



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 September 2013  
(OR. en)**

**10603/13**

**CORDROGUE 47  
ASIE 39**

**NOTE**

---

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| From:           | Italian regional chair of the Dublin Group |
| To:             | Dublin Group                               |
| No. prev. doc.: | 10291/13                                   |
| Subject:        | Regional report on Central Asia            |

---

**1. Kazakhstan**

*1.1. General situation in the country*

Kazakhstan lays directly transverse several main drug routes linking Central Asia to the Russian Federation and Europe. Indeed, all drugs smuggled via the “northern route” must transit Kazakh territory unless they are shipped by air or across the Caspian Sea. The numerous major road and railway links across the Kazakh-Russian border, as well as its length (6,800 km) and topography make anti-trafficking efforts difficult. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan is probably the best equipped Central Asian state to handle the trafficking threat as it has the most substantial financial resources.

The main flow of drugs, including heroin and opium, enters Kazakhstan from neighbouring Central Asian countries and is originated in Afghanistan.

Moreover, Kazakhstan is a sizable producer of illicit cannabis and ephedra. The largest location (140,000 ha) of wild growing cannabis is in Chui Valley (Zhambyl province). Based on yield of about 1,050-1,150 kg/ha, the total potential production of hashish is estimated at 5-6 thousand tons annually. It is estimated approximately 97 % of the marijuana sold in Central Asia originates in Kazakhstan.

Total number of drugs seized in Kazakhstan over 2012 is 28,829 kg, a 15.2 % decrease in comparison with 2011 (33,998 kg). Heroin seizures amounted to 306.725 kg in total (306.7 kg). Opium seizures, indeed, are equaled to 183 kg (11.37 kg), evidencing a 16-times increase, while hashish seizures dropped almost by 27 times – 225.9 kg (6,093 kg), marihuana seizure levels increased by 2.1% to 27,957 kg (27,380 kg). Moreover, according to the data, provided by CARICC, 291 g of cocaine are reported to be seized in Kazakhstan in 2012. Also seizures of 2,514 kg of precursors (11,461 kg) were reported.

The number of drug users in Kazakhstan decreased over the year by 12 % (from 46,766 to 40,858), including women—by 14 % (from 3,638 to 3,114), and minors- by 20 % (from 2,613 to 2,069).

### **On Crime:**

On 31 July 2008, Kazakhstan ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 and all three protocols, supplementing this Convention.

On 22 April 2009, the President signed a decree on additional measures to step up the fight against crime and corruption and further improve the law enforcement activities in Kazakhstan. In November 2011, a Law on strengthening the fight with organized crime, terrorism and extremism was adopted, introducing amendments and supplements to the Kazakhstan Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code. Namely, a criminal liability was introduced for the complicity in transnational organized crime.

In 2012, the number of registered drug-related crimes decreased by 10.87 %, equaling to 3,886 (4,360).

Partly, such a decrease in numbers of drug-related crimes is attributed to legislative changes introduced to the Kazakh legislation since the beginning of 2011 to transfer certain actions from criminal to administrative offences. Sentences for drug traffickers were increased two years ago, which stipulates that now there are less couriers; currently there are 150 traffickers sentenced to 15-20 years imprisonment and one life sentence, they are mostly from CIS countries.

The number of people arrested for drug-related crimes in 2012 in Kazakhstan decreased by 15.47 % and accounted for 2,048 (2,423), including 139 (160) foreigners, 57 (58) of which were Russian citizens, 54 (53) Kyrgyz citizens, 20 (31) Uzbek citizens, 3 (11) Tajik citizens, 2 (2) Turkmen citizens and 3 citizens of other countries.

In 2012, Kazakh law-enforcement bodies destroyed the activity of 11 organized criminal groups, responsible for committing 67 drug-related crimes (7 organized criminal groups, responsible for 35 drug-related crimes, were destroyed in 2011). 25 “controlled deliveries” were carried out in 2012, including 3 of them fulfilled in cooperation with the Kyrgyz law-enforcement organs. Furthermore, other 7 “controlled deliveries” were accomplished within the first five months of 2013.

