beneficiaries, donors and partners. UNODC will ensure that its structure and staffing are fit for the purpose of achieving the required regional changes in line with the following objective:

*Safer institutions and societies in South-Eastern Europe with a stronger resilience towards drugs, organized crime, corruption, terrorism and emerging security threats in line with international standards and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

The RPSEE Theory of Change is as follows:

*If drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism, violence and discrimination are reduced through the implementation of the RPSEE, then the institutions and people in South-Eastern Europe will be safer and society more cohesive. In this line, peace, security, stability, development, reconciliation, integration and good governance in South-Eastern Europe will be supported and increased.*

### UNODC REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE (2024-2029) THEORY OF CHANGE



THEORY OF CHANGE: STRATEGIC GOALS (2024-2029)	
Strategic Goal for TA 1:	Foster further unity, collaboration and reciprocal assistance among jurisdictions in SEE in addressing drug and HIV AIDS problems
Strategic Goal for TA2:	Reinforce SEE capacity to tackle TOC in all its forms and to identify new emerging criminal threats
Strategic Goal for TA3:	Create a culture of accountability and transparency and improve regional capacity in tackling corruption and asset recovery
Strategic Goal for TA4:	Reduce terrorism, terrorist financing threats, and violent extremism through preventive measures and the promotion of effective policies
Strategic Goal for TA5:	Promote human rights, disability, and gender-responsive compliance in justice reform

In line with the above schematic representation of the Theory of Change, the RPSEE, drawing from the UNODC 2021-2025 Strategy, will address five Thematic Areas (TA) with flexibility, as follows:



### Thematic Area 1: Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care

Output 1.1: Drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention systems in SEE are strengthened in line with international standards on drug use prevention.

Output 1.2: Comprehensive and effective approaches to the treatment of drug use disorders and care are accepted and improved in line with the UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders.<sup>23</sup>

Output 1.3: SEE jurisdictions ensure accessibility to and availability of controlled medicines while preventing diversion and non-medical use of those medicines.



### Thematic Area 2: Transnational Organized Crime

Output 2.1: SEE jurisdictions are supported in the implementation and review of the UNTOC and its protocols in order to achieve effective legal frameworks, policies and programmes for tackling transnational organized crime in all its forms and related emerging criminal

<sup>23</sup> See: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO\\_International\\_Standards\\_Treatment\\_Drug\\_Use\\_Disorders\\_April\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO_International_Standards_Treatment_Drug_Use_Disorders_April_2020.pdf)

threats also in critical emergencies and natural disasters.

Output 2.2: SEE jurisdictions are more effective at combatting the trafficking of illicit drugs (opiates, new psychoactive substances, synthetic drugs and related chemical precursors), other smuggling activity and emerging crimes (e.g. maritime, environmental, and cultural property).

Output 2.3: SEE jurisdictions have improved integrated border management, cross-border cooperation, and networking in disrupting border illicit trafficking.

Output 2.4: SEE jurisdictions are more effective at countering trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and protecting victims based on whole-of-society approaches.

Output 2.5: SEE jurisdictions take effective measures to counter illicit arms trafficking and potential linkages with crises in other regions.

Output 2.6: SEE jurisdictions have enhanced policies to effectively counter money laundering and cybercrime, including the illicit use of Artificial Intelligence, and are fully equipped with modern tools and knowledge.



### Thematic Area 3: Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery

Output 3.1: SEE jurisdictions effectively engage in intergovernmental processes to fast-track the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including its Conference of the States Parties (COSP) and the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM).

Output 3.2: SEE jurisdictions strengthen legal and policy frameworks to address corruption in line with UNCAC.

Output 3.3: SEE jurisdictions institutional frameworks, including integrity systems, address corruption in line with UNCAC.

Output 3.4: Anti-corruption practitioners and other stakeholders in the region apply their capacities to prevent and counter corruption.

Output 3.5: Increased international cooperation in the region to prevent and counter corruption, including on asset recovery cases.



### Thematic Area 4: Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Output 4.1: SEE jurisdictions strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks to address emerging terrorist and violent extremist threats, using human rights-compliant, gender-sensitive and accountable approaches.

Output 4.2: SEE jurisdictions strengthen the capacity of their criminal justice systems to address terrorism in line with human rights and the rule of law.

Output 4.3: SEE jurisdictions enhance capacity to prevent violent extremism that leads to terrorism in conformity with the rule of law and using whole-of-government and civil society approaches.





## Thematic Area 5: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Output 5.1: SEE jurisdictions identify needs and develop and implement comprehensive and evidence-based crime prevention strategies in line with international standards and best practices.

Output 5.2: SEE jurisdictions operate effective, fair, human rights-based and accountable justice systems and enhance equal access to justice for all, including through digitalization, the introduction of modern tools, enhanced forensics and other capacity.

Output 5.3: SEE jurisdictions develop and apply comprehensive and gender-responsive approaches to prison and probation management.

Output 5.4: SEE jurisdictions improve their capacity and knowledge in preventing violence against women and increase access to age- and gender-responsive justice mechanisms for women and other diverse or vulnerable social groups.

Output 5.5: SEE jurisdictions strengthen prevention of and responses to violence against children and enhance access to justice for children.

## Logical framework

### Thematic Area 1 – Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care

	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 1.1</b></p> <p>Drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention systems in SEE are strengthened in line with international standards on drug use prevention.</p>	<p>Indicator: Increase in coverage of prevention interventions - Number of facilitators (disaggregated by gender) trained on life and family skills prevention programmes.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Training reports; feedback from national partners; pre/post questionnaires and evaluation forms completed by trained individuals. Baseline: 0 Target: 1000 (male/female ratio to be tracked) Interim targets: 250 by end 2026 Interval: After each training</p>	<p>Risk: Adverse political developments or security events in the region impact UNODC's ability to implement the Programme.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Maintain close working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Continue developing all activities in close cooperation with relevant authorities to ensure strong ownership regardless of political changes.</p> <p>Adopt a flexible approach to shift funds among jurisdictions based on needs and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support in the development of appropriate policies, programmes and strategies targeted at preventing drug use and HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• Enable relevant line ministries and other stakeholders at all levels to develop and implement evidence-based interventions and policies in community, family and school settings.</li> <li>• Support monitoring and evaluation of drug prevention policies and interventions, including related data collection, research and reporting.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 1.2</b></p> <p>Comprehensive and effective approaches to treatment of drug use disorders and care are accepted and improved in line with the UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders.<sup>24</sup></p>	<p>Indicator: Number of training events in which policymakers and/or practitioners enhanced their knowledge on evidence-based drug use disorder treatment modalities and interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Training reports, pre/post questionnaires and evaluation</p>	<p>Risk: Adverse political developments or security events in the region impact UNODC's ability to implement the Programme.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p>

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO\\_International\\_Standards\\_Treatment\\_Drug\\_Use\\_Disorders\\_April\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/drug-prevention-and-treatment/UNODC-WHO_International_Standards_Treatment_Drug_Use_Disorders_April_2020.pdf)

	<p>forms completed by individuals (disaggregated male/female) trained; monitoring and evaluation reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 5 Interim targets: 3 by end 2026 Interval: On an annual basis</p>	<p>Mitigation Plan: Maintain close working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Continue developing all activities in close cooperation with relevant authorities to ensure strong ownership regardless of political changes.</p> <p>Adopt a flexible approach to shift funds among jurisdictions based on needs and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development and implementation of strategic documents and technical tools to promote evidence-based treatment modalities and interventions.</li> <li>• Develop capacity of policymakers and/or professionals to implement evidence-based, gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant drug dependence treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration, care and comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, including for key populations.</li> <li>• Support monitoring and evaluation of drug use disorder treatment policies and interventions, including related data collection, research and reporting.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 1.3</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions ensure accessibility to and availability of controlled medicines while preventing diversion and non-medical use of those medicines.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of laws, policies and other measures aimed at ensuring access to controlled medicines.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Text of laws and other strategic documents, reports on capacity building events and other activities.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 3 Interim targets: 1 by end 2026 Interval: On an annual basis</p>	<p>Risk: Adverse political developments or security events in the region impact UNODC’s ability to implement the Programme.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Maintain close working relationships with all relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Continue developing all activities in close cooperation with relevant authorities to ensure strong ownership regardless of political changes.</p> <p>Adopt a flexible approach to shift funds among jurisdictions based on needs and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure access to controlled medicines through reviewing national legislation, assessment of supply chain, training and capacity building of health professionals and other stakeholders involved in this area and awareness raising.</li> <li>• Address diversion of controlled medicines through prevention, detection and response to diversion (including linkages between diversion of controlled medicines, falsified medicines and organized crime).</li> </ul>		



- Facilitate data collection and research on diversion of controlled medicines through identifying and addressing non-medical use of those medicines among various groups, including women and university students.

