



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 June 2013

11087/13

**CORDROGUE 54
COWEB 82**

NOTE

from:	Austrian Regional Chair of the Dublin Group (Co-Chair: Hungary)
to:	Dublin Group
No. prev. doc.:	15828/12 CORDROGUE 77 COWEB 171
Subject:	Regional report on Western Balkans

1. Place and date of meetings of the Mini-Dublin groups

In the first half of 2013 Mini-DG meetings took place in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, and Tirana.

2. Regional recommendations

- Efforts in the field of prevention should be reinforced, for example by increasing the impact of existing anti-drug campaigns. Special attention should be given to juveniles.
- Partnerships with civil society, including NGOs, need to be encouraged further.
- Corruption and the lack of trust in law enforcement and the judiciary remains a major concern and require intensified measures.
- Efforts in training and capacity building have shown some progress but need to continue.
- Effective regional cooperation has to be established and/or intensified.

- International cooperation, including technical and financial assistance, remains crucial.
- Strengthening the state level institutions continues to show progress, however, more focus should be placed on the effective implementation of national strategies, action plans and legislation as well as on regular evaluation and analysis.

Albania

Report by the Tirana Mini-Dublin Group for the 1st half of 2013

1. General situation in the country

In 2012 Albania continued to achieve remarkable results in its constant fight against drug crimes and the international drug business. The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. Albania continues its program to reduce the production and flow of drugs and to ensure effective control of its borders. Measures for the modernization of equipment and increased training ensured higher standards of security and service. The National Strategy Against Drugs 2012–2016, which fully complies with common EU-standards, was approved by the Council of Ministers, Decision No. 403 of 20 June 2012.

The so-called speed boat moratorium, a law which prevented Albanian citizens from possessing speed boats of a certain size, came to an end in March 2013. So far no significant increase of interest in registering speed boats previously prevented by the moratorium has been detected.

With regard to plants cultivation and its detection the change of responsibilities from State Police Anti-drug units to local police forces, which came into effect in 2011, proves to have enhanced detecting locations and improved close contact to local government and law enforcement bodies in order to react more rapidly than in the past.

Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police has further improved during 2012 and had a positive impact on the number of seizures.

Regarding prevention activities the ongoing project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and other Harmful Substances”, supported by ICITAP and the US Embassy in Tirana has attracted a special interest and had a great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers. Furthermore these activities are contributing to increased public trust in the police.

1.1. Legislation and coordination

The Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy Against Drugs 2012-2016 with the Council of Ministers Decision No 403, dated 20.06.2012 (*Official Gazette No 85 dated 24.07.2012, page 4299*). The Strategy ensures a balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction aspects. The Strategy, which is fully in line with the EU Strategy for Drugs 2005-2012 and the Action Plan for Drugs 2009-2012 between EU and Western Balkan Countries, is based on four main pillars: strategic coordination, supply reduction, demand reduction, harm reduction.

In the framework of the collaboration with the Italian Inter-Force Police Mission in Albania, the Cooperation Protocol dated 16.06.2012 was signed by the General Directorate of Albanian State Police and the Italian Ministry of the Interior. The Protocol allows for joint tasks such as the aerial monitoring of Albanian territory by using Italian aircrafts equipped with high tech devices.

The current Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants of 07.03.2013 has been approved by the Minister of the Interior and is being implemented.

Other Activities on International Cooperation:

09-11 May 2012, Conference “DRUG POLICING BALKAN” in Belgrade, Serbia

22-23 May 2012, Annual Meeting of the “Task Force against Drugs” of SELEC Centre in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

24-25 May 2012, 12th Meeting of REITOX Academy on the Early Warning System on New Drugs in Lisbon, organized by EMCDDA; discussions took place on the opportunities of extending this network to Western Balkans countries.

16-18 October 2012, “International Conference of experts on Combating Drugs - Criminal drug organisations, Situation in EU with special focus on the Balkans” in Ohrid, FYR of Macedonia.

22-24 January 2013, “Conference on Western Balkans Organised Crime” at Europol in The Hague, Netherlands

26 February 2013, Expert Dialogue Meeting on drugs between the European Union (Horizontal Drugs Group of the Council of the European Union) and Western Balkan Countries in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting focused on updating the Action Plan on Drugs between the EU and Western Balkans.

A total of seven Coordination Meetings on concrete cases and common operations were coordinated by EUROPOL, SELEC Centre and Italian Inter-Force Police Mission in Albania in The Hague, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Albania and Bari, Italy.

1.2. Strengthening of Capacities

During 2012 and the first months of 2013, 34 trainings for the anti-narcotics units and other law enforcement were conducted; a total number of 297 officers were trained: 256 of them police officers (200 anti-drug units’ officers + 50 public security officers + 6 border police officers), 25 military police officers, 7 customs officers and 9 prosecutors. Furthermore a special programme on common trainings was prepared and implemented in cooperation with the General Prosecution Office.

In the framework of the implementation of the second phase of the UNODC Regional Programme on Promoting Rule of Law and Human Security in SEE a Container Control Training was organised in Durres/AL on September 10-14, 2012. Twelve police and customs officers from Albania and Montenegro participated. The ports of Bar (Montenegro) and Durres (Albania) are part of the UNODC/WCO Global Container Control Programme with the purpose to establish sustainable and well trained law enforcement structures in selected seaports to minimize the risk of trafficking of illicit goods through maritime containers. The same group of officers will participate in a study visit to an important seaport of an EU Country at the end of November.

Following up on the last Mini Dublin Group recommendation that border police activity, including along the “green border” towards Greece, should be monitored more closely, the Border and Migration Department has taken several measures for strengthening border control and surveillance, especially on the border with Greece:

- Various trainings were held during 2012 with the objective of strengthening border control and surveillance in the fight against crime:
 1. “Crime investigation structures”, organized by PAMECA III, 60 police officers trained.
 2. “Use of visual detecting system ‘Smartdec’ in green border surveillance”, organized by IT Directorate and ‘Defendec’ Company, 10 officers trained.
 3. “Use of MEMEX system”, organized by ITD, 7 officers trained.
 4. “Protection of international borders”, organized by EXBS, 9 officers trained.
 5. “Prevention of and fight against illicit drugs, precursors control”, organized by Albania State Police, 3 officers trained.
 6. “Risk analysis and processing of intelligence”, Albanian Police Training Centre, 14 officers trained.
 7. “Green border”, organized by US EXBS, 23 officers trained.
- With the recent restructuring of the State Police in October 2012, Mobile Operational Groups (MOG) have been established in each Regional Directorate for Border and Migration (RDBM). These Groups operate in the entire territory of the RDBM. 52 officers of the Border Police have been appointed as MOG member, 23 of them on the border with Greece.
- Six RDBM received updated equipment, including new vehicles.
- RDBM of Durres and Vlora are equipped with 6 kits for border check tools (fiberscope, buster, etc). These devices increase the effectiveness of border controls of vehicles for identifying and seizure of illicit drugs in fuel tanks, tires or customized hiding spaces.
- The “Smartdec” visual detecting system has been installed in 4 different RDBM, 3 of them at the border with Greece. This system enables monitoring the high risk pathways by photo images. The detectors are working wireless, thus they can be deployed in the high risk zones. The monitoring of the detections is made online in real time. Images taken by this system are used in fighting illegal activity along the green border as well as for information gathering and the preparation of risk analyses.
- In the Standard Operating Procedures of the Border and Migration Police 2nd line control procedures have been defined.

1.3. Police activities against trafficking of drugs

For the year 2012:

In general, during 2012, all indicators of the fight against drugs have been positive:

- **50** operations have been conducted with special investigation means; *(49 have been conducted during 2011);*
- **50** criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and distribution have been dismantled and **233** members of these groups were arrested. *(48 criminal groups have been dismantled during 2011 and 218 persons were arrested).*
- **54** operations with use of different forms of international cooperation have been conducted and **76** persons involved in international drug trafficking were arrested in Albania. *(29 international operations have been conducted during 2011 with 42 persons arrested.)* The most successful operations to mention were: Operation “Hydra”, conducted in cooperation with the Italian authorities where 95 kg marijuana and 1 speed-boat were seized in Albania and 525 kg marijuana and 1 speed-boat were seized in Italy and also 5 persons were arrested in Albania and 2 persons in Italy; Operation “Uomini Duri – AL”, conducted in cooperation with the Italian authorities where 4 wanted persons for international drug trafficking were arrested in Albania; Operation “Magnum–AL”, conducted in cooperation with German authorities where 3 persons were arrested in Albania for trafficking of 232 kg of marijuana to Germany; Operation “Torviolli”, conducted in cooperation with Austrian authorities which led to the seizure of 22 kg marijuana and the arrest of 6 persons in Albania; Operation “Balaton”, conducted in cooperation with Kosovo authorities where 98 kg of marijuana were seized and 2 persons were arrested in Albania and 5 others in Kosovo; Operation “Bregdeti” (“Coast”), conducted in cooperation with Macedonian authorities where 42 kg of marijuana were seized and 4 persons were arrested in Albania.