### **On Trafficking in Human Beings:**

According to UNODC, Kazakhstan is a source, destination, and to a lesser extent, a transit country for women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution, and for men and women in conditions of forced labor. Kazakh women and children are trafficked within Kazakhstan and also to the United Arab Emirates, Russia, China, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Greece, and Israel for the purpose of forced prostitution. Women and girls from Uzbekistan, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Ukraine are subjected to forced prostitution in Kazakhstan.

A special governmental plan on fighting and preventing human trafficking was developed and is being currently carried out, while wide-scale national operative prevention activities “STOP-traffic” and “Illegal immigrant” are being conducted on a continuing basis.

In September 2012, a “National dialogue between Law-Enforcement and NGO on combatting human trafficking” conference was held. The event was organized by the Kazakhstan MVD together with International Migration Organization (IMO), where the representatives of OSCE, EC and foreign embassies took part.

### **On Terrorism:**

Kazakhstan is a party to 13 of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism. Kazakhstan is also a party to the Shanghai Convention on the Fight against Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism.

Kazakhstan is a member of regional initiatives such as Anti-Terrorist Centre of Commonwealth Independent States (ATC CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

A Law, adopted in November 2011, exacerbated the punishment for a number of terrorist and extremist crimes (art.164, 337, 337-1 of Penal Code), introduced criminal liability for the propaganda of extremism (art.233-1), for recruiting, training or arming individuals with the purposes of organization of terrorist or extremist activity (233-4), a notion of terrorism and extremism financing was specified (233-3).

Over the 10 month of 2012 23 penal cases were complained with regard to the extremist features, 15 out of which were charged for the igniting a religious hostility, and 8—for the complicity in the activity of the extremist or legally banned organization. 176 arms, more than 2 thousands of ammunition, 56 explosive devices, more than 21 kg of explosive substances, more than 23 thousands of printed matters were sequestered. In the sphere of religious relationship 224 administrative offences were registered, 146 individuals were held liable.

### **On Money Laundering:**

The law “On Countering Money-Laundering and Terrorist Financing” came into force on 9 March 2010. The Financial Monitoring Committee (FIU) was established under the Ministry of Finance on 24 April 2008.

Kazakhstan is a member of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG), and co-chairs the EAG Technical Assistance Working Group. The FIU participated became a full member of the Egmont Group in July 2011.

A joint UNODC/World Bank Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing Mentor programme has been implemented in Central Asia since 2006. The main goal is to assist Central Asian countries with bringing domestic laws and institutions in compliance with international instruments, standards and best practices.

### *1.2. Short update on the country’s anti-drugs strategy*

Kazakhstan adopted the National Drug Control Strategy for 2006-2014. This Strategy complements the Presidential Decree №735, signed in December 2001 “On further measures for the realization of the development strategy of Kazakhstan until 2030”, which defines the fight against drugs as a principal activity of state bodies and public entities.

The most important goals of the Strategy are as follows:

- 1) strengthening the counter-narcotics propaganda;
- 2) improving the efficiency of preventive measures, treatment and social rehabilitation of drug addicts;
- 3) strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the fight against drug dealing;
- 4) enlargement of international cooperation in the fight against drug addiction and drug dealing;
- 5) strengthening the material and technical potential of competent state bodies and medical entities, specializing in prevention and treatment of drug abuse;
- 6) modernization and scientific research of the reform and development of the drug treatment services;
- 7) improvement of the human resources preparation system and educational programs in the field of narcology;
- 8) improvement of legislation regulating the counter-narcotics activities, further work upon improvement of the republican laws and the harmonization of the existing laws in accordance with international legal acts and recommendations of public organizations.

The Strategy is divided into three main stages: 1) from 2006 to 2008; 2) from 2009 to 2011; 3) from 2012 to 2014. The current final stage aims at improving the system of state and public activities to counter drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The Resolution of the Government of July 31, 2009 №1169 “On appropriation of funds from reserves of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan” was adopted with the view to ensure adequate level of financing for program measures.