## Thematic Area 2 – Transnational Organized Crime

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.1</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions are supported in the implementation and review of the UNTOC and its protocols in order to achieve effective legal frameworks, policies and programmes for tackling transnational organized crime in all its forms.</p>	<p><b>Indicator:</b> Number of jurisdictions implementing comprehensive and inclusive laws and policies against organized crime that are harmonized with UNTOC, international and follow up to the observations emanating from the UNTOC review mechanism.</p> <p><b>Means of Verification:</b> Official legislative documents from each jurisdiction confirming the adoption of the harmonized legislation.</p> <p>Analytical reports verifying the compliance of the legislation with UNTOC and gender and human rights mainstreaming.</p> <p>Reports from training sessions and workshops (with gender-disaggregated data).</p> <p>Participation in regular strategy implementation meetings.</p> <p>Statistical data comparing pre and post-intervention capabilities as provided by national authorities.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> One jurisdiction (BiH) is currently implementing a UNODC supported strategy against organized crime.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least four Western Balkan jurisdictions adopt laws and policies on organized crime, crimes that affect the environment, falsified medical products or other relevant crime types by end of 2028, with UNODC support and following up to the observations emanating from the UNTOC review mechanism.</p>	<p><b>Risk:</b> Resistance or delays in policymaking processes in individual jurisdictions.</p> <p>Changes in political climate or priorities.</p> <p>Resistance to change or lack of cooperation from stakeholders.</p> <p>Delays in the functioning of the UNTOC review mechanism.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Medium to high, as failure to harmonize laws and policies could lead to inconsistent enforcement and loopholes in the regional approach to organized crime.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Plan:</b> Engage in continuous dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders, including civil society, women, youth and human rights groups, in each jurisdiction to address concerns and resistance.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance and expertise to facilitate the legislative and policy development process.</p> <p>Monitor political developments and adjust strategies accordingly to maintain momentum in the harmonization process.</p>

	<p>Interim targets: By end of 2026, at least two of the Western Balkan jurisdictions have reviewed/adopted legislation or policies as described above.</p> <p>Periodic enhancement in detection technologies and methodologies.</p> <p>Interval: Regular annual assessment.</p>	<p>Ensure engagement of Western Balkans jurisdictions in UNTOC review mechanism.</p>
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**Indicative Activities**

- Undertake organized crime strategic, legislative and policy assessments and gap analysis.
- Provide tailored legislative and policy advice and drafting support to requesting jurisdictions to facilitate harmonization with UNTOC, promote gender and human rights mainstreaming, and further guide development and enactment of legislation, policies and strategies, through inter alia: country visits, workshops, stakeholder dialogues.
- Facilitate participation of jurisdictions in the UNTOC review mechanism, including through local self-assessments and multi-stakeholder engagement with government, civil society and international partners.
- Support jurisdictions in developing tailored gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant monitoring and evaluation systems for the implementation of national strategies.

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.2</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions are more effective at combatting the trafficking of illicit drugs (opiates, new psychoactive substances, synthetic drugs and related chemical precursors), other smuggling activity, and emerging crimes (e.g. maritime, environmental, cultural property).</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of trained specialized trainers and trainings, eLearning modules, joint exercises, taskforces, cases of bilateral and multilateral judicial cooperation.</p> <p>Endorsed strategy papers/action plans on forensics.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Activity Reports, Training Reports (with gender disaggregated data)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (systematic approach N/A) Criminal Laboratories with detection capacity of narcotic drugs</p> <p>Target: Training capacity established and sustained, with continuous support to SEE jurisdictions</p> <p>Criminal laboratories capable to conduct chemical profiling of synthetic drugs by the end of 2028</p> <p>Interim targets: N/A</p> <p>Interval: Periodical Progress Reports</p>	<p>Risk: Differences in legislation and competences of stakeholders; changes in national and regional priorities impacting Programme participation.</p> <p>Challenges in the installation of eLearning modules due to different IT structures.</p> <p>Lack of required samples for chemical profiling and limited national resources in supplying necessary laboratory equipment.</p> <p>Impact: Low to medium, as there is ongoing cooperation between the SEE jurisdictions on training of law enforcement officers and other practitioners.</p> <p>Medium to high - an inventory for chemical profiling can be developed through nationally intercepted synthetic drugs; availability of equipment is critical.</p>



		<p>Mitigation Plan:</p> <p>Monitor the situation and adjust activities whenever needed.</p> <p>Provide constant assistance by partnering with countries and institutions that can share their expertise and capacity on forensic profiling.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support SEE jurisdictions to identify gaps and needs in the area of combating narcotics and other smuggling activity and provide advisory support to develop and implement relevant drug legislation and support policy development in emerging areas, such as digital trafficking.</li> <li>• Support counter-narcotics capacity of law enforcement units and other stakeholders by developing training curricula, training trainers and establishing e-learning capacity on drug trafficking and related trends (e.g. online sales, dark and deep web, the transcription of encrypted communication, digital evidence collection, and investigation techniques).</li> <li>• Promote and conceptualize multilateral taskforces, organize operational exercises, promote mentoring programs and support information exchange (including business to government, public partnerships) on counternarcotics and precursors.</li> <li>• Review legislation, conduct needs assessment on forensics, develop and implement strategies/action plans for forensic testing/chemical profiling, including the supply of necessary laboratory equipment and delivery of training.</li> <li>• Provide support in exploring online tools and databases that can be used in profiling and targeting activities, including procurement of software.</li> <li>• Conduct comparative analysis of legal/operational frameworks to address emerging crime risks and support measures to address these, including in relation to the protection of cultural heritage.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.3</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions have improved integrated border management, cross-border cooperation, and networking in disrupting border illicit trafficking.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of profiled passengers and goods, including cargo/postal shipments/parcels.</p> <p>Baseline: direct/indirect access to 30% of carrier's information (cargo and passengers) across 6 jurisdictions.</p> <p>Target: direct/indirect access to 50% of carriers' information (cargo and passengers) across 6 jurisdictions.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of seizures in the region</p> <p>Baseline: 5 per jurisdiction per year</p> <p>Target: 10 per jurisdiction per year</p> <p>Indicator: Number of messages alerts exchanged through CENcomm</p> <p>Baseline: 6 per year across 6 jurisdictions jurisdictions</p> <p>Target: 12 per year across 6 jurisdictions</p>	<p>Risk: Insufficient national buy-in; frequent changes of previously certified staff and changes in the composition of the established interagency groups.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to engage with governments and secure agreement with key agencies, working at all levels, including policy, to ensure ownership and continuity in functioning of interagency groups.</p>

	<p>Means of Verification: National statistics, WCO Cencomm usage statistics</p> <p>Interval: quarterly</p>	
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, support and maintain interagency groups at border crossing points, including at land borders, seaports and airports, through thematic capacity-building, follow-up, and mentorship.</li> <li>• Support measures to enhance passenger and cargo control at land borders, seaports and airports, including through coordination and operational synergies between interagency groups and passenger information units established/under establishment with UNODC support.</li> <li>• Strengthen regional and international cooperation in relation to the targeting, detection and interception of high-risk containerized and other shipments moved through land borders, seaports and airports.</li> <li>• Deliver capacity building and professional development activities, as well as support exchange visits and participation in international joint operations covering a wide range of enforcement and interdiction subjects related to cargo and passenger controls at land borders, seaports and airports and border management.</li> <li>• Support law enforcement structures to establish closer cooperation with the public and private sectors, such as carriers, freight forwarders and customs brokers, to develop mutual trust and understanding necessary to strengthen and protect the containerized trade supply chain and passenger sector.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance, including procurement of essential information and communication technology equipment, basic and advanced inspection equipment (for detection of drugs, explosives and other, as needed), testing tools, protective and other equipment and appropriate software solutions for joint interagency groups. Promote increased awareness and up-to-date understanding of gender mainstreaming in border management, including through gender-sensitivity training for border control officers and managers, as well as networking and capacity building opportunities for female law officers.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.4</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions are more effective at countering trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and protecting victims based on whole-of-society approaches.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of instances when assisted jurisdictions reviewed/amended existing and/or developed new strategies/policies/action plans against TIP/SOM. Baseline: No new instances Target: At least two</p> <p>Indicator: Number of TIP/SOM cases investigated and/or prosecuted, as officially reported by assisted partner countries. Baseline: No new cases Target: At least four TIP/SOM cases investigated and/or prosecuted by assisted jurisdictions</p> <p>Indicator: Number and type of initiatives related to the identification, referral, or assistance by government authorities and/or civil society organizations of victims of trafficking, survivors of trafficking and vulnerable migrants, aligning with international standards.</p>	<p>Risk: Low level of attention dedicated to, and low prioritization of, TIP and SOM issues by the concerned authorities, given competing priorities in the jurisdictions.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Ensure that the work supported is in line with priority needs. Awareness-raising, and undertake advocacy to highlight the importance of addressing TIP and SOM.</p> <p>Risk: Security threats and political instability limit access to counterparts and beneficiaries.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p>



	<p>Baseline: No new initiatives Target: At least four Means of Verification: Country Reports provided through the UNTOC Review Mechanism; data from UNODC global reports; published studies and analyses at the national, regional, and global levels; official government documents and publications showcasing the adoption and implementation of policies; grant-related donor reporting and monitoring data.</p> <p>Interim targets: Half of the foreseen Programme target achieved. Interval: Regular annual assessment.</p>	<p>Mitigation Plan: Maintain regular communication with key counterparts to allow for the identification of corrective measures, if needed, to ensure smooth implementation. Adopt flexible and online solutions, as well reprogramme funds to other countries or regions if needed.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to authorities to adopt, implement, monitor and review laws, policies and strategies based on evidence, good practice and shared experience in line with the UNTOC and its Protocols.</li> <li>• Provide capacity building of law enforcement, criminal investigators, prosecutors and the judiciary to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate TIP and SOM and related organized crime and illicit financial flows.</li> <li>• Organize bi-lateral, regional and international meetings, workshops and trainings to build policy and operational cooperation to respond to TIP and SOM and dismantle organized criminal groups and bring perpetrators to justice.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity of partners to identify, refer and assist victims of organized crime and facilitate their social integration.</li> <li>• Undertake studies and analysis of TIP and SOM patterns, trends, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels to track the modus operandi of organized crime networks and analyse victimization.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.5</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions take effective measures to counter illicit arms trafficking and related linkages to crises in other regions.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions that have fully harmonized their legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol.</p> <p>Number of jurisdictions with improved capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate firearms offences.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Official legislative documents from each jurisdiction confirming the adoption of the harmonized legislation.</p> <p>Reports from international bodies verifying the compliance of the legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol. Reports from training sessions and workshops. Assessments or audits conducted post-training.</p>	<p>Risk: Resistance or delays in legislative processes in individual jurisdictions.</p> <p>Changes in political climate or priorities affecting the commitment to harmonization.</p> <p>Inadequate training resources or expertise. Technological limitations or advancements outpacing training.</p> <p>Resistance to change or lack of cooperation from stakeholders.</p> <p>Impact: Medium to high, as failure to harmonize legislation across all</p>