Statistic data of the Albanian State Police, Year 2012

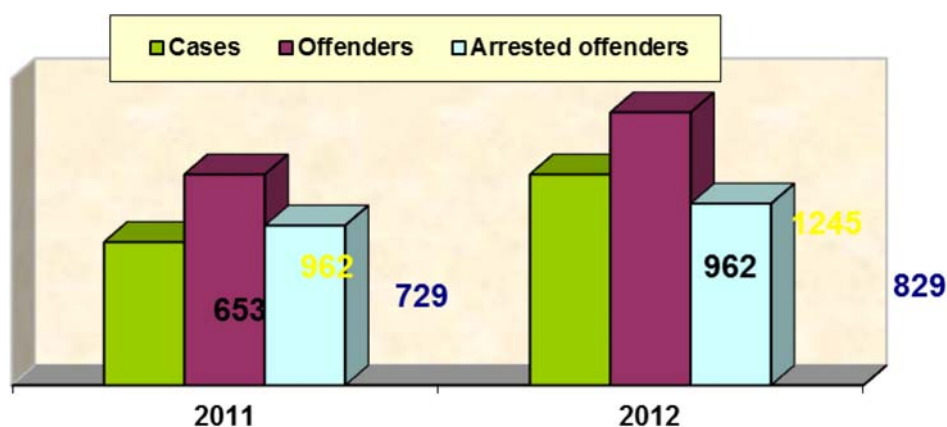
Type of Drug	No. of Cases	Quantity	Persons proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Heroin	90	87 kg 719.9 gr	120	107	13	0
Methadone	1	543.1 gr	2	2	0	0
Cocaine	40	4 kg 61 gr	57	48	6	3
Marijuana	822	21138 kg 231.4 gr	1053	663	342	48
Hashish	1	5 kg 112.2 gr	3	1	2	0
Hashish Oil	0	500 gr	0	0	0	0
Cannabis seeds	3	343.2 gr	3	1	2	0
Cutting substances	5	174 kg 967.1 gr	7	7	0	0
➤ TOTAL	962		1245	829	365	51

For comparative reasons data on offences registered, offenders involved and criminally charged and quantity of drugs sequestrated for 2011:

Statistic data of the Albanian State Police, Year 2011

Type of Drug	No. of Cases	Quantity	Persons proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Heroin	97	21 kg 409.2 gr	144	122	20	2
Methadone	1	1 gr	2	0	2	0
Cocaine	37	2 kg 196.6 gr	57	47	10	0
Marijuana	503	7695 kg 658.8 gr	734	543	166	25
Hashish	2	32 kg 210.5 gr	2	2	0	0
Hashish Oil	2	1 kg 584.2 gr	3	3	0	0
Cannabis seeds	9	2 kg 351.1 gr	14	6	2	6
Cutting substances	2	24 kg 183.9 gr	6	6	0	0
TOTAL	653		962	729	200	33

Compared to 2011 there is an increase by 47.3 % of the number of drug seizures; 29.4 % increase of the number of offenders identified in drug related offences; 13.7 % increase in the number of offenders arrested.



Acc

ording to the seizure of the narcotic substances, an increase of the quantity of heroin (+309.7 %), an increase of the quantity of cocaine (+84.8 %) and an increase of the quantity of marijuana (+174.6 %) was noticed during 2012 compared to 2011.

Type of drug	Year 2011	Year 2012	%
Heroin	21 kg 409.2 gr	87 kg 719.9 gr	+309.7
Cocaine	2 kg 196.6 gr	4 kg 61 gr	+84.8
Marijuana	7695 kg 658.8 gr	21138 kg 231.4 gr	+174.6

For the year 2013:

Good results in the suppression of heroin, cocaine and marijuana trafficking networks were achieved during 2013 (01 January – 30 April).

- **18** operations have been conducted with special investigation means (*18 during the same period of 2012*)
- **19** criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and distribution have been dismantled, and **97** members of these groups were arrested (*17 criminal groups 84 persons during the same period of 2012*).
- **16** operations with use of different forms of international cooperation have been conducted and **32** persons involved in international drug trafficking were arrested in Albania. (*26 international operations with 31 persons arrested during the same period of 2012*).

The most successful operations to mention are:

- Operation “Underground - AL”, in cooperation with Italian authorities where 4 persons were arrested in Albania and 7 persons in Italy for drug trafficking and nearly 1 ton of marijuana was seized;

- Operation “Sotto Traccia - AL”, coordinated by “Eurojust” and conducted simultaneously in Italy, Albania, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Switzerland, where 9 persons were arrested in Albania and 16 in Italy, France, Netherlands and Switzerland for trafficking of cocaine and heroin, exploitation of prostitution and illegal immigration.

Statistic data of the Albanian State Police, Year 2013 (4 months)

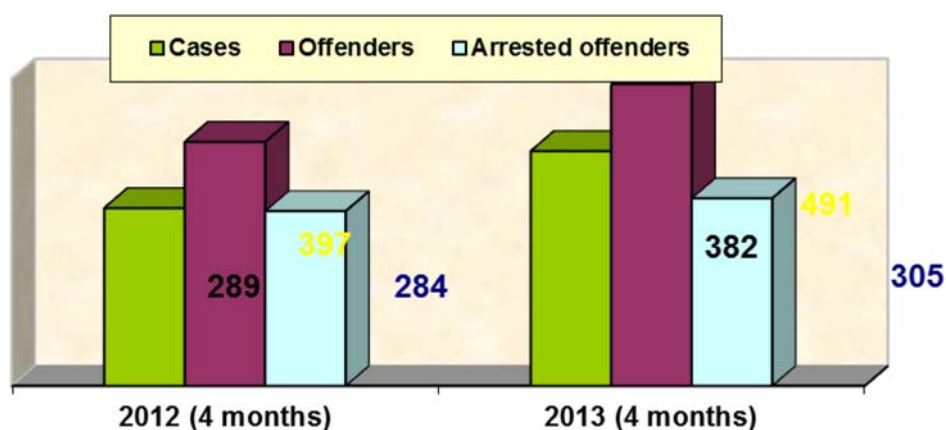
Type of Drug	No. of Cases	Quantity	Persons proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Heroin	33	17 kg 255.8 gr	40	37	3	0
Fentermine	1	1.2 gr	1	0	1	0
Cocaine	14	1 kg 726 gr	24	23	1	0
Marijuana	331	6830 kg 377.4 gr	423	242	157	24
Hashish	1	867.2 gr	1	1	0	0
Cannabis seeds	1	139.1 gr	1	1	0	0
Poppy seeds	1	288.9 gr	1	1	0	0
Cutting substances	0	1 kg 658.7 gr	0	0	0	0
➤ TOTAL	382		491	305	162	24

For comparative reasons Data on offences registered, offenders involved and criminally charged and quantity of drugs sequestrated for 2012 (4 months)

Statistic data of the Albanian State Police, Year 2012 (4 months)

Type of Drug	No. of Cases	Quantity	Persons proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Heroin	42	29 kg 104.7 gr	51	45	5	1
Methadone	0	12.9 gr	0	0	0	0
Cocaine	17	638.8 gr	33	26	3	4
Marijuana	225	5573 kg 941.1 gr	307	208	93	5
Hashish	1	5 kg 111.6 gr	1	1	0	0
Hashish Oil	0	500 gr	0	0	0	0
Cannabis seeds	2	65.5 gr	2	1	1	0
Cutting substances	2	3 kg 275.7 gr	3	3	0	0
TOTAL	289		397	284	102	10

Compared to the same period of 2012 there is an increase by 32.2 % of the number of drug seizures; 23.7 % increase of the number of offenders identified in drug related offences; 7.4 % increase of the number of offenders arrested.



According to the seizure of the narcotic substances: an increase of the quantity of cocaine (+170.2 %), an increase of the quantity of marijuana (+22.5 %) and a decrease of the quantity of heroin (- 40.7 %) was noticed during 2013 (4 months) compared to the same period of 2012.

Type of drug	4 months 2012	4 months 2013	%
Heroin	29 kg 104.7 gr	17 kg 255.8 gr	- 40.7
Cocaine	638.8 gr	1 kg 726 gr	+ 170.2
Marijuana	5573 kg 941.1 gr	6380 kg 377.4 gr	+ 22.5

1.4. Fight against cultivation of narcotic plants

With the intention to further prevent the cultivation of narcotic plants, the Minister of Interior approved the “National Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants No.41, date 29.03.2012 which was implemented. This plan was based on best practices of cooperation and coordination with other governmental institutions, stake-holders, NGOs, international police assistance missions accredited to the Albanian State Police, international organisations, local government structures and the community.

The preparative phase (prevention and awareness campaign) was finished on 01.06.2012. The following activities have taken place during this phase:

- one national conference in Tirana
- three regional conferences in Fier, Vlora and Gjirokastra
- conferences in 12 regions with the involvement of the regional committees
- about 150 community meetings

Following those activities the Steering Committee for the fight against the cultivation of narcotic plants was established at the headquarters. The steering committees have also been established at the regional level and they are presided over by Prefects. So far, apart from the establishment of steering committees, meetings in every regional police directorate with the local government representatives, representatives of NGOs, as well as other institutions have been held.

On 01.06.2012 the operational phase started where police forces based on information gathered and monitoring of the territory with the use of helicopters (17 missions), discovered and destroyed narcotics plants. In accordance with the agreement with Italian Authorities (mentioned above) an airplane with modern devices coming from Italy was also used to monitor and scan the territory from 05 to 20 July 2012 (15 flights). In this phase **643** operations were conducted from Regional Police Directorates where **3265** police officers with **607** vehicles participated.

The fight against the cultivation of narcotic plants constitutes one of the main objectives of the Albanian State Police (ASP). The results achieved so far, have demonstrated successful outcomes of the Albanian State Police's structures. The priority remains the eradication of this phenomenon and taking Albania out from the list of countries which produce narcotic plants. Consequently, the approach in this fight has been well planned and organised. However, there has been a reduction of the fields used to cultivate narcotic plants.

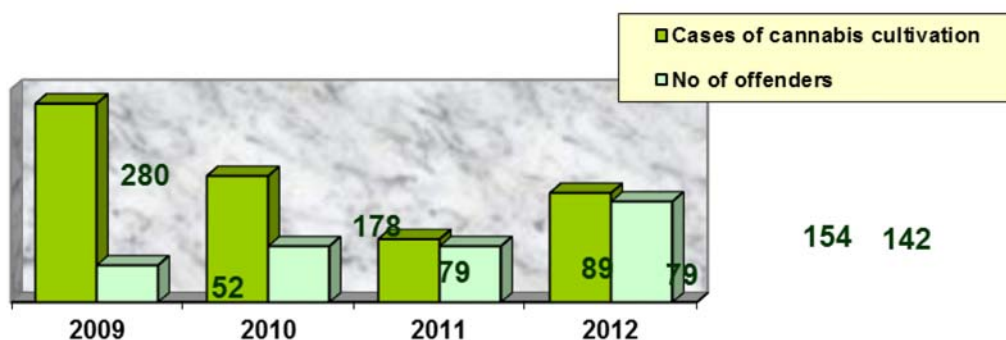
To accomplish this task, the ASP cooperates with many stakeholders such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health as well as the Ministry of Education. The situation of the cultivation of narcotic plants in Albanian is well studied, the current patterns of their cultivation are known in detail.