The Parliament of Kazakhstan adopted the Law on Amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, and Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Administrative Offences on Issues of Strengthening Responsibility in the Field of Drug Trafficking on 12 June 2008. The law establishes strict punishment for drug-related crimes, including up to life imprisonment for dissemination of drugs in educational entities and dissemination of drugs in large amounts by organized criminal groups.

At the same time, Kazakhstan adheres to the principles of liberalization of its legislation concerning petty crimes. In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Concerning changes and amendments to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the issues of further humanization of the criminal legislation and enhancing guarantees of legality in the criminal procedure” dated January 18, 2011, part 1 of article 259 has been excluded from the Criminal Code. Thus, illegal acquisition or possession without intent to sell narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in large quantities now involves not criminal, but administrative responsibility.

In 2012, the Government has approved new Sectoral Programme for the next five years with a budget of 6,1 billion KZT (30.5 mln EUR), 4,9 billion of which (24.5 mln EUR) are allocated to border and custom services.

With regard to international cooperation, Kazakhstan signed bilateral and multilateral mutual cooperation agreements on the fight against drug addiction and drug dealing with several states: Shanghai Cooperation Organization countries (Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan), Romania, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Bulgaria, Poland, Egypt, Croatia, Mongolia, and Italy.

In general, Kazakhstan cooperates with more than 50 foreign partners and counter-narcotics structures of other countries.

Kazakhstan is a member of **CARICC** (the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors), established within the Memorandum of Understanding on sub-regional drug control cooperation dated May 4 1996 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). CARICC is a project of the UNODC with the timeline from 2004 till 31 December 2015, and with the overall budget of 15.4 million USD.

The main objectives of CARICC are:

- Coordination of the efforts of the member-states in combating the illicit drug trafficking at the regional level;
- Facilitation of the enhanced cooperation between the competent authorities of the member-states in combating trans-border crime associated with illicit drug trafficking;

- Establishment of cooperation mechanisms between competent authorities of the member-states;
- Assistance in organizing and executing joint international operations and investigations, including controlled deliveries;
- Collection, storage, protection, analysis and exchange of information in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking.

Currently the project “Establishment of CARICC” is facing problems with funding. The budget of CARICC is short of roughly 500.000 USD, which were pledged by the donors, but, not allocated due to the fact that the issue of the rotation of the CARICC leadership has not been solved. Some donors reserved money for the CARICC and will make it available once the decision of the rotation of the leadership is taken. In spite of the intensive efforts undertaken by the UNODC staff and the project team to facilitate this process, the progress is still slow, since the decision-making is on the side of member-states, and bilateral consultations and expert-meetings should be conducted between the interested parties. The UNODC has declared that it will be unable to pay monthly salaries to the CARICC personnel after July c.a. By the Presidential Decree as of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Mr. B. Sarsekov was released of duties of the Director of CARICC pilot phase. To the moment, the post of CARICC’s Director (and its Deputy) is considered to be vacant. However, in response to the UNODC Note Verbal to the Kazakh MFA, the latter explained that the aforementioned Presidential Decree had no impact on the current legal status of Mr. B. Sarsekov, who should continue performing his duties as CARICC Director.

Earlier in 2013 Turkey has applied for the accession to CARICC membership, which initiative has already gained support of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Poland, indeed, has applied for its consideration for an observer status.

### *1.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs*

Current ROCA portfolio is guided by the Strategic Outline for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus 2012-2015. The inclusion of Transcaucasia under the Strategic Outline reflects the shared challenges that bind these states together: narcotics trafficking, drug abuse, spread of HIV/AIDS, border control inefficiency, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, corruption, money laundering and terrorism.