	<p>Statistical data comparing pre and post-intervention capabilities.</p> <p>Baseline: Two jurisdictions have harmonized their criminal legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol.</p> <p>Six jurisdictions have increased their capacity to collect electronic evidence. One jurisdiction has increased capacity to detect firearm in postal parcels.</p> <p>Target: All Western Balkan jurisdictions have harmonized their legislation with the UN Firearms Protocol and increase related capabilities by end 2029.</p> <p>Interim targets: By end of 2026, at least half of the Western Balkan jurisdictions have completed the harmonization process.</p> <p>Quarterly or bi-annual increase in the number of trained personnel.</p> <p>Periodic enhancement in detection technologies and methodologies.</p> <p>Interval: Regular annual assessment.</p>	<p>jurisdictions could lead to inconsistent enforcement and loopholes in the regional approach to firearms trafficking.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Engage in continuous dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders in each jurisdiction to address concerns and resistance.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance and expertise to facilitate the legislative process.</p> <p>Monitor political developments and adjust strategies accordingly to maintain momentum in the harmonization process.</p> <p>Establish partnerships with expert organizations for continuous training and resource support.</p> <p>Regularly update training materials to match technological advancements.</p> <p>Engage with stakeholders through meetings and feedback sessions to ensure collaboration and address concerns.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide tailored legislative advice and legal drafting support to requesting jurisdictions to facilitate harmonization with the UN Protocol, and development and enactment of legislation and subsidiary legislation, through inter alia: country visits, workshops, stakeholder dialogues.</li> <li>• Develop and deliver training courses for detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of firearm offences.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance, including through delivery of equipment and training on its use.</li> <li>• Support information exchange and development of best practices for detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of firearm offences.</li> </ul>		



	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 2.6</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions have enhanced policies to effectively counter money laundering and cybercrime, including the illicit use of Artificial Intelligence, and are fully equipped with modern tools and knowledge.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions with strengthened legislative frameworks, policies and strategies largely or fully compliant with international standards to counter money laundering.</p> <p>Number of jurisdictions with improved capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate ML/TF, IFFs and cybercrime cases.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Meeting reports; Training reports; FATF/FSRB evaluation reports; Law enforcement and court records.</p> <p>Baseline: No new instances.</p> <p>4 jurisdictions have increased their capacity to conduct financial investigation to detect and investigate ML/TF cases. One jurisdiction has increased capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate ML/TF cases.</p> <p>Target: By end 2029, all SEE jurisdictions have completed the compliance process and increased their capacity.</p> <p>Interim targets: By end of 2026, at least half of the SEE jurisdictions have completed the compliance process.</p> <p>Quarterly or bi-annual increase in the number of trained personnel.</p> <p>Periodic enhancement in detection technologies and methodologies and investigation and prosecution techniques.</p> <p>Interval: Regular annual assessment.</p>	<p>Risk: Reluctance or delays in legislative processes in individual jurisdictions.</p> <p>Unstable political climate or emerging priorities affecting the commitment to ensure full compliance.</p> <p>Existing AML/CFT laws may have gaps, lack specificity, or face challenges in enforcement.</p> <p>Inadequate legal tools hinder the ability to prosecute and deter money laundering.</p> <p>Resistance to change or lack of cooperation from stakeholders.</p> <p>Insufficient investment in technological solutions.</p> <p>Impact: Medium to high, as failure to enact fully compliant legislation across all jurisdictions could lead to inconsistent enforcement and loopholes in the regional approach to IFFs, money laundering.</p> <p>If needed capacity building Programmes are not duly delivered and expertise is not shared, this could negatively affect the ability to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute money laundering.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Engage in continuous dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders in each jurisdiction to address concerns and resistance.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance and expertise to facilitate the review process of legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks.</p>

		<p>Monitor political developments and adjust strategies accordingly to maintain momentum in the compliance and strengthening process of the frameworks.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support development and implementation of AML and cybercrime laws, policies, strategies, action plans, and other relevant documents.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance on the implementation of AML standards, including capacity-building for policymakers and operational staff, development of e-learning and other training tools, guidance on AML risk assessment and effective use of technological solutions.</li> <li>• Conduct training on financial investigations, prosecution, adjudication and confiscation, addressing virtual assets-related crimes, including cryptocurrencies, and other emerging risks and changing patterns of financial crimes.</li> <li>• Facilitate regional and international platforms for information exchange and development of best practices in AML/CFT and addressing cybercrime.</li> <li>• Facilitate dialogue and closer cooperation between the private sector (including industry associations, technology providers, financial institutions), civil society and governmental institutions in the area of AML/CFT and cybercrime.</li> </ul>		

### Thematic Area 3 – Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 3.1</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions effectively engage in intergovernmental processes to fast-track the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including its Conference of the States Parties and the Implementation Review Mechanism.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of beneficiaries of Regional Programme who find the Convention is a useful tool to prevent and counter corruption.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Survey results.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: no baseline</p> <p>Target: 75% per year</p> <p>Indicator: % of beneficiaries of technical assistance interventions who report that these intergovernmental processes have reinforced anti-corruption commitments.</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of commitment from jurisdictions to actively engage in the UNCAC IRM.</p> <p>Impact: High.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust, leading to formal requests for assistance.</p> <p>Risk: Lack of financial resources to facilitate jurisdictions’ effective engagement in intergovernmental processes.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to regularly communicate with jurisdictions and donors regarding the discrepancies between mandated functions and insufficient resources. In addition,</p>



	<p>Means of Verification: Survey results</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: no baseline</p> <p>Target: 75% per year</p>	<p>continue to maximise the use of existing resources in delivering high-quality services, and provide result-based reporting to jurisdictions.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist jurisdictions with training and advisory services to support UNCAC implementation and participation in the UNCAC's intergovernmental processes, including the COSP and all stages of the IRM.</li> <li>Assist States in preparing a training curriculum on UNCAC and IRM and building up a related pool of experts/trainers among relevant stakeholders, including anti-corruption bodies and institutions of public administration.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 3.2</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions strengthen their legal and policy frameworks to address corruption in line with UNCAC.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of adopted, revised or new laws, regulations or policies in line with UNCAC as a result of technical assistance interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Adopted laws, regulations, policies.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: 5</p> <p>Target: 6</p> <p>Indicator: Number of TA interventions related to anti-corruption legislation, regulations, policies or strategies.</p> <p>Means of Verification: ROSEE records, activity reports.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Target: 5</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of commitment from jurisdictions to undertake reforms.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Risk: Lack of responsiveness by jurisdictions to follow-up on review recommendations/technical assistance needs identified.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust and communicate with anti-corruption and other related entities to ensure a broad base of support.</p>

<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research and undertake gap analysis of existing legislation, regulations, policies or strategies.</li> <li>• Provide advice in elaborating new or revising existing legislation, regulations, policies or strategies, and facilitate stakeholder consultations and drafting workshops.</li> <li>• Conduct training and improve the capacities of legislators and other relevant legal experts and stakeholders in conducting corruption proofing of laws and other normative acts and facilitating public consultations on legislation in line with international standards..</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 3.3</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions strengthen their institutional frameworks, including integrity systems, to address corruption in line with UNCAC.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of institutions addressing corruption established or strengthened with technical assistance interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: ROSEE records, activity reports.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: over the last years on average 12 per year</p> <p>Target: 15 per year</p> <p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions that have established or strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms at the national level with technical assistance interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: ROSEE records, activity reports</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: over the last years on average 4</p> <p>Target: 8 per year</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of commitment from jurisdictions to undertake reforms.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust, leading to formal requests for assistance.</p> <p>Risk: Lack of responsiveness by jurisdictions to follow-up on review recommendations/technical assistance needs identified.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust and communicate with anti-corruption and other related entities to ensure a broad base of support.</p>

<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct background research/needs/gaps/risk assessments on institutional strengthening.</li> <li>• Facilitate stakeholder consultations and provide advice, mentorship and capacity building support in establishing and/or strengthening institutions.</li> <li>• Support development and roll out of methodologies for corruption risk assessments.</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 3.4</b></p> <p>Anti-corruption practitioners and other stakeholders in the region apply their capacities to prevent and counter corruption.</p>	<p>Indicator: % of beneficiaries who increased their knowledge in detecting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption cases as a result of technical assistance interventions</p> <p>Means of Verification: Survey results.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 70%</p>	<p>Risk: technical assistance interventions delivery is impaired by lack of sufficient funding and administrative support.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to regularly communicate with jurisdictions and donors regarding the discrepancies between mandated functions and insufficient resources. In addition, continue to maximise the use of existing resources in delivering high-quality services, and provide result-based reporting to jurisdictions. Ensure timely planning of activities and advocate for the improvement of internal processes and systems.</p>

**Indicative Activities**

- Conduct background and comparative research to prepare training material and guidance, facilitate access to regional and international best practices, provide advice on training curricula to institutions.
- Adapt, translate, disseminate and promote manuals and tools, conduct capacity-building workshops and training courses, facilitate peer-to-peer learning and mentorship.
- Engage with national authorities and donors to conduct surveys and studies on corruption, also including gender aspects.
- Support anticorruption awareness campaigns and contribute to the development of anti-corruption initiatives/conferences/other relevant fora involving civil society, sport organizations, the private sector, media, youth, academia and educators.