In order to accomplish the objective, the Minister of Interior approved "the National Action Plan for prevention and fight against the cultivation of narcotic plants for the year 2013" No. 40/1, dated on 07.03.2013, and in pursuant of it the Director General of ASP has approved the Operational-Plan "For controlling, monitoring and destruction of fields cultivated with narcotic plants".

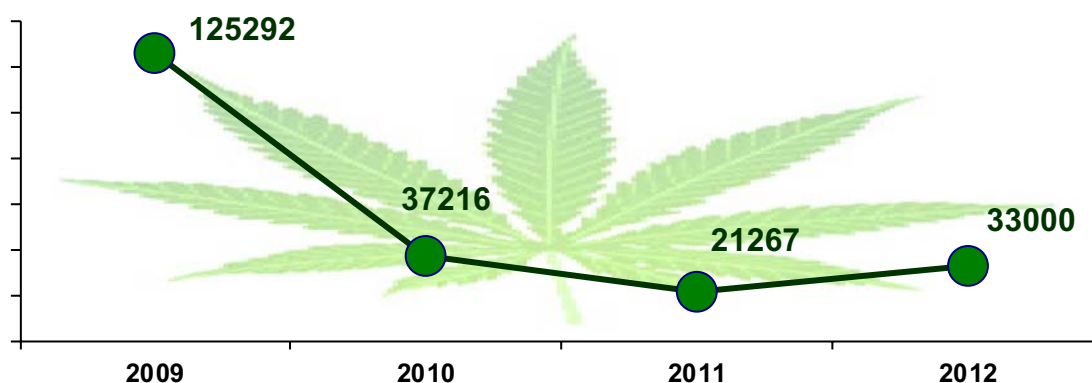
Statistic data on cultivation of narcotic, Year 2012

Type	No. Of Cases	Quantity	Persons proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Cannabis cultivation	154	33000 plants	142	95	21	26

No of cases and no of offenders for cannabis cultivation
2009 - 2012



No of cannabis plants destroyed 2008-2012



Current “trading” prices:

Retail: 1 g Heroin = 22 €, 1 g Cocaine = 60 €, 1 g Marijuana = 1,2 €

Wholesale: 1 kg Heroin = 18.000 to 24.000 € (typical prize: 20.000 €); 1 kg Cocaine = 38.000 to 45.000 € (typical prize: 40.000 €), 1 kg Marijuana = 250 to 350 € (typical prize: 300 €)

1.5. Police prevention activities

During 2011 and 2012 Tirana Regional Police in collaboration with the Education Directorate and with the great support of ICITAP and New Jersey National Guard, US Embassy in Tirana implemented the project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and Other Harmful substances”. The project was focused on the elementary and high schools of Tirana. The programme implemented was a result of a previous evaluation of the drug situation in Tirana. For implementation of the programme the best police officers were selected and trained. During 2011–2012 40 joint working groups were established composed by teachers and police officers (in total 40 teachers and 27 police officers).

This project has attracted a special interest and had great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers alike. This programme gave very good results concerning the awareness raising and prevention and is considered as a direct implementation of the community policing philosophy. These activities are contributing to the increase of the public trust to police.

1.6. Remarks

Greece shared recent bilateral data from the Hellenic Police Headquarter:

For the year 2012, 691 drug cases with 1587 offenders arose, 1019 of them are Albanians citizens. The amounts of drugs that have been seized concern: raw cannabis (10.180 kg); artificial cannabis (5 kg); heroin (184 kg). Furthermore, for the same period, in 81 cases and 173 offenders, 89 of which were Albanians, the following amounts of drugs were imported from Albania to Greece and were seized in same order: raw cannabis (11.732 kg); heroin (2.153 g); cocaine (2.849 g).

ICITAP adds that it had successfully organized various training opportunities for Albanian Law Enforcement officers with US Marshals, DEA and FBI undercover officers including regional trainings involving also Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and FYR of Macedonia. The drug awareness program implemented in Albanian schools in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior has been completed in all 66 elementary and high-schools in Tirana, training in the 11 regions has begun. In addition a poster competition for pupils will be launched soon.

Germany raised a question to the Albanian State Police representative about the reasons that led to the increase of seizures in 2012. Another question related to the fact that the quality of Marijuana from Albania seized in Germany has improved. It was further noted that there was a slight increase in production; however the efficiency in the fight against cultivation of narcotic plants has increased.

Albania in the answer stressed, that the shift of responsibilities to local police and public security departments to fight cultivations has increased the amount of seizures, which wasn't the case before. Furthermore border police units have also achieved great success compared to previous years and international and regional cooperation has intensified much more.

It was detected that due to a shortage of heroin in the market groups started to increasingly traffic Marijuana, which leads to higher profits. The reason for the increased quality of the seized Marijuana might come from better seeds on the one hand and a possible mix with drugs from a different origin (e.g. Netherlands).

2. Tirana Mini-Dublin Group's recommendations for 2013

- Continued efforts should be undertaken in prevention, for example by increasing the impact of existing antidrug campaigns.
- The strategy to allow local police authorities control narcotic plant sites has so far proven successful. However, continued assessments and analysis should be conducted in order to prevent possible corruption and mismanagement.
- The cannabis cultivations of Lazarat remain an issue of concern. Further measures are needed to limit drug production and to promote alternative development to its inhabitants.
- Measures to strengthen border control and surveillance, including along the “green border” to Greece, should be kept up. Training and capacity building should continue.
- Albania's efforts and the assistance of the International Community have led to progress in the fight against drugs. However, continued efforts and support, including training activities and updated technical equipment, are necessary.
- Corruption remains a major concern in Albania; special attention should be given to this problem during 2013.

<p style="text-align: center;">Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo, 1st half of 2013</p>
--

Following written consultations, the first meeting of the Mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo in 2013 took place on 3 June 2013 at the premises of the EU Delegation in order to finalize the attached Country Report. The meeting and the consultations were chaired and coordinated by the Austrian Embassy and co-chaired by the Embassy of Hungary. The drafting of the report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the EU Delegation/EUSR Office and the French Embassy. For future meetings the Group might consider inviting representatives of BiH bodies responsible for counter narcotics or demand related issues as guest speakers.

1. General Situation in the country (general situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues)

In general, the situation remains unchanged to the previous reporting period.

Drug trafficking has the biggest share in drug related offenses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This can be mainly attributed to two points. First, profit margins in drug trade are highest. Secondly it is the fastest way to make money. BiH citizens are mostly involved in the shipment and storage of drugs. The domestic market for and production of drugs is small. However, there are indications that domestic drug demand has been increasing in the last years. This change from a predominantly drug trafficking country to a drug consuming country is of concern not only in BiH, but in the whole region. The only drug produced in BiH is cannabis with increasing indoor cultivation of genetically modified potent strains of the cannabis plant. In general drugs are shipped through Bosnia in two directions. Heroin and Cannabis are coming from the East and are shipped to the West whereas synthetic drugs and Cocaine are shipped from West to East. BiH is considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipment. As its neighbours, Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by trafficking on the Balkan route, linking production sites in Afghanistan via Turkey with the main European markets. One of the sub routes goes through Bulgaria, Romania and FYROM to Kosovo, then through the Serbian and Montenegrin “Sandžak” to BiH, and further on to Croatia and Slovenia. Marijuana is usually transported from Western FYROM, Albania and Kosovo over to Montenegro to southern BiH.

It was observed that cocaine traffickers from South-America use ports in Greece, Montenegro and Croatia, and there are already well-established land routes, partly through BiH and further to Western Europe. BiH has similar problems as other countries on the “Balkan route” and is a transit country for synthetic drugs and cocaine from the West, and heroin and cannabis from the East. Law enforcement authorities postulate that persons from all ethnic groups and constituent peoples are involved in the narcotics trade, often collaborating across ethnic lines.

There is still no official aggregate data available from the Ministry of Security on last year’s drug seizures in BiH. In general it has to be pointed out that statistics are hardly comparable as every ministry on the several levels of government has different standards. This stems from the fragmented nature of BiH’s law enforcement and security sectors. It also seems to be shown in the drug crimes reported.

In general there are five times more drug related offences reported in FBiH than in RS. In the FBiH the number of drug related crimes, individuals, recidivists and juveniles has increased significantly whereas in the RS it fell. For instance in the FBiH the number of reported drug crimes increased by 16% from 1000 in 2011 to 1166 in 2012 in contrast to the RS where they fell from 219 in 2011 to 199 in 2012.

In 2012 there were 1219 drug users reported. 70% (854) of these are in FBiH, 25% (303) in RS and 5% (62) in Brcko district. However estimates suggest that there are around 7500 drug users in FBiH. 90% of the drug users are male. The age group between 30 and 34 years is the biggest group of drug users (332), the age group between 25 and 29 years is the second biggest (240) and the group between 35 and 39 years is the third biggest (215). 90% of registered drug users are heroin addicts and 71% of the drug users consume daily according to FBiH data. In 60% of the cases family is the first to notice a drug addiction.

According to 2010 data, street prices for heroin are between 15 and 25 EUR per gram. One gram of Cannabis costs between 0.5 and 1 EUR whereas skunk (a variety of marijuana) costs between 1.5 and 3 EUR. In the Balkan region one gram of cocaine currently costs around 50 EUR and methamphetamine or ecstasy around 3 EUR or 4 EUR.

Drug dependence in prisons is an issue as between 30 and 70% of the prisoners are estimated to be dependent on drugs. Even though the treatment of drug addicted prisoners is required by law there is no correctional institution for that.