In order to respond effectively to the evolving threat to human security and the rule of law in Central Asia and Transcaucasia, UNODC offers its cooperation and support to the countries of the region prioritizing the following seven areas:

- 1) Inter-regional and regional cooperation and coordination on drugs, crime and terrorism issues between Central Asia and Transcaucasia states with wider region, including Afghanistan and neighboring countries, the Caspian Sea and South Eastern Europe;
- 2) Countering transnational organized crime and drug trafficking;
- 3) Countering corruption;
- 4) Rule of law and criminal justice systems;
- 5) Preventing and combating terrorism;
- 6) Health and social aspects of illicit drug use and its consequences;
- 7) Research and trends analysis.

UNODC's presence in Central Asia began in 1993 with the establishment of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Today there are Programme Offices in all five Central Asian States and the value of the programme portfolio has increased from \$26 million in 2004 to \$91 million in 2013. These include 6 national and 22 regional and global projects (Kazakhstan has finalized implementation of its two national projects in December 2012). Current thematic distribution on ongoing projects consists of:

- Law Enforcement – 40%;
- Legal Assistance – 20%;
- Human Trafficking – 5%;
- Regional Precursor Control – 5%;
- Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention – 15%;
- Strengthened Border Control -15%

The Regional Programme for Promoting Counter Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan & Neighbouring Countries for 2011-2014 (RP) is another example of UNODC's shift towards programming structure and building synergy between the agency's drugs and crime mandates. The RP is a strategic framework for UNODC's engagement in the region designed to provide a platform for better coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region and aimed at enhancing the counter-narcotics capacities across the region through better coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation. It has a clear strategic focus on drug control and provides a thin overarching layer that gives additional regional focus.

Consists of four sub-programmes (SPs):

**SP1: Regional law enforcement cooperation:** during the first year of the implementation, the focus has been on strengthening existing regional cooperation mechanisms and laying the groundwork for new areas of regional coordination and cooperation. Two Task Force meetings were held to guide the interventions under the SP1 by identifying priorities and needs for the region.

To improve the regional operational response through enhanced inter-agency collaboration on **precursors**, the Regional and National Intelligence Working Groups that aim at linking up the different levels of interdiction and strengthening coordination nationally and regionally.

**SP2: Inter-regional/regional legal cooperation in criminal matters:** contributed to providing relevant assistance and training to senior experts from 8 countries to build their capacities in strengthening international/regional cooperation in criminal matters.

**SP3: Prevention and treatment of addiction among vulnerable groups:** initial work has taken place in some innovative areas such as the development of toolkits/guidelines/protocols for LEAs to enable early identification of drug users, ethical engagement, human rights of drug users and referral pathways to treatment, and regional guidelines/protocols for effective system of alternatives to incarceration for drug-using offenders.

**SP4: Trends and impacts** is designed to enhance trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity at the regional level, focusing on Afghanistan and the seven countries most immediately affected by the Afghan drug flow dynamics. In the first year of implementation, UNODC has focused on preparatory work for the launch of substantive interventions such as, baseline assessment and consultations.

There are two UNODC programme offices in Kazakhstan based in Almaty and in Astana. The Astana Office serves mostly for coordinating activities implemented by national, regional and global projects in Kazakhstan and liaising UNODC HQ and Regional Office for Central Asia with national Government and the embassies present in the capital. The Almaty Office is mainly dealing with activities related to CARICC.

UNODC has completed implementation of **KAZ/I76 project – “Strengthening drug and related crime control measures at selected checkpoints in Kazakhstan”** (budget: US\$ 1,133,300; duration: 2007-2012).

The project was designed to support the Kazakhstani Government's efforts towards strengthening drug and crime control on the routes most vulnerable to drug trafficking. The project strengthens the counternarcotics capacity of Kazakhstani law enforcement agencies through provision of assistance to the law enforcement training institutes and specialized counternarcotics divisions.

To increase the effectiveness of the border patrol service, an integrated assessment of Korday and Saryagash border segments was conducted in the first half of 2012. To define the nature of the assessment, select international consultant and develop methodology of the assessment the Working Group consisting of the representatives of Border Guard Services of NSC RK, Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance of RK, IOM, BOMCA and UNODC was created.

The consultant has also provided the BGS with the Schengen border code and catalogues that regulate various issues related to the EU border security.