	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 3.5</b></p> <p>Increased international cooperation in the region to prevent and counter corruption, including on asset recovery cases.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions that have taken action to further international cooperation to prevent and counter corruption (such as MLA requests) as a result of technical assistance interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Survey results, ROSEE records</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: 5</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of commitment from jurisdictions to strengthen international cooperation.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust, leading to formal requests for assistance.</p>

	<p>Target: 5 per year</p> <p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions who have taken actions for the recovery and return of assets (proceeds or instrumentalities of corruption) as a result of technical assistance interventions.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Information from jurisdictions; reports; ROSEE/StAR activity reports; official documents on completed asset returns or concluded agreements.</p> <p>Interval: 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2027</p> <p>Baseline: 2</p> <p>Target: 7</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of commitment/capacities to take systematic action on asset recovery, for example due to sensitive political environments.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Continue to build on established momentum and relations in order to sustain engagement and trust. Continue to communicate with anti-corruption and other related entities to ensure a broad base of support.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the regional component of GlobE and promote it to exchange information and facilitate international cooperation to prevent and counter corruption, including for asset recovery.</li> <li>• Conduct assessment of legislation, institutions or capacity needs and provide legislative/regulatory/advisory assistance including on action plans/strategies or domestic coordination.</li> <li>• Provide advisory services on establishing asset recovery offices and initiating/conducting asset recovery cases.</li> <li>• Conduct mentorship, training and capacity building on financial investigations, anti-money laundering, cryptocurrencies and skills required for asset recovery.</li> </ul>		

#### Thematic Area 4 – Prevention of Terrorism and Violent Extremism

	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 4.1</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks to address emerging terrorist and violent extremist threats, using human rights-compliant, gender-sensitive and accountable approaches.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions provided with recommendations to develop and implement their terrorism prevention legislation and strategies to address emerging threats.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Official records UNODC reports National reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2 Interim targets: 1 Interval: regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Complex and lengthy policy making processes.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: advocacy, dissemination of UNODC tools to support policy development.</p>



<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote adherence to and effective implementation of international counterterrorism instruments.</li> <li>• Support development and implementation of gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant CT laws, policies, strategies, action plans, and other relevant documents.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance on the implementation of CT standards, including capacity-building for policymakers, law enforcement, criminal justice and other practitioners, and development of e-learning and other training tools.</li> <li>• Support human rights-compliant measures to address terrorist content online.</li> <li>• Provide guidance on gender mainstreaming in terrorism prevention policies and support efforts to consider the specificities of women and men involved in terrorism and violent extremism.</li> <li>• Promote initiatives and measures to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and protection of public spaces.</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 4.2</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions strengthen the capacity of their criminal justice systems to address terrorism in line with human rights and the rule of law.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of jurisdictions with improved capacity to detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Meeting reports; Training reports; Law enforcement and court records</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2 Interim targets: 1 Interval: regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of political, institutional or funding support.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: advocacy, awareness raising and active cooperation and partnerships with national counterparts and international partners.</p>

<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct training on effective and human-rights compliant investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism.</li> <li>• Facilitate dialogue and coordination platforms for information exchange and development of best practices on prevention of terrorism and violent extremism on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, and other emerging TP/PVE issues.</li> <li>• Develop capacity to facilitate counter-terrorism cooperation between agencies and across borders, including in relation to the prosecution of foreign terrorist fighters as well as their repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration.</li> <li>• Support measures to address the financing of terrorism and linkages between terrorism and organized crime.</li> <li>• Build capacity on countering the use of Internet for terrorist purpose, on requesting and obtaining electronic evidence, and addressing terrorist exploitation of new technologies.</li> <li>• Support regional and international cooperation in criminal matters to enable informal information sharing and formal cooperation, including mutual legal assistance requests and procedures for obtaining electronic evidence across borders.</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 4.3</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions have enhanced capacity to prevent violent extremism that leads to terrorism</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of laws, policies and Programmes on preventing violent extremism supported with development and application in practice.</p>	<p>Risk: Low capacity of local stakeholders.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p>



<p>in conformity with the rule of law and using whole-of-government and civil society approaches.</p>	<p>Means of Verification: Legislative and policy documents                  Programme records/reports                  Regulatory/policy documents                  Meeting minutes/monitoring reports;                  Pre-,post training evaluation reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0                  Target: 2                  Interim targets: 1                  Interval: Regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Mitigation Plan: Support dialogue, coordination and establishment of monitoring mechanisms for implementation of human-rights compliant PVE strategies.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide legal and policy advice on the development and implementation of gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant PVE laws, policies, strategies and action plans.</li> <li>• Support networking and capacity for data collection, research and analysis, and early warning in relation to terrorism trends, including how it affects women, youth and other people.</li> <li>• Facilitate a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to PVE , including through the engagement of civil society and youth.</li> <li>• Provide tools and capacity to support victims of terrorism and their families.</li> <li>• Support access to comprehensive and evidence-based terrorism prevention programmes and interventions that target risk factors of terrorism, promote youth and women empowerment and are socially inclusive.</li> <li>• Facilitate the roll out of tools and mechanisms that support education and awareness raising related to peace, gender equality, human rights and rule of law with a view to building resilience of adults (men, women) and children.</li> <li>• Promote initiatives in support of online and virtual environments that support peace messaging and generate resilience to violent extremist narratives online.</li> <li>• Engage civil society, including youth leaders, women-led organizations and national women machineries, in a way that leverages collaborative approaches to prevent terrorism.</li> </ul>		

### Thematic Area 5 – Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 5.1</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions identify needs and develop and implement comprehensive and evidence-based crime prevention strategies in line with international standards and best practices.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of evidence-based crime prevention initiatives that target known risk factors.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Text of laws, policies and other strategic documents, Programme reports and records</p> <p>Baseline: 0                  Target: 3                  Interim targets: 1                  Interval: Regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of political, institutional or funding support for evidence-based crime prevention.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Embed crime prevention in broader drug, crime, corruption and terrorism prevention.</p>



<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness about UN guidance and good practices on crime prevention, including in connection to cybercrime and other new/emerging crimes.</li> <li>• Support the development of new/ review existing policies, (draft) legislation and strategies related to crime prevention and facilitate coordination between different sectors and levels of government as well as civil society.</li> <li>• Support data collection and analysis on crime and criminal justice trends.</li> <li>• Strengthen the capacity of crime prevention and criminal justice practitioners to prevent crime and violence including through training and workshops.</li> <li>• Promote implementation of social development, educational and other resilience initiatives, such as life skills training, creation of safe spaces and community-oriented policing, to prevent crime and victimization, in particular among women, youth and other groups.</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks:
<p><b>Output 5.2</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions operate effective, fair, human rights-based and accountable justice systems and enhance equal access to justice for all, including through digitalization, the introduction of modern tools, enhanced investigative practices, forensics and other capacity.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of laws, policies, measures and other activities to increase equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Analytical reports, Programme reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Interim targets: 2 Interval: Regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Limited commitment, funding to ensure access to justice.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Conduct regular consultations, ensure coordination and partnerships with other international partners and civil society.</p>

<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct scoping/needs assessment, support national and regional networking, and provide assistance to law enforcement institutions to provide effective, human rights-based, accountable, gender-responsive and inclusive policing services.</li> <li>• Support national and regional training programmes, seminars and other events to raise awareness of the benefits of investigative practices and psycho-social support for police investigators and prosecutors, in particular those working on SGBV and domestic violence cases.</li> <li>• Support prosecution services, oversight bodies, inspection services and judiciary to foster evidence-based practices, strengthen the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the administration of justice, including through e-justice.</li> <li>• Develop capacities of criminal justice actors, including legal aid providers, to organize, coordinate and deliver quality legal aid services, including through national and regional level expert meetings.</li> <li>• Provide advisory support to strengthen legislation, procedures, regulations, institutions, capacity, and referral systems for victims of crime, including victims of discrimination and hate crime, and support civil society and victims' organizations.</li> <li>• Strengthen national legislation and procedures on investigative practices, including interviewing, forensic and other capacity to meet internationally accepted standards of performance.</li> </ul>
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	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 5.3</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions develop and apply comprehensive and gender-responsive approaches to prison and probation management.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of targeted penal and prison reform initiatives with due consideration of human rights and gender sensitivity.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Analytical reports, Programme reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Interim targets: 2 Interval: Regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of capacity or political will to prioritize penal and prison reform, e.g. due to security-focussed and “tough on crime” policies, other competing priorities or future crises.</p> <p>Impact: MEdium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: Engage in ongoing advocacy, awareness raising and partnership building around prison reform.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide expert advice on prison and probation management and related gender-responsive and human rights-compliant legislation, policies, strategies and action plans.</li> <li>• Provide assistance to prison services in ensuring the safe, secure and humane custody of prisoners, including violent extremist prisoners, in line with international standards and norms.</li> <li>• Support measures to improve the social reintegration prospects of offenders as a result of rehabilitative prison environments and community-based support services.</li> <li>• Support capacity development of criminal justice professionals to use non-custodial measures in appropriate cases and ensure proportionate sentencing, with a view to avoiding the overuse of imprisonment.</li> </ul>		

	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 5.4</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions improve their capacity and knowledge in preventing violence against women and increase access to age- and gender-responsive justice mechanisms for women, and other diverse or vulnerable social groups.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of measures to prevent and address violence against women and other groups.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Text of laws, policies and other strategic documents; Programme reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Interim targets: 2 Interval: regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Lack of capacity or willingness to prioritize crime prevention and criminal justice responses to gender-based and other violence.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: advocacy, awareness raising and active cooperation and partnerships with national counterparts, international partners and civil society.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support alignment of legislation, policy and institutional frameworks on violence against women with international standards.</li> <li>• Increase capacity of criminal justice professionals to prevent and respond to violence against women.</li> <li>• Promote the design and implementation of comprehensive interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women in partnership with all relevant sectors and civil society.</li> <li>• Promote gender balance, particularly at decision-making and managerial levels, and enhance gender-responsiveness and sensitivity in the law enforcement and justice sector.</li> </ul>		



	Indicators:	Risks
<p><b>Output 5.5</b></p> <p>SEE jurisdictions strengthen prevention of and responses to violence against children and enhance access to justice for children.</p>	<p>Indicator: Number of measures to prevent and respond to violence against children and promote justice for children.</p> <p>Means of Verification: Text of laws, policies and other strategic documents; Programme/project reports</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 4 Interim targets: 2 Interval: regular annual reporting</p>	<p>Risk: Budgetary constraints, including limited donor interest in funding crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against children.</p> <p>Impact: Medium.</p> <p>Mitigation Plan: diversifying funding, advocating for government support, and fostering partnerships with cross-sectoral and non-traditional actors.</p>
<p><b>Indicative Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advisory services to support the alignment of national legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks on violence against children and justice for children, including child (juvenile) justice, with international law and relevant United Nations standards and norms.</li> <li>• Increase capacity of institutions and key actors within the justice, security, social welfare, education, health, and child protection systems, focusing on strategies and measures for preventing and responding to violence against children and justice for children, children, including child (juvenile) justice.</li> <li>• Enhance coordination and strengthen cross sectoral collaboration between law enforcement, justice, security, social welfare, health, education and child protection systems, as well as with non-governmental actors.</li> <li>• Increase capacity of children and their environment to resist crime and violence (including recruitment and exploitation) and/or to successfully reintegrate into society.</li> </ul>		