Police operations undertaken in the last 12 months (Lutka, Svitanje, Krug, Mac, Setac) were very successful. They again confirm the complementarity of drug and arms trafficking. In most drug seizures also weapons were seized. The successful arrest of the leaders of large international criminal trafficking organisations (e.g. Elez, Keljmendi) is a positive sign, but they highlight situations where continued and improved cross border intelligence sharing and cooperation are required to maximize the effect, as well as close monitoring to assess the market impacts are needed. It will be a challenge for BiH police to identify these new phenomena.

1.1 Legal framework - administrative capacity

Individual law enforcement agencies are showing improved capability to identify and disrupt organized drug trafficking operations. The political will generally exists to disrupt these drug trafficking operations. Further efforts are still needed regarding an effective judicial follow-up as well as to improve joint investigation, coordination and cooperation between the many layers of law enforcement, security and judicial sector actors. The establishment of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies was a landmark in this regard in 2010. However, continued political and administrative support to ensure its full operational capacity is vital. This would include an increased financial support for the Directorate.

Further support to enhance the Local Risk Analysis Centres (LRACs) within contributing agencies for the improvement of work and effectiveness of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre (JRAC) under the Integrated Border Management Strategy will also potentially improve targeted joint enforcement activity.

A rulebook on safekeeping and destruction of seized narcotic drugs was adopted in 2012, and is now in use. In 2012, the Ministry of Security, together with law enforcement agencies and Commission for Drug Destruction, destroyed for the first time 1.015 kg of marijuana, skunk, heroin, ecstasy and amphetamine. An organised destruction of seized drugs presents a step forward, since the problem had been pending for years, and after the war a large quantity of drugs was stored in different LEAs waiting for destruction. Still a large quantity seized by different courts awaits its destruction. Ministry of Security has been engaged in collection of data on seized drugs and their estimated value. Furthermore a change in the composition of the Commission for the destruction of seized narcotics which supervises the destruction of narcotics is expected to increase organisational efficiency. The inter-ministerial Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs has not met for 18 months. This poses a challenge in several fields as it has to approve all actions and publications regarding drugs:

- EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drug Addiction), a new provisional national focal point has been appointed. It will remain provisional until approved by the Commission. The new national focal point is currently starting the work on a new annual report on the situation of drugs in BiH.
- Guidelines for the treatment of drug addicts have been drafted, but cannot be put into practice until approved by the Commission

The new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs was still not passed, however its drafting is progressing. The key issue is the fact that it was intended to create the Office for Drugs as an independent national institution. However, as it faced opposition from the RS, the new Working Group suggested to either create the Office for Drugs as a body of the Council of Ministers or to create it as a department either in the Ministry of Security or in the Ministry of Civil Affairs. It should work on prevention, treatment and social work. These tasks are currently also carried out by the Department for the Suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in the Ministry of Security, although there is no legal basis for that. The creation of this Office would enable the respective department to focus on fighting drug related crimes.

The lack of a legal basis for state institutions in certain fields, like for the Ministry of Civil Affairs regarding health, makes the work of state institutions difficult as they are dependent on the good will of the entities or of the cantons (within the Federation entity). The request of international institutions for contact partners and data on the state level has proven to be very successful in strengthening state institutions.

The decentralization of the police and judiciary poses particular challenges to the ability of central institutions of BiH to implement a coherent security policy. In face of these challenges, however, there has been steady progress in reforming and stabilizing the crime fighting system by consolidating state institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, Border Police (BP), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Intelligence Security Agency (OSA), The Service for Foreigner's Affairs, the Office of the BiH Prosecutor, and the State Court. The Ministry of Security has made a concerted effort to encourage and facilitate better cooperation and coordination among these and entity level law enforcement and security institutions. The repeated questioning of the competence and legal basis of the BiH Prosecutor's Office and BiH State Court by RS authorities would, however, undermine previous achievements in making the state level judiciary more effective.

1.1.1 Legislation

Currently the following legislation is in place:

Law on Production and Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs FBiH and RS

Law on Health Protection FBiH and RS

Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs (BiH Official Gazette no. 8-6), which came into effect on February 15, 2006,

National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013

State Action Plan for the Fight against the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013

BiH has signed and ratified the relevant drug-related UN treaties, such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, (1971) and the UN Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988).

Furthermore, BiH is party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2003), its Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. BiH is also a party to the UN Convention against Corruption and UN Convention on Rights of Child.

As already outlined the new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Drugs has still not been adopted.

1.1.2 Institutions - organisation and cooperation

Many BiH institutions are engaged in the fight against drugs, namely the police authorities (entities and cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security of BiH and the Brcko District Police), the Judiciary (Ministries of Justice, prosecutor's offices and courts at all levels-state, entity and cantonal and in Brcko District), the indirect Taxation Authority of BiH (BiH Council of Ministers), the Ministry of Health (on entity and local level) and the entity Ministries of Culture and Education. Non-governmental organizations are engaged as well, both directly and indirectly. According to the information of the Federal Ministry of Interior, 8 cantons established Departments for Drugs within their ministries of interior that are in charge of investigating drug abuse related offences.

The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies is responsible for communication, cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies at the State level with other bodies, including the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs and it is the national contact for Interpol and Europol. It can still be considered in build-up phase.

Since the adoption of the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in November 2005, the main bodies in charge of the development and implementation of drugs policy in BiH as well as on international cooperation in this regard, are the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs formed by the BiH Council of Ministers and the Department for the Prevention of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in the Ministry of Security.

The Commission presents the political body composed of ministers and deputy ministers which is in charge of coordinating activities of administrative bodies in the implementation of the Strategy and to design political and strategic actions in the field of prevention and suppression of the abuse of drugs.

The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security is in charge of the systematic gathering of data and monitoring of the phenomena, of collecting and processing data required for preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking and the criminal offences related to the abuse of narcotics.

The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security also works on international cooperation with other countries in the region and with representatives of the European Union in the domain of security, and monitors the implementation of the Law on the Prevention and Combat of the Abuse of Narcotics. The department performs tasks assigned by the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs which is the main inter-ministerial coordination body in the field of drugs. It also maintains a data base on the import and export of narcotic substances, narcotics and plants from which narcotic drugs and precursor may be obtained, and cooperates with operational police forces in this area.

In general, police cooperation is still carried out rather on an ad-hoc basis than in a systematic way. The deficient systematic and formal exchange of information, in particular of intelligence, is a significant gap for disrupting organized criminal networks, including drug trafficking.

Regarding institutional cooperation progress has been made in the following areas:

- A server system for data exchange between ministries and respective police bodies is currently implemented at the Directorate for the coordination of police bodies (DPC). So far more than 900.000 data being mostly warrants have been exchanged. Currently the usability of the system is improved. It should be in full operation at the end of June 2013.
- A new national focal point for EMCDDA has been provisionally appointed. Provisionally as the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs has not met for 18 months.

- Common software for the drug user database has been implemented country wide. It is the same software that had already been in use in RS and has now also been implemented in FBiH. It is in operation since 2012. In the future this will enable to better notice and follow developments and trends in this field. Currently the Ministry of Civil Affairs has no legal right to access this data base. However RS and FBiH agreed to forward data to the respective ministry. Still direct access to these data bases would facilitate the work and efforts of the Ministry of Civil Affairs in this area. Currently there are efforts to also let Cantons access data their respective data. This is expected to further improve cooperation of Cantons.
- The rulebook on the destruction of seized narcotics is now in use.

A further goal is to participate in an early warning system regarding trends on the drug market. EMCDDA has been contacted for that. Another aim is to work with TAIEX to increase the credibility of Ministry of Civil Affairs' recommendations.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

The national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in BiH for the period 2009-2013 is still in place.

Its key objectives are:

1. Rising awareness through community education, in order to implement a healthy life style and mental health,
2. Combating and prevention of further spread of drug abuse,
3. Prevention of drug addiction, death and health damage due to drug abuse,
4. Reduction of damage caused to community by drug abuse,
5. Reducing of drug demand especially among young people,
6. Strengthening of institutional capacity and responsible involvement of the society,
7. Improving legislation and its implementation,
8. Reducing the supply of narcotic drugs,
9. Formation of an independent multi-sector office for drugs – Office for the Prevention of Drug Abuse at the state level.

The implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan in RS is coordinated by the RS Commission for Suppression of Narcotics (assisted by the Team for Fight Against Drugs Abuse within the Office of the Director of Police), while Brcko District formed a working body for implementation of Action Plan. There is still no designated body at the FBiH level for the coordination of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

The national strategy has been evaluated twice so far. The first evaluation report adopted in May 2011 suggested: the Council of Ministers to encourage the entities and Brcko district to increase the resources for combating drug abuse, to implement the action plan more substantially, to adopt the draft law on prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs, to establish the office for drugs and to establish another working group. The second working group has finished its evaluation and filed a report which has not been adopted by the Council of Ministers since December 2012. The process for writing a new Annual Report on the Drug Situation in BiH has been started.

Drug prevention is part of the curriculum in schools. In RS it takes place in the 7th grade whereas in FBiH it takes place in the 9th grade. However, it is not standardised and it depends entirely on the teachers approach to this subject matter. Currently, there is no helpline for children or teachers to turn to in case of drug abuse or suspected drug abuse.

As already indicated above, the Office for Drugs still could not be established. Toxicological analyses for drug related deaths can still not be carried out. Hence, it can still not be tested whether the death of a person was drug related and if so under the influence of which drug it happened. The forensic institute on state level still lacks funds for that. So far only the Ministry of Security can carry out blood screening for living people.

In BiH there are currently 59 mental health centres that provide outpatient treatment and counselling for drug users. In addition there are eleven specialised addiction treatment centres and two medical drug treatment centres in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. Substitution treatment for heroin addicts is carried out with the support of UNDP. Liquid methadone as well as methadone tablets are in use for therapy. There are also several NGOs active that operate drop in centres, outreach programmes and some implement needle and syringe programmes. Overall costs for medical addiction treatment, social reintegration and harm reduction are estimated to be around 18 mil. BAM (9,2 mil. EUR) annually.