The BGS has studied the border assessment methodology suggested by the consultant. The methodology has partially been tested on the ground at Saryagash and Korday sectors of the border.

Based on the results of the border assessment, the consultant has developed the following suggestions for the donor community:

- Support the BGS technically and financially in creation of the centralised analytical system and updating the methodology of gathering and analysing information.
- Create a separate long-term programme (6-10 months) on risks analysis development that would aim at increasing operational effectiveness of the analytical divisions. Within the frames of this programme, the international experts working with the BGS analysts will develop a detailed strategic document, defining the goals, objects, methods, structure, legal basis and software.
- Support preparation of the specialists on drugs for the border outposts and checkpoints; specialists on detection of the forged documents for the border checkpoints.
- Provide support in equipping the checkpoints and the outposts, first of all, with the night viewing devices and thermal imagers.
- Jointly with the BOMCA, provide support in introducing the integrated border management principles into the work of local divisions of the BGS and Customs Control Committee.
- Support the anti-corruption training of the personnel.
- Provide support in studying the international experience in using mobile units in border protection.

Despite all the challenges involved, the border assessment turned to be quite successful, the partnership between UNODC and BGS was strengthened and the BGS expressed its willingness to cooperate in the areas identified by the consultant.

UNODC is currently implementing the following projects:

**TD/RER/H22** - The Central Asian states, Russia, and Azerbaijan participate in a UNODC project to establish the **Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre on combating drugs (CARICC)**. Budget: 15,400,000 USD.

After mid-term evaluation, conducted in August-September 2011, project has undergone a revision process and its duration is extended until 2015.

*Key achievements:*

- The Centre, located in Almaty, continued its work in an official status after the formal inauguration of CARICC building in December 2009.
- The building was provided and renovated by the government of Kazakhstan, which also signed/ratified a Host Country Agreement in November, 2011, specifying immunities and privileges for CARICC building, its staff, Liaison Officers from the member states and observer countries in the host country.
- All 7 member states (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have signed and ratified the CARICC Agreement, thus providing a solid legal basis for the cooperation on the CARICC platform.
- CARICC serves as a regional focal point for the collection, analysis and exchange of operational drug related information in “real time”, as well as a centre for assistance in the organisation and coordination of multilateral operations.
- Currently, 14 countries and two international organisations (Interpol and SELEC) have observer status at CARICC. They are: Afghanistan, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, and USA.
- Russia has appointed liaison officer to CARICC which took his post on 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2012. In 2013 Uzbekistan and Afghanistan also appointed the liaison offices who should take their positions soon this year.

- Since the beginning of 2013 until the end of June the following activities and developments took place in CARICC:
  - On 21-23 January 2013, CARICC hosted a Regional Information Meeting in Almaty on combating the smuggling of acetic anhydride. This event was initiated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) in Kabul within the framework of the Regional Project for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.
  - On 22-23 January, 2013, a working meeting of representatives of UNODC and INCB with the staff of the Centre and liaison officers of the competent authorities of CARICC member states addressed the issue of modelling regional exchange of information on illicit trafficking of precursors.
  - On 20-23 February, 2013 CARICC members took part in an operative meeting, organized by EUBAM, of closed format on exchange of information and further actions on intercepting activities of a criminal group trafficking opium en route Iran-Azerbaijan-Ukraine-Canada.
  - On 11-13 February, 2013 a head of CARICC unit on assistance in coordination of international operations participated in the work of the Paris Pact tri-fold experts' meeting on precursors/cross-border cooperation and legal framework/financial flows that was organized on the basis of EUROPOL in Hague. CARICC staff member made a presentation on the Centre's recent developments and had separately discussed cooperation with the representatives of Afghanistan, Iran and EUROPOL.
  - As a result of an operation coordinated by CARICC on 11 March 27 kg of heroin of Afghan origin has been seized on the border of Azerbaijan, 1 person detained. Operation was initiated by the Ministry of Interior of Turkey and with participation of Azerbaijan. Currently CARICC together with the States Customs Committee of Azerbaijan carry out joint actions on checking information on the detained driver
  - On 11-15 March, 2013 INTERPOL's trainer conducted training System for CARICC staff on access to the INTERPOL's Information databases on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement signed between CARICC and INTERPOL in April 2012. The training will give an access to CARICC to almost all databases of INTERPOL.
  - In March-April, 2013 CARICC coordinated exchange of information between Committee of Combating Drug Business of the Ministry of Interior of Kazakhstan and competent agencies of Kyrgyzstan through liaison officers at CARICC, which resulted in seizure of more than 10 kg of heroin originating from Afghanistan. Joint investigation is still underway.