## Stakeholders

In order to deliver the RPSEE, ROSEE will work in close partnership with the following stakeholders:

**Governments and competent authorities:** including counterparts working on relevant mandated areas, such as drug control agencies, police, border services, customs, other law enforcement bodies, anti-corruption agencies, prosecutorial services, the judiciary, the penitentiary, ministries dealing with health, education, and social protection, statistics services, agencies responsible for women empowerment and gender equality, children and youth affairs, and national human rights institutions. These partnerships, which can include engagement at various levels of government, are key to ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of UNODC support, as well as ownership in each jurisdiction. Partners include but are not limited to:

- a. Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC);
- b. Turkish Counter Narcotics Training Academy (NEA);
- c. Turkish Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (TUBIM);
- d. Turkish Directorate General of Customs Enforcement of the Ministry of Trade;
- e. Turkish Financial Crimes Investigation Board (MASAK);
- f. Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**Civil society, academia, and private sector:** Effective implementation of the Programme will involve non-governmental actors at grassroots, local, national, and regional levels. Civil society and the private sector are important allies to their governments in addressing the region's drugs and crime issues. Civil society organisations have a key

role to play in promoting equal access to justice for all, for example through provision of support services to groups with specific rights and needs in the criminal justice system, and vulnerable groups (e.g. victims of human trafficking and other crime) and exposing instances of institutional corruption. Private sector companies can cooperate with their governments on the implementation of compliance policies that strengthen business integrity, and to help combat organized crime, illicit flows and money laundering. Academia and the media can also play an important role in awareness-raising and advocacy work relevant to addressing identified drugs and crime challenges. UNODC will therefore continue strengthening cooperation with non-governmental stakeholders, based on existing experience and partnerships developed under the previous cycle of the RP in partnership with the Civil Society Unit.

**UN and international organizations:** UNODC closely coordinates its work with the UN Development Coordination Office and UN Resident Coordinators and partners with other UN agencies in the context of the UN Country Teams and UNSDCFs in place in the region. In SEE, UNODC also engages with other regional and international organizations on common areas of interest and similar initiatives. These include, but are not limited to:

- a. European Union (EU),
- b. Council of Europe (COE),
- c. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE),
- d. Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for South-Eastern Europe (PCC SEE),
- e. Regional Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC),
- f. South-Eastern European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC),
- g. Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI),



- h. Regional Cooperation Council (RCC),
- i. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA),
- j. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL),
- k. European Police Office (EUROPOL),
- l. International Civil Aviation Organization,
- m. World Customs Organization.

Multilateral and bilateral donors: Donor coordination is essential for effective implementation and long-term impact of the RP. During the 2020-2024 cycle, UNODC closely partnered with Austria, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Norway, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, Türkiye, and other multilateral and bilateral donors. This practice of active engagement with the donor community is set to continue.

## Workplan

The annual work plan for the RPSEE will be adopted by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), which is composed of key government counterparts and other stakeholders in SEE. This coordination mechanism has been operational under the previous cycles of the RP and is expected to continue to review programme implementation and strategic approaches.

The RPSEE 2024-2029 will draw from the thematic structure of the UNODC Strategy, whilst the annual work plan will be tailored to reflect the substantive content and technical assistance agreed based on the specific context, needs and emerging challenges in SEE. In this manner, reporting on the results of the RP can directly feed into the targets of the UNODC Strategy and the SDGs.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The RPSEE 2024-2029 will build on ROSEE's experience in participating in and coordinating a range of existing regional cooperation frameworks that are specific to the SEE region. These include the Regional UNCAC Platform and Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap for which UNODC acts as the Secretariat. The RP will be fully aligned with the agreed goals of this framework and facilitate its implementation.

All SEE jurisdictions joined the Global Operational Network of Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE), which facilitates transnational cooperation on corruption cases. A regional GlobE component was created in 2023, which will be further supported under this new cycle of the RPSEE.

UNODC has a long-standing experience fostering regional cooperation and facilitating regional platforms for the exchange of experiences. These often benefit from region-specific organizations, such as the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative. Under the lead of the Civil Society Unit, UNODC has also facilitated civil society cooperation on UNCAC implementation in the region and brought together business sector representatives.

Another example is the Regional Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse, and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which provides a guiding framework for dealing with the challenge of firearms, in which UNODC partners with all SEE jurisdictions and other partners, such as UNDP, Regional Cooperation Council and others.

Activities under the RP will benefit from UNODC's global level engagement and experience facilitating regional and interregional dialogue aimed at tackling the problem of drugs originating in Afghanistan.

Moreover, regional exchanges and meetings will be organized through the support of the Government of Türkiye to bring together regional and international experts on drugs, crime and terrorism as required by the RPSEE and discussed within the PSC.

UNODC's work on border management benefits from regional partnerships with the involvement of relevant regional institutions, such as Europol, Frontex, SELEC and others, which enable peer exchanges and cooperation among counterparts in the region.

UNODC initiatives on terrorism will benefit from experiences and lessons learned in other jurisdictions and regions of the world.

UNODC engagement on cybercrime will benefit from expertise and best practices available through relevant global programmes and the newly established UNODC Regional Centre for Combatting Cybercrime in Doha, Qatar.

## Strategic Alignment and Relevance to the UN System

### Justification for the Involvement with the UN System

UNODC is responsible for supporting Member States in making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism with a view to promoting security and justice for all. This mandate spans the three pillars of the UN – peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

UNODC assists Member States in their fight against crime in all its dimensions through

three broad interconnected and mutually supportive work streams:

- a. normative work, the ratification and implementation of international standards;
- b. research and policy support; and
- c. technical cooperation.

All Thematic Areas seek to support the SEE jurisdictions with the ratification and implementation of the relevant international norms and standards under UNODC's purview. In SEE, normative engagement is coordinated through the Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe and its network of Programme Offices under the guidance of UNODC Headquarters, relevant thematic sections and global programmes.

Technical cooperation is delivered through the various Thematic Areas. Depending on the thematic area, UNODC global Programmes contribute to their implementation. Research and policy support is mainstreamed through the various Thematic Areas, which will be implemented in close coordination with the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. Any laboratory support or technical assistance in the field of forensics science will be coordinated with the Laboratory and Scientific Section.

The RPSEE is aligned with the global UNODC Strategy for 2021-2025, which strengthens the organization's efforts in the areas of countering transnational organized crime, drug demand reduction, countering corruption, terrorism prevention, justice, research, trend analysis and forensics, policy support, and technical cooperation and field support.

The new RPSEE is aligned with other relevant UNODC strategies, including the new UNODC Strategy Against Illicit Firearms.

The RPSEE will continue to facilitate integration of and synergies among all

relevant UNODC Programmes at national, regional and global levels. This includes the Passenger and Cargo Border Team in the Border Management Branch, which will ensure high-quality technical delivery of border management assistance to SEE jurisdictions. Field-based national liaison officers in the SEE region play an important role in supporting situation analysis along the Balkan drug trafficking route from Afghanistan. These liaison functions require further consolidation under the RP, including through regular inter-regional law enforcement knowledge and information exchange meetings.

Emerging challenges are also part of the UNODC technical assistance support to be provided to SEE jurisdictions. This can include addressing cyber, environmental and maritime crime as well as the protection of cultural property, for which the RP will serve as a framework to link up with the provision of existing initiatives (i.e. CATCH Initiative) or global programmes.

## **Alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation and other Frameworks**

### **UNSDCFs**

The UNSDCFs respond – in the spirit of “One UN” - to national priorities and serve as a joint commitment by the UN Country Teams in the region to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and EU accession. UNODC is part of each UNCT in the region.

Strategic priorities of the UNSDCFs in the region vary per jurisdiction, but broadly cover inclusive economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, people-centred governance, rule of law, transparency and accountability, and human rights with a gender and disability inclusive approach. This RP is intended to contribute to these objectives and to support efforts to address governance and institutional challenges as well as to advance in the EU accession in UNODC-mandated areas of work.

Under the new RP, UNODC will support SEE jurisdictions in strengthening national and regional cooperation, increasing inter-agency collaboration between law enforcement, investigators and prosecutors for a more coordinated approach to drugs and crime, supporting the formation of joint investigation teams, strengthen anti-corruption and functioning of justice systems, as well as enhancing monitoring and research capacities in support of viable and tailored responses to emerging and evolving threats in the region aggravating the security situation and hindering the development and environment agendas.

This will be done in line with the current and future UNSDCFs in the region. Except for Albania (2022-2026) and Montenegro (2023-2027), all jurisdictions in the SEE are currently implementing UNSDCFs covering the period from 2021-2025. This RP will support the development and delivery of the new UNSDCFs that will be generated in the next cycle.

### **European Integration**

Given the specificity of the SEE region in terms of the presence of strong regional frameworks and the ongoing European Union integration process, ROSEE, in partnership and



coordination with BRULO, will undertake regular consultations with the European Commission, EU delegations, as well as with OSCE, Council of Europe and other international, and inter-governmental partners in the region.

Accession to the European Union is among the priorities of the South-Eastern European jurisdictions. In this vein, the delivery of the new Regional Programme would be instrumental to the accession process, in particular by addressing the acquis communautaire's security and health priorities (in Chapters 23, 24 and 28), whilst promoting adherence to and implementation of UN conventions and other international standards.

## Project Management and Implementation

### Coordination arrangements

Implementation of the RPSEE will be coordinated by the UNODC Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe (ROSEE) in partnership with relevant thematic programmes. For this purpose, the Regional Representative will lead a team of professionals based in the Regional Office and the Programme Offices in the region.