3. List of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

Organized crime networks continue to operate throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and have a negative impact on political structures and the economy. A number of large-scaled operations were nevertheless successfully conducted, thanks to the cooperation amongst different law enforcement agencies. Implementation of the strategy for the fight against organized crime continued. However, lack of adequate resources limits its effectiveness. Legal and institutional obstacles to more systematic use started to be addressed. The Council of Ministers adopted a decision allowing the establishment of a network of police liaison officers in neighbouring countries, with Europol and in some EU countries. The aim of this network is to improve international cooperation and exchanges of information on fighting transnational organized crime.

The fight against drugs is a main component of the overall fight against organized crime and was addressed by the European Commission at the negotiating rounds with BiH authorities for the Stabilization and Association Agreement.

BiH authorities cooperate with other countries and institutions on several levels. Cooperation on state level is carried out by DPC and SIPA both seated at the Ministry for Security. DPC is the national contact for Interpol and Europol. Therefore DPC is the channel for BiH authorities on all levels to Interpol and Europol. SIPA has a liaison officer at SELEC in Bucharest. In contrast to Interpol and Europol this liaison can be contacted by all Bosnian authorities directly. Furthermore there are several regional police cooperation centres for cooperation with Croatia. Despite geographic proximity Montenegro currently cannot join this cooperation for financial reasons.

International cooperation

An improved cooperation in combating drug related crime can be expected not only with the implementation of bilateral agreements, e.g. with Croatia which is not a member of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe (PCCSEE), but also by a full implementation of the PCCSEE itself. PCCSEE is still a new convention and time is needed for its members to use its advantages to a full extent. Some countries from within the Schengen zone have recognized the benefit of this convention and started procedures to join this convention (some already by the end of 2011). This should additionally boost regional cooperation in fighting drug related crime in the near future.

Under the instrument for preaccession (IPA) the EU has prepared a large project in support of the area of law enforcement, including institutional support to the Office for narcotics, which started in May 2012. Twinning assistance will strengthen the capacities and the functions of the Directorate for Coordination of police bodies. The European Union also supports the establishment of the system for electronic data exchange between police agencies and prosecutor offices.

A working arrangement between the BiH Ministry of Security and FRONTEX has been signed in 2009 related to the implementation of activities in the field of border security. The agreement also envisages information exchange between the BiH Border Police and FRONTEX for the Risk Analysis Unit, cooperation related to further trainings, technical cooperation as well as participation in joint operations on the borderline of BiH and EU Member States.

In April 2013 a seminar was organised for all police chiefs in BiH on regional drug roads in BiH. It took place at the SIPA premises and was organised by UNODC.

Since 2007 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Security are cooperating in fighting illegal drug trafficking, including advanced investigation techniques. In December 2012, a twinning project led by Austria with the aim to support integrated border management in BiH was completed.

France is also closely following, at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In 2012, France conducted operational and technical cooperation projects on different topics. At first, a dog training for searching drugs, secondly an action on money laundering from drug traffic, then a visit in the French police directions of the anti-drug offices and finally, a prevent action towards youth for a presentation of different types of drugs will be organized. Last April France organised a seminar with Slovenia on TAIEX funds on undercover police operations. The second aim of this meeting was to enable the integration of SIPA UC in the European Common Group of UC. This should be a new start for anti-drug operations. Furthermore Pole of Belgrade (a strategic and inter-ministerial French diplomatic group) will study and publish in the next months a report on the different cannabis routes in the Balkans. Cannabis from the Balkans (ie. Albania) is very well appreciated in Western Europe and in competition with Moroccan cannabis.

Italy continues to follow closely, at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. A 5-days study visit to the Italian Central Directorate for Anti-drug Services was conducted in 2012 and in December 2012 a new specialised course on crime analysis and fight of new form of drug trafficking was organised in Sarajevo.

The Netherlands Police Agency (KLPD) supports BiH Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies by launching a two-year twinning project (beginning in March 2012) between the Netherlands Police Agency (KLPD) and the Directorate, funded by the European Union (EU). The project focuses on the role of the Directorate in operational international police cooperation, its capacities to collect, share, manage and analyze security information.

Slovenia has signed a bilateral agreement on police cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, but there were no activities connected with drug related issues carried out on the basis of the agreement during the reporting period. As outlined above in cooperation with France a seminar on TAIEX funds on undercover police operations was carried out.

The UK government is working closely with the Ministry of Security and other stakeholders on implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention.

The U.S. Government's bilateral law enforcement assistance programs, through the U.S. Department of Justice ICITAP (the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program) and OPDAT (Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training) programs, continue to emphasize task force training, improved cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, and other measures against organized crime, including narcotics trafficking.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in Rome maintains liaison with its counterparts in Bosnian state – and entity – level law enforcement organizations. The DEA has also sponsored specific narcotic interdiction training courses in Bosnia. The U.S. embassy also provides other forms of justice and law enforcement training in BiH.

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

It is not clear yet whether accession of Croatia to the EU will have an impact on current drug routes and if so what it will be. A constant and thorough monitoring of the possible impact is needed, especially because the future external frontier of the EU represents over 1000 kilometres of poorly monitored border.

There are indications that domestic drug demand in BiH is growing. This implies that crimes associated with obtaining drugs becomes relative to drug trafficking a bigger issue for domestic police.

The solidification and strengthening of the multi-level law enforcement system, with an emphasis on the state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions remains the key objective. The ongoing development of joint institutional and operational capacity and capability is being supported by targeted assistance through the EU instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA). The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies plays an important role in this regards.

Bi-lateral assistance shall remain focused on increasing the functionality of existing agencies and on deepening operational partnership including by cooperation agreements. There is still a critical need for improvement of inter – and intra-agency cooperation within law enforcement and for effective judicial follow-up, both within BiH and in the wider region.

5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs

The globalization of crime and its multidimensional forms create a complex and challenging security environment that demands a professional response by the relevant authorities in order to address the growing drug-related threats more efficiently. International cooperation is an essential factor in tackling, these challenges.

The urgent need for BiH at this point continues to be the prompt implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention, including the establishment and operation of State Office for Narcotics. For improving and strengthening of the fight against drugs traffic and organized crime it will be very convenient to further harmonize the criminal codes between entity and state level. This should be the best way for having common offences and law between entities and state level.

Another decisive factor is the further strengthening of the state level institutions, such as the Ministry of Security, the Directorate for coordination of Police Bodies, SIPA, and the Border Police. In order to increase their functionality and efficiency these institutions need to be properly staffed and equipped to contribute to joint capacity and capability of law enforcement and judiciary as a whole. With regard to the Border Police, further efforts are needed to implement an integrated border management.

Though some progress has been made on operational cooperation between the many law enforcement agencies within BiH in the fight against organized crime, including sharing of intelligence and joint action, formal coordination and exchange of information, particularly of intelligence remains weak. A coordination mechanism has been set up between police directors, the chief prosecutor and the Ministry of Security, however that mechanism needs to be further strengthened. Results of police operations have not been adequately converted into successful prosecutions and convictions. The need for full implementation of the National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues.

The recent years have seen a continued trend of especially the Republika Srpska (one of the two constituting entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina) withholding support to state level institutions. Whereas this does not affect the urgency of identified priorities and needs assessed as such, it may influence the pace and feasibility of activities aimed at strengthening state level institutions and could call for creative approaches.

The reshuffling of the state level government between June and November 2012 as well as the still ongoing reshuffling of governments at entity (FBiH) and cantonal level clearly affected the legislative output during the reporting period in a negative way.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</u> Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Skopje</p>
--

1. General situation in the country

As the 2012 EU Progress Report stated, little progress can be reported regarding the cooperation in the field of drugs. The quantity of drugs seized on the territory of the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia remained low, reflecting a continuing downward trend which may be related to the decrease of drug production in Afghanistan. However, most of the main Balkan drug trafficking routes intersect in the FYR of Macedonia. As a possible result of increased international police and customs operations to interrupt international drug trafficking channels, heroin seizures have risen dramatically in 2012.

1.1 Domestic production of drugs

Self-cultivated marijuana – mainly for consumption within the country – remains the major illegal source of production of drugs.

In 2012, police forces raided for the first time a laboratory producing synthetic drugs near Skopje. Although the production was conducted only on a semi-professional level (only 4 litres of liquid amphetamines and around 3000 tablets were confiscated) there is a distinct possibility of the market for synthetic drugs – produced inside and outside of the country – to increase. Street market prices for one tablet are currently between 6 and 10 Euros.

Licit poppy straw and poppy straw concentrates for medical purposes are continuously produced in the central and Eastern parts of the country. The area under cultivation increased to approximately 1000 hectares. This marks an increase of 100% compared to the area that was previously under cultivation.

24 companies/institutions which are dealing with import, export or transit of drugs and/or precursors have been registered in the country.

1.2 Drug-related statistics

a) Confiscation data - All Law Enforcement (Police and customs administration)

	2011	2012
MARIJUANA	286kg 397,8g	109 kg
HEROIN	23kg 720,04g	76 kg 124,89 grams
COCAINE	1kg 469,12g and 1.560ml liquid cocaine	48,93 grams
HASHISH	114kg 115g	26,5 grams
AMFETAMINE	10.930 tbl. and 1kg 819g	3.083 tbl and 4,3g
ECSTASY	3.628 tbl	151 tbl
METHAMPHETAMINE	66 tbl and 17,92g	3.083 tbl and 4,3g
LSD	-	2pcs and 61,7 g
CANNABIS SATIVA	1.247 plants 1.381pcs and 143,86 g seeds	718 plants 890pcs and 63,49 g seeds 52
OPIUM	3,7g	79,5 Aqua solution of Opium(with concentr. 2782,5 g opium)
EFEDRINE	1g	-
DIAZEPAM	1.005 Amp.	115Amp
HALUCINOGENOUS MASCHROOMS	0,5g	128g
MIXTURE TOBACO AND MARIJUANA	28,55g	20,21 g
METHADON		600ml 1270 tablets
Precursor: HCL (Hydrochloric acid)		6,5 lit
Different liquids needed for illicit production of narcotics		28,2 l

I. Table: source IMCND 2012. Nov.

1.3. Trafficking routes

The Ministry of Interior identified the Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran region as the main source of seized drugs. Heroin routes leading to Belgium and the Netherlands cross the FYR of Macedonia and thus affect the local drug situation.

a) Heroin route

- To Belgium: directly from Pakistan, Iran and Turkey mainly by sea and air transportation
- To Netherlands: the specific details of the trafficking routes to the Netherlands still remain unclear; however, it is expected that, in addition to the Balkan route, other routes are also used (Pakistan, Iran, Africa etc).

b) Cocaine route

Seizures in the covered period have been reported in connection with the air and land route.

c) Marihuana route

Transports of Marihuana mainly enter the FYR of Macedonia from Albania and Kosovo and are moved through the Western border region, before leaving the country northwards to Serbia.