- On 9-10 April, 2013 CARICC hosted the Sixth “Regional FIU to FIU Meeting” among the countries in West and Central Asia with participation of donor countries including US, UK, , Turkey, France, as well as such countries as Russian Federation Norway and Germany. The final recommendations included *inter alia* assistance to West and Central Asian countries in building their capacities in identifying and investigating suspicious financial transactions, through improved cooperation amongst relevant national agencies (and where applicable, use the capacities of CARICC and JPC as a tool of interaction at the regional level) and further development of a Regional Network on Anti-Money Laundering (AML), linking to CARICC and JPC.
- Meeting of experts of the CARICC member states was organized on 16-17 April, 2013 to consider pending issue of the rotation of the post of the CARICC Director and to deal with other issues related to CARICC activities. Two countries could not participate (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan). Experts worked out a “road map” and time-line for the recruitment of the new CARICC Director and his deputy.
- On 6 May, 2013 a CARICC Council meeting was held in a format of a video-conference to discuss only one issue of the CARICC leadership rotation (as it was proposed by the experts of CARICC member states earlier in April). Only four out of seven member states took part. As there was no quorum at the meeting the Chairman of the Council proposed to confirm the positions of the countries in writing. The Kazakh side has informed that there were certain conditions that need to be negotiated with them by the Kyrgyz side. As a follow-up it was agreed that the Kazakh and Kyrgyz sides would convene bilateral consultations and, among others, come up with proposal for dates and venue of the next CARICC expert meeting and the Council meeting.
- On 11-12 June, 2013 CARICC together with Interpol held a regional working meeting “Ice Trail” to coordinate efforts of the law-enforcement agencies of Central and South-East Asia in interception of synthetic drugs, including methamphetamine, trafficked from Iran. As a result, in view of the facts of trafficking of methamphetamine via Central Asian region CARICC was proposed to coordinate and develop measures on this issue at the regional level.

- On 27-28 June, 2013 UNODC jointly with CARICC has organised a working meeting “Northern Route” of Afghan opiate trafficking, which the heads of analytical units of the competent authorities of the Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, as well as representatives of the competent authorities of China, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, UK, USA, and the regional and international organizations attended. The Meeting presented an opportunity for the participants to discuss the latest analytical developments and most recent trends in combating illegal trafficking of afghan drugs.
- On 18-19 July a CARICC expert meeting will be held in Almaty to address the pending issues, such as the rotation of the CARICC leadership, exit-strategy and self-financing of CARICC, agreement of exchange and protection of secret information. All member states nominated their representatives in the meeting.

Kazakhstan also participates in several *regional projects*, including **precursor control (RER/E29), criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange (RER/F23), narcotics training for law enforcement (XAC/I97), computer-based training for law enforcement (RER/F60), HIV prevention among drug users and in prisons (XCEA01), prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training (GLO/K01), treating drug dependence and its health consequences (GLO/J71).**

**XCEA01 (OFID/UNODC Partnership on Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe):**

- The project was extended till December 2016 nevertheless there is a budget shortfall for project countries
- A study on adequacy of health services for drug users in community in Kazakhstan (East-Kazakhstan and Karaganda regions) is ongoing: data processing and data analysis will take place till the end of this year.
- Draft inventory of existing national drug-and HIV related protocols/guidelines is being prepared by all six project countries. A comparative content analysis (on compliance with WHO recommended standards of services) of national protocols/guidelines on the 10 interventions of the “comprehensive IDU package” is going on in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan with an assessment tool being developed by the UNODC International Consultant and elaborated at a workshop for national experts (December 2012 in Almaty);

- A cross-disciplinary manual addressing social-medical and legal aspects of HIV prevention among PWUD for the faculty of university-level teaching institutions in the field of health care, criminal justice/penitentiary and social work developed by a group of national experts. To the date the final version of the manual is being edited and proofread and will be piloted in lead education institutions of the project countries.