The RPSEE represents the totality of UNODC's work in the SEE region and brings together all national, regional and global initiatives. Close coordination with UNODC Headquarters, thematic sections and global programmes will ensure the availability of in-house subject matter expertise, guidance and direct support to Programme implementation. In steering the implementation of the new RP, ROSEE will ensure a close and continued collaboration with UNODC global programmes, which are a crucial element for the successful implementation of the Programme.

Detailed planning and the physical delivery of assistance will be coordinated through ROSEE and the network of Programme Offices with close guidance from UNODC headquarters and relevant thematic sections and global programmes.



Oversight of the implementation and monitoring of the RP will be the responsibility of ROSEE's core management team, led by the Regional Representative, and supported by relevant Programme Managers in the Regional Office, Programme Offices and thematic sections in UNODC HQ.

The management and implementation structure will benefit from substantive support and operational guidance from HQ management and relevant branches/sections dealing with cooperation and partnerships, strategic planning, civil society engagement, finance and human resources, as well as research and trend analysis, and laboratory and scientific services.

The Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia in the Division for Operations will provide further oversight and backstopping support.

### Governance Arrangements

The Regional Programme's governance mechanism has been designed to ensure full ownership of the SEE jurisdictions. The main governance vehicle will be the Programme

Steering Committee (PSC), which is composed of key government counterparts and other stakeholders. This PSC has been in place during the implementation of previous cycles of the RP and will continue to function with meetings to be held on annual basis to review RP implementation and approve the annual work plan.

The PSC can include donors, international partners and other interested parties as observers. The PSC will review and endorse strategic and operational priorities at the regional level and set the overall direction for the forthcoming year. The PSC can endorse amendments to the Programme via the UNODC Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe (ROSEE), which acts as the PSC secretariat.

Through its network of Programme Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as the existing relations with Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, ROSEE will involve the relevant counterparts in the development and implementation of the RP, as well as civil society interlocutors (NGOs, think-tanks), academia, and others.

To ensure alignment with UNSDCF in the region and contribute to joint programming within the UNCTs, ROSEE will consult UNDCO, Resident Coordinator Offices, UNMIK and UN partners on a regular basis.

## Resource Mobilization

The UNODC Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe has successfully implemented two phases of its RP from 2016-2019 and 2020-2024. During the previous phases, UNODC delivered technical assistance and expertise to SEE jurisdictions in the areas of countering illicit drug trafficking, countering organized crime, integrated border management, including human trafficking, migrant smuggling and firearms trafficking, as well as

preventing and addressing corruption, asset recovery, drug demand reduction (prevention and treatment of drug use disorders).

During the implementation of the RP from 2020-2024, delivery has steadily increased, most recently from USD 2.7 million in 2021, to USD 5.6 million in 2022, and 7.3 million USD in 2023.

Part of the funding provided for the previous RP cycle will be transferred to the new RP. As of mid-2024, there is USD 8.1 million (including Global Programme segments) in 2024 and \$8.3 million in 2025 in hard pipeline, which will serve for the uninterrupted continuation of UNODC activities while the office launches the new cycle.

ROSEE is working to secure additional funding for the Programme. The estimated annual fundraising target for the RPSEE will be USD 11 million for a total of USD 55 million for the whole 5-year cycle which is planned to start in mid-2024 until the end of 2029.

Current donors in SEE are Austria, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, Türkiye, and Lions Clubs International Foundation. In-kind contributions have been received from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A core focus of the fundraising strategy for the new RPF will be to continue fostering these partnerships, which have enabled implementation of flagship Programmes on border security, addressing organized crime, countering corruption and illicit financial flows.

A second strand for programming and fundraising under the new RP will be the excellent synergetic approach and continued engagement between the ROSEE and UNODC global programmes in South-Eastern Europe. Through its network of Programme Offices, ROSEE facilitates operations of the Passenger

and Cargo Border Team, the Global Programme against Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, the Global Programme to prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of United Nations Convention against Corruption in support of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Global Firearms Programme, the Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism, the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, the Global Programme on Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low/middle-income countries, the Global Programme on People-centred Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform and the Global Programme on Cybercrime among others.

With the relocation of the ROSEE to Istanbul, Türkiye, in 2023, UNODC has stepped up its engagement and partnership with the Government of Türkiye as well as with donors in the country to foster collaboration with Turkish authorities, including law enforcement bodies, their training institutions and other relevant government and civil society stakeholders in Türkiye. This partnership with Türkiye is expected to lead to further direct and indirect support for the new RP.

ROSEE has been engaging with donors through information sharing, dialogue, and participation in events. This includes regular briefings to national counterparts and donors, wide dissemination of monthly newsletters, brochures and communication through the UNODC ROSEE website and social media channels. National and regional counterparts have been approached for potential political and financial buy-in and support.

The Regional Representative, who is based in Istanbul, Türkiye, and other ROSEE staff, conduct regular missions in Türkiye, in the region and to Vienna HQs, to maintain and develop working relationships with national counterparts, diplomatic missions, and other international partners.

Efforts are made to expand the current donor portfolio, including through new partnerships and engagement with new private and public donors. By way of illustration, ROSEE and the Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Section in UNODC HQ have established close working relations with the Lions Clubs International Foundation. This partnership and the related funding pledged will form the backbone of the new RP's work on drug prevention, education, treatment and care.

The new RP follows the structure of the UNODC Global Strategy and is expected to mobilize resources for current areas of work, which have proven effective. At the same time, ROSEE is exploring additional areas of work falling under UNODC mandates, which to date have not been covered under existing initiatives (in particular crime prevention and criminal justice, terrorism prevention, and regional emerging criminal security threats) for which national counterparts have expressed interest.

ROSEE's fundraising efforts will be coordinated with the Co-financing and Partnership Section, Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit, thematic sections in HQ and liaison offices in Brussels and New York. Such fundraising will be informed by thorough country-level mapping and analysis of financial trends, in particular in the context of EU accession of the regional jurisdictions.

The inclusion of UNODC-mandated areas into UNSDCFs has been pursued across the SEE region, while considering the level of the Office's presence and available capacities. ROSEE has made efforts to increase

engagement with Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in countries where UNODC does not have a field presence, such as Montenegro. Based on this, UNODC envisages joining fundraising efforts with UN partners, such as through Multi-Partner Trust Funds (e.g. UN Peacebuilding Fund, SDG Fund and similar instruments) with a particular emphasis on gender mainstreaming and youth empowerment.

Measures envisaged to further build a diversified and sustainable multi-year portfolio under the new RP are:

- a. Regular engagement with Member States to discuss UNODC's strategic progress and to develop new initiatives in close consultation with SEE beneficiaries (including Türkiye, which hosts the Regional Office).
- b. Development of a broad set of partnerships (UN entities, private sector, civil society, etc.), including deepening the consultations with international foundations, businesses and other non-governmental organizations active in SEE on drug and crime prevention, youth empowerment and other strategic areas for UNODC engagement.
- c. Enhanced joint fundraising and collaboration with UNODC Global Programmes in developing fundraising/donor mapping strategies and action plans and promoting SEE integration in these Programmes based on a balanced approach, which foresees strong staff capacity in the field and field-based implementation under the umbrella of the RP.

## Sustainability

The RPSEE envisages different levels of engagement to ensure the sustainability of the interventions. Ensuring ownership is a first step towards sustainability. The RPSEE will

provide targeted support and mentorship to SEE jurisdictions based on priority areas and activities identified by and agreed to by each jurisdiction involved in the Programme. The Programme is based on the demand, interest and commitment of each jurisdiction. The governments of the region have already been involved in the implementation of activities during the previous phases of the Programme and expressed their full support to its continuation. This commitment, as expressed in the PSC, ensures that results achieved through the Programme will be well-received and incorporated into the national frameworks for the fight against drugs and crime.



The RPSEE is geared to support harmonization of core legislation and policies with international standards on drugs and crime. Adoption of such laws and the development of institutional frameworks for implementation will ensure that work in the covered UNODC-mandated areas continues beyond the duration of the RPSEE.

Through support for capacity building and exchange of good practices at jurisdictional and regional level, ROSEE will support individual professional development of key actors for change and the establishment and consolidation of professional networks that will endure over time.

The RPSEE supports the participation and integration of each SEE jurisdiction in key

regional and global platforms, such as the Regional UNCAC Platform, GlobE and others, which helps foster long-term commitment and engagement to tackle drugs and crime and anchors the efforts undertaken within the framework of the RPSEE in the broader institutional UN framework (through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and other fora).

The RPSEE will provide technical assistance, which will enable the SEE jurisdictions to introduce and roll out new tools and technologies. In this manner, the Programme will assist the beneficiaries to strengthen their institutional systems in the long term. This further contributes to sustainability.

The Programme will partner with key law enforcement, judicial and other training institutions and promote training of trainers, curriculum development and eLearning curricula (e.g. UNODC Basic Counselling with regard to evidence-based treatment and care for people with drug use disorders). This will contribute to long-term professional development and educational opportunities available for all the Programme's stakeholders in the context of existing frameworks for on-the-job training of new and existing law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and other practitioners as opposed to ad-hoc initiatives.

## Partners

Implementation of the RPSEE involves a wide range of partnerships, which UNODC has cultivated during the previous cycles of the Programme. These include government and civil society stakeholders in all SEE jurisdictions, who will be primary beneficiaries of the Programme.



During this cycle, ROSEE will continue to develop its partnership framework to expand its role as convener and facilitator in the areas of drugs, crime, corruption, terrorism and crime prevention and criminal justice.

Ongoing partnerships include those facilitated by UNODC and/or in which UNODC participates in the region. Examples of this include the Regional UNCAC Platform and the Regional Anti-Corruption and Illicit Finance Roadmap, as well as the Regional 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.

In addition, UNODC implements together with WHO the Global Programme on “Partnerships for Treatment and Care of Drug Use Disorders - including the UNODC-WHO Programme on drug dependence treatment and care”, with activities in South-Eastern Europe.