2. Anti-drug strategy

The Interministerial Commission for Narcotics and Drugs was established in November 2006 and is an institutional part of the Ministry of Health. It consists of members of the Ministries of Interior, of Foreign Affairs, of Education, of Local Self-Government, of Labour and Social Policy, of Agriculture, as well as of the Agency for Youth and Sport.

Roles and responsibilities of the IMCND are in particular:

- Coordinating, planning and monitoring the implementation of programmes in the area of prevention, treatment and suppression of drugs abuse at the local level;
- Assisting with the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy and Action Plan;
- International cooperation.

In December 2006 the National Drugs Control Strategy, which consists of two Action Plans, was adopted by the Government. The plans envisage a pre-implementation period 2007-2008 and an implementation period from 2009-2012.

The Action Plan emphasizes the necessity of cooperation between state institutions, non-governmental organizations, the media and relevant institutions at the local level. The Action Plan is based on the principle of decentralization. Its objective is to develop a network of different programmes at national level as well as within the units of self-government. The Action Plan aims to streamline local programmes with the ones at national level, thus ensuring an equal availability of programmes and measures.

3. International Cooperation

General introduction

- The Macedonian Police has established a good cooperation with other national Police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece);
- The host country has signed MoUs with various countries on fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (i.e. Hungary etc.);
- On a case by case basis, the police has been successfully cooperating with national police liaison officers from various EU member states, especially Austria, Germany and Italy;
- Cooperation also exists through the Interpol and Europol networks;
- Border control efforts are being strengthened through the development of partnerships and effective working relationships with organizations such as INTERPOL, SELEC, SEPCA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, UNODC;
- Cooperation with these international networks remains crucial for effective and coordinated actions to tackle organized crime,

Ongoing operations, bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events:

- Technical Assistance of EAR to equip Mol Central Laboratory;

- Various bilateral contributions related to the police reform programme, such as capacity building and police trainings; e.g. Police Training Academy in Skopje in 2009 as part of the bilateral police training assistance provided by the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA);
- Several bi- and multilateral anti-trafficking police-operations with Turkey, Germany and Austria were conducted successfully; The United States provides essential operational and technical support that has proven useful in intercepting cross-border shipments of drugs;
- France is active both in the field of prevention and operational support, for example assisting in the training of dogs;
- The UK has supported the Ministry of Interior bilaterally in the spheres of rule of law and institutional capacity building, for example, by funding the feasibility study for establishing the National Criminal Intelligence Database (NID). Further assistance was provided related to the development and adoption of a strategy for the National Analytical Centre, as well as related to the introduction of the UK intelligence-led policing model for combating organised crime. The UK is continuing its work through an EU sponsored project;
- Since September 2012 the Ministries of Justice and Interior of the FYR of Macedonia are participating for the first time in a “Joint Investigation Team” (JIT) together with Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, EUROPOL and EUROJUST. The JIT is focused on the disruption of organized crime networks trafficking heroin to Western Europe.

4. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Challenges:

Among many other factors, the political situation (i.e. the relationship with neighbouring countries) and matters of regional stability may affect the country’s ability to tackle transnational challenges. Integration into the European Union remains crucial for all aspects concerning justice and home affairs.

The following areas have been identified as areas for external assistance:

- Technical support to conduct a survey of the general population in relation to use of illicit drugs; the survey should involve EMCDDA indicators;
- Continuation of the cooperation with EUROPOL and EMCDDA and other partner organizations;

- Support related to the implementation of the recently adopted Law for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances - preparation of preventive programmes for different target groups;
- Support related to the implementation of the Law for the Control of Precursors – continuing the education and training for inspectors dealing with the control of the licit and illicit production of precursors as well as the trade of precursors;
- Capacity building (esp. in the area of the control of synthetic drugs);
- Technical support for the establishment of an electronic system for the collection and evaluation of data related to the monitoring of drug indicators;
- Exchange of information and training for new therapies – transfer of good practices.

5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs for external assistance

- In essence, the problems identified by the Mini-Dublin Group in the FYR Macedonia can be grouped into three main areas: firstly, the role of the FYR of Macedonia as transit country in the region, secondly, the emergence of a local production of synthetic drugs and thirdly, the abuse of illicit drugs among juveniles.
- EU programmes – namely IPA - are mainly designed for long-term planning and tend not to serve ad hoc operations.
- Assistance should be provided particularly for projects related to operational support as well as initiatives in the field of prevention and juvenile consumption.

Kosovo

Report by the mini-Dublin Group Pristina, Kosovo May 2013

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held at the premises of the European Union Office in Kosovo, Pristina on the 27 of May, 2013 from 10:00 to 11:15 hours.

Participants: Austria (Chair), Kosovo Police, EU-COM, Hun, BG, FR, RO, SE, Switzerland,

1. General situation in Kosovo

1.1. Domestic production of drugs:

Due to reports from the Kosovo Police small fields of Marihuana could be localized and seized. However, Marihuana is not produced in large quantities in Kosovo. Apart from Marihuana no other drugs are produced in Kosovo. Therefore Kosovo should not be considered as a producing country, but rather as a transit country on the trafficking route towards the EU.

1.2. Confiscation data in Kg

Year	Heroin	Marihuana	Hashish	Cocaine	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Other
2008	44.6	177.5	0	2.15	9.25	0.04	0.012
2009	36.1	43.6	0	1.4	33.5	2.2	2.4
2010	55.6	199.3	0.0028	0.22	9.6	0.006	1.2
2011	60.2	216.7	0	2.6	3.6	0.67	5.4
2012	94.1	1237.94	0.548	7.4	10.6	153	886
2013/1-3	3.2	240,7	N/A	1.3	N/A	26	0.128

Current market prices in Kosovo:

Heroin: 1Kg between 17.000 and 22.000 EUR (0.6 g between 20-25 EUR)

Cocaine: 1Kg between 60.000 and 80.000 EUR (0.6 g between 70-90 EUR)

Marihuana: 1 Kg between 600 and 900 EUR (5 g between 20-25 EUR)

Drug related crime statistics:

The Kosovo Police reported that many drug-related crimes (theft, illegal weapons etc.) have been discovered and investigated. However, no statistics exist in that field.

1.3. Trafficking routes

Heroin route: Afghanistan – Turkey – Bulgaria – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) – Kosovo: Heroine mainly leaves Kosovo in the South and West towards Montenegro and Albania to be further transported to the EU. This trafficking route did not change compared to the last report.

Cocaine route: From South America cocaine is shipped to ports in Montenegro and Albania from where it is transported to southern and eastern Kosovo before leaving the country in the North towards Serbia. Some quantities of Cocaine (mainly of poor quality) remain in Kosovo to serve the local demands. This trafficking route did not change compared to the last report.

Marihuana route: Large quantities of Marihuana are transported to harbours in ports, Albania and Greece from where the Marihuana is smuggled to the southern and western regions of Kosovo. Marihuana then leaves the country in the North and East towards Serbia. Some quantities of Marihuana stay in the country to serve the local drug market. This trafficking route did not change compared to the last report.

Methods of drug smuggling:

- Sending small or medium sized packages with undeclared ownership by passenger busses;
- Using inexperienced persons for the transport;
- Using members of the extended Kosovar “diaspora” living and working abroad to smuggle smaller quantities of drugs on their regular (seasonal) family visits (making use of the overloaded border crossings); however, this method is not so frequently used anymore
- Cars and smaller buses are technically modified in special car repair shops for hiding drugs.

According to statements of the local authorities, Kosovo is less frequently used as a transit route to smuggle drugs for a number of reasons:

- Low quantity of goods are being exported out of Kosovo
- Kosovar citizens have visa obligations and thus are subject of tight security and personal checks when travelling abroad;
- Kosovo’s infrastructure is poorly developed
- Due to recent ethnically fuelled conflicts Kosovo hosts a vast number of international law enforcement agencies that operate openly and covertly in the country
- Integration process in the region
- Diversity of law enforcement agencies

2. Update on Kosovo's anti-drug strategy

Kosovo has adopted a National Strategy on fighting drugs which is implemented according to annual Action Plans. Currently the Action Plan for 2013 is in its final phase of adoption.

Fighting organised crime including drug trafficking is one of the main priorities of the government.

Additional national legislative measures include:

- Kosovo Penal Code,
- Kosovo Penal Procedure Code: The establishment of a new Penal Procedure Code was highly welcomed by the Kosovo Police.
 - o Witness protection (is possible but rarely used)
 - o Seizure of assets
- Law on the Police,
- Establishing Standard Operating Procedures according to EU standards.

Institutional changes:

- The Kosovo Police has been restructured. Police units are centralised by six (6) regions (Pristina, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Ferizaj).
- A new unit for Financial Investigation was founded in 2013, which partly deals with drug crime investigations (e.g. the seizure of assets)

3. International cooperation

- The Kosovo Police has established a good cooperation with other national Police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Montenegro, FYROM, Croatia);
- Kosovo has signed MoUs with various countries on fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (i.e. Albania, Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, and Switzerland);
- On a case by case basis Kosovo Police has been successfully cooperating with national police liaison officers from various EU member states;
- The recent agreement on regional representation is expected to open up new opportunities for Kosovo to participate in regional and international initiatives and organisations (i.e. SECI Centre, Europol, Interpol, etc.).