**GLO/K01 (primary prevention of drug use through enhancing parenting skills):**

- Regional meeting “Drug use prevention through family skills training programmes: Perspectives for regional collaboration” was held for high level officials and FAST trainers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and observers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Uzbekistan in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19-20 June 2012. During the meeting delegations from concerned countries presented their national concepts on scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the FAST programme. As the result of the meeting, the family skills programming was very well received by implementing countries and is a welcomed addition to the programming of neighboring countries.
- During series of FAST trainings conducted by 6 Intern-trainers (3 in each country) under supervision of FAST certified international trainers within the frame of third implementation cycle in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, team of trainers consisting of 48 school teachers, psychologists and parents (24 from each country) from 6 pilot schools (3 from each country) were prepared. As the result of the training Intern-trainers were certified as National FAST Trainers.
- Prepared team of trainers conducted 8 training sessions for recruited families ( 40 in Kazakhstan and 42 in Kyrgyzstan) in 6 pilot schools (one session in a week during 8 weeks) in each country.

**GLO/J71 (treatment of drug dependence):**

The Kazakh National Scientific Centre on Medico-Social Problems of Drug Addiction (NSCMPDA), Pavlodar is the recipient of the grant US\$ 85,000 for implementation of the project activities in 2012. The main objective of the project is the further promotion of the work initiated under the Treatnet project in Kazakhstan in 2010-2011 years regarding capacity-building through introduction of Treatnet training modules in major educational institutions in all the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Outpatient services (new models) will be developed at the Center through referral systems and services for social and medical support to drug addicts under treatment.

In particular Treatnet funds were used for:

- Early detection and short-term interventions on psychoactive substance consumption and prevention of blood-borne infections in primary health care facilities.
- Providing services to drug addicts on needs assessment, treatment planning, and social support in outpatient settings.
- Providing services for relapse prevention and anti-relapse therapy to the persons who have undergone treatment for drug addiction.
- Introduction of Treatnet training modules in major educational institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan implementing programs to pre-qualifying and post-qualifying education for health professionals.
- Expanding the network of Treatnet national trainers among professors of higher educational establishments and advance training institutes in all the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan (north, south, west, and east).

Within the frame of implementing “Service Delivery” and “Capacity Development” components of the project:

- 850 persons received services for early screening and brief interventions regarding the use of psychoactive substances and prevention of infections transmitted through blood
- 76 drug users were provided with services on needs assessment, treatment planning and social support
- 94 drug users, who underwent drug dependence treatment, received new services on relapse prevention and aftercare treatment
- 500 specialists trained during individual trainings and 27 specialists during one national training.

**RER/F23 - “Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange.”**

This project improved criminal intelligence collection and information management capacity, and established mechanisms for exchange, receipt and dissemination of information between drug control bodies. Along with required training, the project provided specialized equipment and criminal intelligence analysis software. The project will continue to contribute to establishing a solid base for law enforcement agencies in the region to become self-sufficient in collecting information/intelligence, disseminating and sharing the data amongst themselves.