Regional and national consultative mechanisms facilitated under key initiatives, such as the EU/UNODC action on targeted border control measures at ports and airports, are set to continue. UNODC has also collaborated with EMCDDA on the drafting of the report on “Drug treatment systems in the Western Balkans: outcomes of a joint



EMCDDA-UNODC survey of drug treatment facilities”.<sup>25</sup>

Given the specificity of the SEE region in terms of the presence of strong regional frameworks and the ongoing European Union integration process, ROSEE will ensure that the new RP is aligned with these processes. Regular consultations with the European Commission, EU delegations, as well as with OSCE, Council of Europe and other international, and inter-governmental partners are envisaged for this purpose.

Partnerships with civil society, private sector, media and academia could be further developed during this cycle of the RP based on the positive example of such engagement in the area of anti-corruption and good governance, nurtured in close cooperation with the Civil Society Unit, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative and other partners.

Fostering women and youth leadership is integral to such initiatives. The establishment of a Women Leaders Forum on Anti-Corruption and Good Governance for the SEE region is a good practice that the RP will further promote.

Following the relocation of ROSEE to Istanbul in 2023, the office has established solid relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye and key line ministries competent in UNODC mandates, law enforcement and judicial bodies, education, health and culture ministries, as well as their training institutions. Based on consultations held with Turkish counterparts, the RP is envisaged to serve as a mechanism to establish a wider regional partnership involving Türkiye and its vested training institutions as a strategic implementing partner.

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[https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/drug-treatment-systems-western-balkans\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/drug-treatment-systems-western-balkans_en)

## Risk Management

The Risk Matrix below provides an assessment of the identified potential risks to the implementation of the UNODC RPSEE 2024 - 2029, with corresponding risk mitigation strategies.

Threat Assessment	Risk Analysis			Risk Mitigation Strategy	Residual Risk level
	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Level		
Earthquakes, flooding and other natural disasters disrupting Programme implementation	Medium	Medium	Medium	Support mainstreaming of drug and crime prevention in emergency measures in the justice sector if needed.  Apply flexibility in programming and adapt implementation modalities	Communicate with partners to analyse their contingency planning and Programme delivery implications
Government changes and turnover in partner institutions delaying reforms and wasting investments in capacity building	High	Medium	Medium	Conduct ongoing consultations to ensure buy-in for the Programme at the technical level, which will not be affected by changes within governments  Establish working relations with new government interlocutors to secure their support for the Programme	Closely coordinate with HQ, the donor community and other international partners to continue dialogue through high level meetings
Delays in adoption of key legislation and policies on drugs and crime	High	Medium	Medium	Identify key legislation to be advocated for as part of Programme implementation and promote consistent monitoring through the Programme Steering Committee and jurisdictional level coordination with key stakeholders.	Conduct advocacy with governments, parliaments and other stakeholders, including civil society  Base legislative recommendations on international standards as per UNODC guidance and tools, whilst considering specific political, economic



				Establish and support expert working groups to develop laws and policies based on official government decisions	and social contexts in the region.
The macroeconomic situation in the region leads to significant budget constraints and a lack of investment in financial, material and human resources by beneficiaries to sustain Programme results	High	Medium	Medium	Work with existing training and other institutions and invest in local expertise that will remain available following the end of the Programme  Conduct ongoing monitoring to ensure local partners commit adequate resources and time to the Programme	Conduct advocacy for budgetary transparency and sustainable financing for UNODC-mandated areas of work
Ability to carry out planned Programme objectives and interventions can be affected by insufficient core resources	High	Medium	Medium	Ensure continuous engagement with donors and partners in SEE, with Permanent Missions and capitals. to mobilize resources.  Ensure effective dialogue, cooperation and partnerships with relevant government and civil society stakeholders and international and regional partners.  Facilitate synergies with Global Programmes to ensure participation of the SEE region in their implementation and commensurate funding allocations.	Promote cooperation with Host Governments on fundraising matters and joint approach to the donor community at the national and regional level.  Facilitate donor involvement at jurisdictional and regional level for better presentation of achieved results and promotion of UNODC capacity.



## Monitoring Plan

The RPSEE will be implemented using an approach based on results-based management in line with relevant UNODC Programme management tools and procedures for monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The Programme's logical framework will guide the overall implementation and development of annual work plans. Reporting on progress made will be done on the basis of the annual workplan, which will be approved by the PSC.

The main formal documented reporting mechanisms will be as follows:

- Annual Programme Progress Report:** Provides donors and other stakeholders (e.g. partners in implementation, beneficiaries, auditors, etc.) with essential information about Programme implementation (i.e. at outcome and output level), challenges, unexpected results, monitoring and evaluation, etc.
- Summary of Achievements:** Reporting on strategic targets for Programme development/enhancement, partnership building and office management. This report is for internal consumption.
- Donor Reports:** In accordance with donor requirements, specific grant-based reports on progress achieved and challenges faced are provided to donors.
- UN-INFO and SDG Portal:** UNODC will report on the progress of Programme implementation through UN-INFO and SDG Portal. This will help document how UNODC is contributing to UNSDCF's in each SEE jurisdiction.

Reports will be in line with existing standards, practices and formats. ROSEE will also communicate actively on Programme implementation through its newsletter, webpage and social media channels on a permanent basis.



Primary responsibility for fulfilling Programme reporting requirements lies with the Regional Representative and the ROSEE team.

## Budget and Staffing Table

The RPSEE annual budget – combined with Global Programme's support - will be USD 55 million (USD 11 million per year) and it will be implemented by a team composed of international professionals, programme and operations staff based in ROSEE and its Programme Offices in line with the Programme management and coordination mechanism described in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

For this cycle of the RPSEE, existing and new positions are envisaged in the ROSEE and Programme Offices to ensure the implementation and support of the RPSEE, subject to the availability of funding and resource mobilization.

Total number of positions: 20 (5 P4, 1 P3, 1 P2, 1 G6, 2 G5, 10 SCs) out of which 7 are new, planned positions (3 P4, 1 P3, 1 G6, 2 SCs). New positions are necessary to reinforce international presence in all countries/territories covered by the Regional Programme and to further support expanded

implementation, thus a strong technically competent staff base is required for support.

USD 11,582,088.60 is required to fund staff for the period July 2024 to June 2029.

P\_001 Regional Representative for South-Eastern Europe (P4), Istanbul

P\_002 Programme Officer (Head of the Secretariat of the Anti-Corruption Illicit Finance Roadmap for the Western Balkans) (P4), Istanbul

P\_003 Associate Programme Officer (Programme Reporting, Monitoring and Communication) under recruitment (P2), Skopje

P\_004, SC\_001, SB-5 Regional Anti-Corruption Specialist (Belgrade), SC\_002, SB-2 Travel and Administrative Assistant (Belgrade), SC\_003, SB-2 Project Admin Assistant/Senior Driver (Belgrade), SC\_008, SB-3 Regional Admin and Finance Associate (Belgrade)

P\_005, SC\_004, SB-5 Regional Anti-Corruption Specialist (Sarajevo)

P\_006, SC\_006, SB-3 Project Admin Assistant (Skopje), SC\_010, SB-4 UNODC Liaison Officer (Skopje)

P\_009 Programme Assistant (G5), Vienna

P\_011 Programme Assistant (G5), Istanbul

P\_012, SC\_009, NPSA-8 UNODC Liaison Officer, Ankara

New positions:

P\_005, SC\_005, Project Assistant (Sarajevo)

P\_007, SC\_007, NPSA-8 Programme Officer, Ankara

P\_008 Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P4), Tirana

P\_010 Programme Assistant (G6), Belgrade

P\_013 Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P4), Belgrade

P\_014 Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (P4), Podgorica

P\_015 Programme Management Officer (P3), Vienna.

## Inclusive Equity Framework

### Gender Mainstreaming

The RPSEE will underscore UNODC's commitment to further promoting human rights, gender equality, diversity, disability and inclusion and youth empowerment. In the area of gender mainstreaming, the UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (2023-2026) and the ROSEE Gender Action Plan for 2024-2029 will be key guiding frameworks for the RP.



SEE jurisdictions have ratified key international instruments for the promotion of women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. At the regional level, the SEE jurisdictions are monitored under the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Annual European Commission reports review progress towards adoption of the European Union acquis, including in relation to women empowerment and gender equality.

The SEE jurisdictions have generally adopted relevant legislation, developed various policies and established institutional frameworks to promote women empowerment and gender equality. Given the legacy of armed conflict and enduring war trauma, some jurisdictions have also adopted

actions plans to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

However, implementation often remains limited. Socio-economic hardship significantly affects populations in SEE and impacts women and men differently. Violence against women appears widespread.

The RPSEE will serve to promote relevant regional initiatives that can have a positive impact on women empowerment and gender equality in UNODC-mandated areas. These include the SEE Women Leaders Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Forum, established in 2023 under the leadership of the Vice Prime Minister of North Macedonia.

The RPSEE envisages continued cooperation with the Civil Society Team to expand a network of NGOs to promote and engage in the implementation of the UNTOC, UNCAC and other standards under UNODC's purview.

Programme implementation, including relevant data collection, research and scoping exercises, will consider the gender dimensions of drugs and crime and the varying roles of and impact on women and men in the region.

The RPSEE includes new areas of work that directly tackle aspects of gender equality. In particular, a dedicated Thematic Area on crime prevention and criminal justice is expected to increase attention to matters of enhancing equal access to justice for all and the need to address violence against women and children, with a distinct approach in line with international law, in SEE.

### Human Rights

The RPSEE is aligned with the UNSDCF's in the SEE region, which include improving good governance, the rule of law and human rights

as a core priority. UNODC participates in related results groups and supports engagement of the SEE jurisdictions with the UN human rights mechanisms, as well as internal adherence to the Secretary General's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, within this framework.

SEE jurisdictions continue to undertake legal reforms to address systemic weaknesses, including reforms of their judicial systems. Most of these legal reforms aim to build the capacities of state institutions, to ensure judicial independence, promote equal access to justice for all, fair trial standards and humane conditions of detention. Preparations for EU accession and the related annual progress reports by the European Commission pay particular attention to human rights and the rule of law, stressing a need to enhance implementation of relevant legislation and strengthen the functioning of national human rights institutions, as well as the criminal justice system.