Ongoing operations, bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events:

- Information is commonly exchanged on a daily basis with liaison officers and other law enforcement agencies;
- Joint investigations with other national police forces;
- Regional Joint Exercise (Balkans Spring) – practical exercise on controlled deliveries together with Germany, Slovenia, Montenegro, Albania, FYROM, Turkey, Bulgaria and Kosovo

4. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

- Trainings related to the preparation of strategic documents;
- Know-how for the preparation of OCTA (Organised Crime Threat Assessment);
- Specialized trainings and equipment for technology based investigations (i.e. interception of phone calls from foreign mobile telephone providers; interception of internet based communication: Skype, Voip etc.);
- Police cooperation with Serbia;

5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs for external assistance

- Specialized trainings in the field of controlled deliveries;
- Trainings related to multilateral cooperation methods (i.e. establishing and maintaining official contacts with foreign law enforcement agencies);

5.1. Emerging threats / needs

- Increasing local drug consumption and demand for narcotics;
- Decreasing trust towards international law enforcement agencies;
- The northern part of Kosovo remains to be considered a “Safe Haven” for organised crime due to a lack of rule of law and law enforcement activities.

5.2. Political initiatives

- The government should strengthen its efforts to increase the effectiveness of the fight against drug trafficking;
- The Kosovo Police needs to be depoliticised and receive more financial support;
- The government shall continue its public campaigns (in cooperation with EULEX and KFOR) against the domestic use of illicit drugs;
- Updating the National Strategy on Drugs.

5.3. Recommendations

- Improving transparency related to the case by case cooperation with international partners;
- Strengthening the independence of the Judiciary;
- Implementation of the Witness Protection Programme;
- Increasing the legal and operational support for the Kosovo Police.

Montenegro

Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Podgorica, 1st half of 2013

The first MDG-Meeting this year was held on 28th of May 2013, at the premises of the Austrian Embassy in Podgorica.

Representatives of following countries and organizations took part in the meeting: the EU-Delegation to Montenegro, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Romania, and Croatia (observer).

Mr. Miodrag LAKOVIC, Head of Counter Drug Division in the Montenegrin Police Directorate, and his deputy, Mr. Dejan KNEZEVIC, gave an overview regarding the drug offences in Montenegro, the newest developments and *modi operandi* in this field, as well as the final statistic data on seizures of drugs.

1. General situation in the country

Smuggling and consumption of modified marihuana (Skunk) still dominate the drug related offences in Montenegro. Country of origin of “Skunk” is Albania – from there Albanian organized crime groups (OCGs) distribute the modified marihuana, also called “super marihuana” to the neighboring countries - also via Montenegro. Different Montenegrin OCGs were involved in the smuggling of “Skunk” in the past. Since two years this smuggle is organized by Albanian OCGs, who recruit couriers from Greece, Belgium and Italy for the transport of “Skunk” to Western European countries along the so called “Southern path”. This “path” leads from Albania via Montenegro to Croatia, and from there to the countries of the European Union. In the past the so called “Northern path” (the “Green Border” from Albania to Montenegro and from there also via the “Green Border” to Bosnia and Serbia) was used more frequently, but since the couriers from GR, BE and IT are not familiar with the topographic situation in Montenegro, they prefer to use the official border crossing points, namely Subokin, Vracenovici and Debeli Brijeg. Around 600 kg Skunk (out of total of 904 kg) have been seized this year at the border crossing points mentioned above. In 2012 in Montenegro 147 drug offences have been committed and 204 persons had been sentenced.

1.1 Production data and confiscation date, current market prices, drug related crime statistics

Types of Drugs	2012	2013 until 01.05. 2013
Marihuana	1.021 kg	901,67 kg
Heroin	8 kg	4,93 kg
Cocaine	0,408 kg	0,071 kg
Synthetic drugs	114 tablets	310 tablets

Heroin:

Heroin is not being smuggled via Montenegro in large quantities. The 5 kg seized in 2013 had been split up in 4 different deliveries. The smuggling route leads from Kosovo via Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Serbia and Croatia.

16 persons from Podgorica and Rozaje had been arrested in this case. Heroin consumption is a major problem in Montenegro. Also, medical substances used as drug-substitute, e.g. SUBOTEX, are enjoying increasing popularity. Investigation on these substances showed, that SUBOTEX is smuggled from Bosnia and Croatia to Montenegro, where it is sold for EUR 100,-- per pill. The regular price in Croatia is around 10 Euros for 7 pills of SUBOTEX. An especially large demand for SUBOTEX comes from inmates.

Cocaine:

The consumption of Cocaine plays a minor role in Montenegro and only few grammes of this drug were confiscated in 2013. Also, less than 500 grammes had been seized in 2012. Regarding international cocaine smuggle, there is evidence, also from neighboring countries, that shipments arrive in containers from South America to the big harbors in Spain, Holland, Belgium, Germany and Italy. Evidence exists for the involvement of mariners from Serbia and Croatia. From there, the cocaine will be distributed to other European countries. The port of Bar does not represent a hotspot for cocaine smuggling, because container vessels from South America do not arrive directly in Montenegro.

In 2012 no cases of cocaine smuggling from or through Montenegro were discovered by the Montenegrin Police. On the international level Montenegro provided valuable information to EUROPOL. Currently Montenegro is involved in two operations, together with the UK, NL and SER. In these two cases 55 targets, who are involved in the organization of cocaine smuggling from Latin America to the EU, are under investigation.

Marihuana (Skunk):

Modified marihuana, better known as “Skunk”, has a THC content from 12 to 15 and is mainly produced in Albania. Recently “Skunk” tends to replace heroin to a certain extent. In a regional operation between MNE, SER, BiH and HR (codename “GLADIUS”) 52 suspects were arrested. In MNE 312 kilos of “Skunk” were confiscated, in BiH 44 kilos, in SER 17 kilos, and in HR 20 kilos, as well as 0,5 kilo of heroin.

Synthetic Drugs:

Synthetic drugs are not so relevant in Montenegro, neither for consumption nor for smuggling. Only during the summer tourist season, some pills appear on “Rave Parties” or in night clubs. In most cases the tourists bring these drugs with them from their home countries.

2. Programs and preventive measures:

As in the past, the Montenegrin authorities continue with drug related awareness programs in schools and youth centers. Pupils and students will be educated by specially trained police officers regarding the danger and results of drug consumption. Montenegrin health authorities provide rehabilitation programs.

Problems for investigators:

Since the budget for police operations - including drug related operations - has been decreased, the Montenegrin Police was forced to reduce some of its activities. Therefore initiatives on strengthening secret investigations are currently suspended.

3. Questions from participants:

HU: Will Croatia’s accession to the EU have an impact on drug smuggling routes?

Answer: In the future the pressure on Organized Crime Groups will increase and there are some indicators that OCGs will use the sea corridors more often.

Austria: How is the situation at the port of Bar?

Answer: In 2012 only one case, handled together with Germany and Italy, came to attention of the Montenegrin police. In this case, one Dutch and two Montenegrin citizens who arrived from South America via Hamburg to Bar, were involved. There are no direct container shipments from South America to Montenegro. Recently the local police controlled two Albanians, arriving at the harbor of Bar by boat, where they detected “Skunk”.

EU-Delegation: The number of controls in the port of Bar as well as the coordination between Police and Customs Service seem to be very limited.

Answer:

Joint units of Police and Customs Service have been installed only at critical border crossing points, which are classified as hotspots, based on a risk analysis. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will start a project in the port of Bar, developing joint units for container controls. A special training and necessary equipment will be provided by UNODC. Scanners and risk analysis software have already been used by the Customs Service. In the port of Bar around 10.000 containers arrive every year.

CZ: How big is the risk for smugglers on the (green) borders and what are the experiences with cruisers?

Answer: The risk for smugglers cannot be estimated by the police, but until 2009 smuggling via the “Green Border” was more popular than nowadays. Very often Albanian OCGs send couriers by car, containing hidden compartments and using Italian license plates (via official border crossing points to the EU countries). Tourists travelling to Montenegro on cruisers import drugs only for their personal consumption. The possibility that crew-members smuggle drugs cannot be excluded.

Austria: What are the current prices for drugs?

Answer: The price for one kilo “Skunk” (with a THC-content of 12 to 15 percent) is approximately EUR 400,- in Albania, in MNE between EUR 800,- and 1.000,-. The street trading price of one gram of cocaine is around EUR 100,-.

CZ: How many drug consumers are registered in Montenegro and how is the situation in schools?

Answer: Serious statistics that include the consumption of cocaine and marihuana do not exist in Montenegro. The Ministry of Health estimates between 3.500 and 5000 consumers of heroin (Heroin remains the biggest drug problem in Montenegro).

EU-Delegation: According to a press release in Italy, dealers add ammoniac to the “Skunk” to increase the THC-percentage. Can this information be confirmed?

Answer: There is no information regarding admixing of ammoniac or other chemicals to increase the THC-content. No forensic analysis has yet been initiated in Montenegro.

Romania: It was published that Montenegro will delegate more Police Liaison Officers to other countries.

Answer: Currently Montenegro has two LO:

- SELEC-Centre in Bucharest
- Interpol in Lyon
- EUROPOL-LO expected

Serbia

Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Belgrade, 1st half of 2013

The first MDG-meeting 2013, chaired by Austria and co-chaired by Hungary, took place on May 27th 2013 in the premises of Austrian Embassy in Belgrade with representatives of 15 MDG-Countries, as well as from UNODC and the EU Delegation to Serbia. In total 32 participants attended the meeting. The two guest speakers from the Serbian side were State Secretary Mr. Perisa SIMONOVIC from the Serbian Ministry of Health and Mr. Ivan BRANDIC, Head of Department for Drugs Smuggling Suppression in the Serbian Service for Combatting Organized Crime (Ministry of the Interior).