To support these efforts, the RPSEE includes not only dedicated work to address organized crime, illicit finance and corruption as key obstacles to the rule of law but also a specific Thematic Area to support crime prevention and criminal justice. Under this Thematic Area, UNODC will seek to promote the capacity development of criminal justice practitioners to implement human rights-compliant, child-friendly, victim-oriented, gender-sensitive and trauma-informed criminal justice policies.

The RPSEE also envisages the adoption of human rights-based approaches in all other areas of work, including in efforts to address organized crime and illicit trafficking and prevent terrorism. This can include developing human rights-compliant legislation and policies, human rights training of law enforcement and other stakeholders, strengthening internal and external oversight over law enforcement and other targeted

institutions, ensuring due diligence when technical assistance is provided, and building capacity of civil society, media, youth and other actors to promote transparency and accountability.

An important focus will be on educational initiatives on drug and crime prevention, as well as evidence-based drug use disorder treatment and care, aimed at building the resilience of youth, women, people with drug use disorders in humanitarian settings and other vulnerable groups. This will serve to promote a culture of integrity, lawfulness, non-discrimination and respect for human rights.

## Disability, Diversity, and Inclusion

As a member of the UN Country Teams in the SEE region, UNODC supports the implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy as the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion within the UN.



In this context, UNODC, through its Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe and the Programme offices in the SEE region, is engaged to improve disability inclusion across core areas of leadership, strategic planning and management, inclusiveness, programming and organizational culture.

Programme delivery modalities are envisaged to ensure accessibility (of meetings and trainings, for instance), and to focus on outreach to include persons with disabilities

as beneficiaries, stakeholders and change makers.

In line with UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders (2020), drug demand reduction programme activities will also contribute towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities (namely with drug use disorders and mental health/physical comorbidities).

## Evaluation

### Evaluation Plan

Evaluation of this Programme will be undertaken in line with UNODC’s Evaluation Policy, with the aim of being utilization-focused, timely and tailored to meet the needs of its intended users. To ensure a contribution to strategic evaluations addressing evidence needs to support Agenda 2030, attempts will be made, if feasible, to cluster Programme evaluation from a regional perspective.

Pending funding availability, the RPSEE envisages a final In-depth evaluation, to be carried out before the completion of the Programme by the end of 2029, under the lead and guidance of the Independent Evaluation Section (IES) and in close cooperation with implementing partners. This evaluation will follow the OECD/DAC criteria, fully mainstreaming human rights, disability inclusion and gender equality, for assessing the results of the Programme. In addition, it will seek to derive recommendations, lessons learned and best practices to inform future programming, policymaking and organisational learning.

The results of the evaluation will be used to enhance the UNODC programming in the region, indicate areas for improvement and inform the next cycle of the Programme. The evaluation would provide an overview of key

progress across the five Thematic Areas and flag underlying challenges, with the aim of informing strategic adjustments for future programmatic development. It will also serve to identify lessons learned related to the Programme’s initial design, with the aim of generating recommendations for the design of a follow-on assistance Programme after 2029.

Fundraising efforts will be made aimed at ensuring sufficient resources for the evaluation as per the requirements of UNODC evaluation policy, guidelines and processes.

A major prior evaluation, which informed the design of this cycle of the RPSEE is the final independent evaluation of the EU And UNODC Joint Action “Promoting Rule of Law and Good Governance through Targeted Border Control Measures at Ports And Airports”, which was completed in 2023. Given the expected launch of the second phase of this project, the RPSEE evaluation would greatly benefit from synergies with this project in terms of funding and timing of the evaluation.

### Information and Knowledge Management (dissemination of lessons learned)

Information and knowledge management is key in ensuring that strategic and operational decision-making is evidence-based and enabling a streamlined approach to issues that are being targeted.

Lessons, information and knowledge generated through the implementation of the RPSEE will be stored and made available in forms appropriate for different purposes (e.g. informing strategic directions, planning future activities, etc).

The RPSEE intends to capture and disseminate key information, experiences and knowledge through the following mechanisms and tools:

- RPSEE-related documents (reports, work plans, meeting minutes and other records);
- Reporting, monitoring and evaluation records;
- Research, studies, guidance notes, and thematic briefings (CND, CCPCJ, FINGOV);
- RPSEE PSC meetings and related minutes, adopted reports and work plans.

More formal dissemination of lessons learnt will be done through the suggested final independent evaluation.

## Communication

### Communication Strategy

Communication and advocacy activities will be streamlined and handled through a participatory and comprehensive approach to allow relevant and timely messaging to increase the visibility of RPSEE implementation, but also to fulfil reporting obligations towards beneficiaries and donors and the impact of their contributions.



The focus of ROSEE’s messaging will be on visibility, accountability, reporting, resource mobilization and better coordination while promoting UNODC actions in line with the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025, UNSDCFs and

related SDGs. A stable and reliable line of communication between ROSEE and SEE jurisdictions, CSOs, and other national/international partners will be established to ensure visibility of achieved results. This will be done through regular meetings with stakeholders, briefings, phone calls, emails and other communication to keep all interested partners proactively abreast of RPSEE implementation.

Key channels used for communication are the following:

- ROSEE has a dedicated website where web stories reflecting ROSEE’s activities and results in the region are published. ROSEE will provide regular updates on this webpage to keep all partners in the loop of UNODC work in the region.
- ROSEE publishes a monthly newsletter and calendar. The newsletter describes key results and notable activities and events undertaken by UNODC in the region. The newsletter is published on the ROSEE webpage and disseminated among ROSEE’s network of partners.
- ROSEE news is published on social media through a dedicated ROSEE X/Twitter account.

ROSEE communication activities will be aligned with core values of gender equality, diversity and human rights in line with the UNOV/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2023-2026) and the communication guidelines on gender-inclusive language.

In developing and implementing its communications strategy for the RPSEE, ROSEE will closely liaise with the UNODC Advocacy Section and follow established procedures, guidelines and instructions to utilize the most appropriate tools, communicate with a wide variety of target

audiences, and showcase the impact of the organization on people's lives.

## Information and Knowledge Management (lessons learned)

Through the RPSEE, ROSEE will aim to support the organization's overall efforts to collect data on drugs, crime and criminal justice from Member States through instruments, such as the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) for Drug Statistics, Individual Drug Seizure Cases (IDS), the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS), the United Nations Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (UN-IAFQ) and the Questionnaire for the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (GLOTIP). This is a first line of engagement to monitor trends and developments in the area of drugs and crime in the SEE region in a structured manner based on standard, global methodologies.

To facilitate information sharing and learning among stakeholders in SEE, ROSEE will continue to support relevant regional platforms, such as the Regional UNCAC platform and others. The RPSEE Steering Committee and other coordination mechanisms to monitor implementation of flagship initiatives, such as the EU And UNODC Joint Action Promoting Rule of Law and Good Governance Through Targeted Border Control Measures At Ports And Airports, will also serve this purpose.

ROSEE Programme offices will play a key role in convening national counterparts and offering opportunities to share information and facilitate exchange of experiences during Programme implementation in close coordination with relevant UNOD HQ thematic sections and global Programmes active in the region.

ROSEE senior management will ensure permanent liaison with both national counterparts and HQ to enable real-time

sharing of experiences, good practices and impact during RPSEE implementation.

To facilitate a standardized and structural approach to knowledge management ROSEE will launch and operate a software tool for internal data collection, monitoring and reporting. This tool is designed to easily collect and report on real-time data and graphics, offering a detailed overview of activities conducted and other relevant information instrumental to UNODC delivery in the SEE region and related internal and external reporting requirements.

## UN Standard Legal Context

### Non Liability/Compensation clause

UNODC is not liable for any damage, injury, illness or death resulting from the actions of employees of member state Governments or consultants or other persons contracted by or on behalf of the Government (s) in relation to the implementation of the present Programme. No claim for compensation may be made against UNODC for any such damage, injury, illness or death nor for any reimbursement of amounts that may have been paid by the Government (s) as compensation in such event.

The Government(s) shall ensure and confirm that adequate compensation coverage for such eventualities exists, and applies to all persons employed by them or engaged by them or on their behalf in relation to this Programme.

## Equipment

The Government(s) will defray any customs duties and other charges related to the import of equipment, its transport, handling, storage and related expenses within its country.

UNODC-funded equipment remains UNODC's property, until formally transferred or otherwise disposed of, irrespective of who undertakes its procurement.



UNODC-funded equipment may be transferred, with the consent of UNODC, to any entity, at any time during the present Programme for the purposes of implementation of the Programme. However, the decision on the final disposal of equipment, including the transfer of ownership, remains with UNODC, who shall endeavour to make such decisions in consultation with the party/parties and entity/entities concerned.

The entity to which UNODC-funded equipment has been transferred, is responsible for ensuring that such equipment is used strictly for the purposes of the present Programme, as agreed with UNODC, and must arrange for and bear the costs of its proper maintenance. The entity also must arrange for, and bear the costs of, adequate insurance coverage for such equipment. In the case of non-expendable equipment, the entity shall maintain a detailed inventory of such equipment.

Where UNODC makes equipment available to an executing agency, that agency is responsible for ensuring that UNODC-funded equipment and supplies are used strictly for the purposes of the present Programme, as agreed with UNODC, and must arrange for and bear the costs of its proper maintenance. In the case non-expendable equipment, the executing agency is responsible for maintaining a detailed inventory of the same.

## Copyright

UNODC retains copyright and related intellectual property rights for all material (documents, reports, studies, publications, etc) that result from activities carried out under the present Programme. Upon written request, at the end of this Programme, the Government (s) shall be granted a free-of-charge user license over such material.

## Opt-out

The implementation of UNODC activities under the present Programme document is subject to the availability of adequate funding, on a yearly basis. Should required funding not be available, UNODC reserves the right to unilaterally terminate its assistance under this document.

## Oversight /Audit

The present Programme is subject to oversight/audit by the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of Auditors. UNODC will coordinate the implementation of such oversight/audits and will follow up on the implementation of agreed oversight/audit recommendations.

## Revisions/Dispute resolution of the Programme document

The present Programme document may be modified by written agreement between UNODC and the Government (s).







**United Nations**  
Office on Drugs and Crime

Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe  
2024 - 2029

**Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe (ROSEE)**

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