Types of Drugs	2012
Marihuana	2.221 kilos
Heroin	55 kilos
Cocaine	4 kilos
Hashish	700 gram
Ecstasy	100 gram and 2.507 pieces
LSD	163 pieces
Amphetamine:	13 kilos and 312 pieces
Others	96 kilos

1. Fight against drug supply

1.1 General developments in Serbia

According to Mr Brandic, no significant changes had happened since the last MDG Meeting held in September 2012 in Belgrad. Serbia is still a part of the traditional “Balkan Route of drugs” for smuggling heroin from the countries of origin to Western European countries, since it is the shortest way to supply those countries with heroin. Serbia mainly is a transit country for heroin and only small quantities remain on the illegal market in Serbia.

1.2 Production data and confiscation data, current market prices, drug related crime statistics

In 2012, 4.775 drug offences have been investigated by the police authorities in Serbia and 5.045 drug seizures took place. In these seizures in total 2.390 kilo of drugs were confiscated.

a. Heroin:

While in 2007 in Serbia 500 kilo of heroin had been confiscated, the seizures of heroin have decreased in 2012 to 55 kilo. This is most likely due to a diversion of the main smuggling route since 2009. Routes have changed so that heroin is increasingly smuggled from Turkey via Bulgaria and Romania to Western European countries like Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Great Britain and Scandinavia. A second route leads from Macedonia via Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia to Italy and Spain. The procurement of the Serbian market is, according to Mr Brandic, mainly performed by organized criminal groups (OCG) out from the area of Kosovo, organized mainly by Albanian OCGs, as well as in the Serbian region of Novi Pazar, Tutin and in Northern Montenegro (Rožaje). With EUR 22.000 per kilo it is the highest price ever recorded for heroin in Serbia.

b. Cocaine:

Cocaine is smuggled by Serbian citizens in a most organized form of transcontinental smuggling from South America to Europe. Serbia represents a transit country and only small quantities of cocaine are distributed to the local market. Serbian Police authorities identified several OCG's dealing with drug smuggling directly from the South American countries to the end user countries. These OCG's have contacts directly to the facilitators in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela. Hidden on container vessels, cocaine is smuggled to Europe, sometimes with involvement of crew members who are paid by the OCG's. This more and more common modus operandi requests intensive international cooperation. In individual cases, cocaine will be smuggled from South America to Serbia by so called "Body packers", swallowing the drugs or sending it with postal parcels to Serbia. The current price for Cocaine in Serbia is approximately 40.000,- Euros per kilo.

c. Marihuana:

Marihuana, especially the so called "Supermarihuana" with a THC content between 12 and 17 percent, also known as "Skunk", is the most popular drug on the illegal market in Serbia. Mainly it is smuggled from Albania via Montenegro, or directly from the area of Kosovo. The illicit production of "Skunk" is on the rise, using newest technologies. In 2012, several laboratories producing "Skunk" were detected in Serbia. They were using high quality equipment, which is legally used in agricultural cultivation for certain herbs, and had monitoring rooms for watching the cultivation process. It is remarkable that the age of the members of these Serbian OCG's was over 50 years and nobody of them had drug related criminal records. Also large amounts of money and large quantities of weapons were found on those suspects. In the course of 2012, several large seizures of marihuana, coming from FYROM and Kosovo, had been recorded.

These deliveries were foreseen for the Western European market, using Serbia as transit country. In these cases the smugglers were not Serbian citizens. In 2013, around 140 kilos of marijuana have been seized in Subotica and Sombor. 2 Albanian nationals have been arrested in this case. This marijuana came from Kosovo and was destined to be smuggled further to Hungary. Therefore the OCG rented houses near the Serbian-Hungarian border where the marijuana was stored. The price for “Skunk” in Serbia is currently between 1.000 and 1.500 Euros per kilo and is sold in the EU-countries for prices between 2.000,- Euros and 5.500,- Euros. This makes smuggling of “Skunk” most profitable. Based on intelligence from operational activities, the production of “Skunk” under artificial conditions will probably increase in the future.

d. Synthetic drugs and precursors:

As in the past, OCGs will continue with the production of synthetic drugs in so called “kitchen models”. Due to the poor economic situation in Serbia and the limited illegal market for synthetic drugs, these drugs are produced in Serbia for the Western European market. Chemicals for the production are being smuggled from Middle East countries to Serbia. Very often chemists from neighboring countries, mainly Bulgaria, are involved in the production of synthetic drugs in Serbian laboratories. Besides the illegal domestic market, synthetic drugs from Serbia can also be found in Australia and South America. Between 2007 and 2011, four illegal laboratories were detected in Serbia, three of them near Belgrade. During 2012, two laboratories were detected. One of them was used for the production of methamphetamine and the second one for amphetamine. Within the fight against narcotic drugs, the Serbian MoI also focuses on a control system to avoid a misuse of precursors. To this end, Serbian authorities take records on legal entities, dealing with the import of precursor related chemicals which are on the UN list, in order to create a united data base.

1.3 Programs and preventive measures:

Mr Brandic reported that a multisector team had been established by the Serbian police, targeting clandestine laboratories especially regarding synthetic drugs. This specialized team would develop a manual, dedicated to police officers to ensure uniformed performance in cases of entering in such laboratories. Also a police training course on activities related to drug abuse would be developed by this specialized team.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, a demonstration laboratory has been established. In this laboratory, confiscated equipment for production of synthetic drugs as well as for “Skunk”, is being be used. The laboratory is located in the MoI training center.

In cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Belgrade, the first train-the –trainer course was delivered in the EUROPOL-Training center in the Netherlands. Start of the project implementation was in May 2013.

Due to the necessity of international cooperation regarding the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking, so far 21 bilateral agreements have been signed, also MoU’s on police cooperation with 5 countries. In April 2012 a bilateral agreement on cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors was signed with the Russian Federation. Since April 2011 Serbia is full member of the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) under the auspice of DEA (USA).

Finally, an EU Twinning project *“Implementation of Strategy on fight against drugs – Component on reduced supply and demand”* has been elaborated since October 2012 and launched on 13 May 2013. The project aims at strengthening domestic institutions through introduction of best internationally recognized practices in the field of reducing drug supply and demand. The project runs in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Health and the Czech National Center for drugs and drug addiction monitoring. The main beneficiary institution is the Serbian MoI, which carries out the activities together with the Ministry of Health, and the Institute for public health of Serbia “Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut”.

2. Fight against drug demand

For the first time, a high ranking representative of the Ministry of Health, which has the coordinating role regarding drug policy in Serbia, was present at the meeting of the local Mini Dublin group. State Secretary Dr. Periša Simonovic gave an overview of the Serbian anti-drug policy. A national strategy had been adopted in February 2009 for the period 2009-2013. Based on the strategy, an action plan has been adopted as well, including 5 key areas:

- 1)Coordination
- 2)Reducing supply

- 3)Reducing demand
- 4)Information and research
- 5)International cooperation

As for **coordination**, State Secretary Simonovic explained that under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, two Commissions dealing with drug policy had been introduced by law in Serbia: a Commission for the control of psychoactive drugs (established in 2011) and a Commission on the destruction of psychotropic substances. While the former Commission has been established and worked out an updated list of psychoactive substances, the latter is still not active.

According to State Secretary Simonovic, this is due to the specific legal situation in Serbia: while the law on drugs had been adopted in 1995, there had been no law on precursors (contrary to most other countries) until 2006. Both laws foresee the establishment of a separate Commission, so that the Ministry of Health has decided to introduce in the near future one single Commission by a change of laws by the end of 2013. This Commission would bring together all relevant Ministries: Health, Interior, Finance (Customs-related), and Justice.

Prevention: many programs exist in Serbia, but Dr. Simonovic explained that the quality of these programs differs considerably. The national institute for public health “Dr. Milan Jovanovic-Batut” is currently working on the institutionalization and systematization of these programs.

Treatment: Serbia has four regional centers in Belgrade, Nis, Novi Sad and Kragujevac. The Ministry is currently working on working out single guidelines for their work. Dr. Simonovic highlighted the fact that Serbia was yet at square 1 regarding the reintegration of drug addicts.

International Cooperation: Serbia is actively cooperating with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and has become a member of the Pompidou-Group of the Council of Europe in 2010. Serbia is closely cooperating with UNODC in Vienna.

Twinning project – new national Strategy

Dr. Simonovic explained that the new Twinning project (see point I.3) has multiple goals:

- An evaluation of the existing national strategy (2009-2013)

- Elaboration of the new national strategy (2013-2020)
- Removing problems regarding the existing structures
- Setting up a structure that will improve national coordination

New national structure?

One of the most important tasks (and biggest challenge) in the new national strategy is to establish a coherent national structure for the exchange of information and fight against drugs. To this end, the Ministry for Health plans to introduce a new, national office to combat drugs on a government level (following the Croatian model). So far, each institution and even many municipalities have separate plans of action, which, according to State Secretary Simonovic, made it virtually impossible to submit to the government and international community a national report.

With a new coordinating structure such as the proposed national Office, this is supposed to change. The new office should also be the focal point for cooperation with EMCDDA in Lisbon.

3. Recommendations

The Mini Dublin Group commends the Serbian police for its ongoing activities in the fight against drug smuggling and production. Above all, international cooperation is satisfactory. However, the Mini Dublin group would like to raise the following policy recommendations:

Serbian (and Kosovo) police authorities must find ways to establish effective cooperation

Despite the signing of the co-operation protocol with Eulex and the ongoing dialogue on the highest political level, there is still a clear lack of concrete cooperation with the Kosovar authorities. The members of the Dublin group therefore encourage the Serbian police authorities to actively seek information and cooperation through Eulex.

The members of the Dublin group support the idea of establishing a national coordination office for the fight against drugs and encourage a swift implementation of this idea.

Finally, we urge the Serbian authorities to proceed swiftly with the destruction of seized drugs, which has been planned for many years without visible progress.