#### Activities implemented in Kazakhstan:

- The semi-annual operational expert meeting within the frame of project F23 took place in Astana, Kazakhstan (3-4 May 2012), where representatives from the Law Enforcement Agencies of counter narcotic departments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were in attendance. The key element of discussions at this meeting was the strengthening of investigative cooperation between countries and to continue developing a common approach focusing on the use of similar working methodologies, using the same analysis software in order to facilitate and smooth exchange of analytical reports and investigation results.
- The F23 working meeting (2 May, 2012) was arranged with the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan to update on the project development and discuss future project implementation. During the meeting the issue of software use and possible trainings were discussed as well. Suggestions and recommendations that were made during the meeting are reflected in the project work-plan.
- Project F23 semi-annual Intelligence Officers Expert Meeting was organized in Tbilisi and was attended by eight country representatives (Afghanistan, Caucasus and four Central Asian countries – Turkmenistan did not attend). INL was represented by officers from Washington D.C., Georgia and Armenia. The DEA also sent a special agent based in Almaty. Priorities of the discussions were focused on the situation in Armenia and Georgia (the latter still pending signature), methodologies and operational execution of criminal intelligence analysis, strengthening of agency cooperation and professional improvement of networks between law enforcement analysts.
- Kazakhstan expressed its approval of project extension through June 2014.

#### **XAC/I97 (counter-narcotics training of law enforcement):**

This project is designed to assist the NATO-Russia Council to deliver high-quality, professional law enforcement training to drug enforcement officers of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the five Central Asian countries in order to help them combat the threat of trafficking in opiates within and through their territories.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen drug control through the provision of specialised training to the selected personnel of the competent law enforcement bodies.
- To strengthen capacities of the law enforcement training institutions through training of trainers, exchange with experience and technical assistance

The project is planning to provide about 50 training courses at the All-Russian Advanced Training Institute of MoI Russia (Domodedovo) in Moscow; at the North-Western Training Centre of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service; Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC); Siberian Law Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (Krasnoyarsk); DEA Academy in Quantico as well as Mobile Training courses in Kazakhstan in 2013.

During the reported period the following activities have been completed:

- Training session “Counter Narcotics Activities” at the All-Russian Advanced Training Center (Domodedovo) for totally 17 law enforcement officers from Afghanistan (3), Kazakhstan (3), Kyrgyzstan (2), Tajikistan (3), Turkmenistan (3) Pakistan (3) from 5 to 20 February;
- Drug Enforcement training session at the North-Western Training Centre of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (St. Petersburg) for totally 17 operational officers from Kazakhstan (3), Kyrgyzstan (3), Tajikistan (3), Turkmenistan (3) and Uzbekistan (5) from 11 to 22 March;
- Drug Enforcement training session at the Siberian Law Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (Krasnoyarsk) for totally 15 investigators and prosecutors from Kazakhstan (2), Kyrgyzstan (3), Tajikistan (4), Turkmenistan (3) and Uzbekistan (3) from 11 to 22 March.

Additionally, UNODC cooperates with Kazakh authorities in several *global projects* including the Legal Advisory Programme (GLO/900), Promoting the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (GLO/T55), the Paris Pact Initiative (GLO/Y09) and Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism (GLO/R35).

At the *multilateral* level there are also a number of projects funded by the European Union.

**BOMCA** has started its new phase **BOMCA 8** since July 2011 (will last until June 2014). It has drug focused component 3 “Strengthening Counter Drug Capacities in Agencies Working at Borders”. The main objective of this component is to enhance capacities for law enforcement officers in charge of fighting trafficking of illicit drugs across borders with the aim to support the interception of drugs and precursor chemicals.

Moreover, the EU provides funding for the project “**Fight against trafficking from and to Afghanistan (Heroin Route I)**”, implemented by GIZ and partners (Interpol, UNODC, World Customs Organisation, Bundeskriminalamt). The project started in 2008 and has been extended to 2013. Its overall objective is to strengthen the stability of the region and the security and health of the populations living in the countries along the heroine routes by supporting the trans-regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking from and to Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan is involved in some components of the Heroin Route I project-Container Control Programme (CCP) implemented by UNODC/WCO. This component also targets Iran, Azerbaijan and the global programme involves also Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan. The ECO-DOCCU (Drugs and Organised Crime Coordination Unit) capacity building component also implies the involvement of Kazakhstan in terms of strengthening the ECO-DOCCU as the focal point for regional. Trans-regional and international coordination and in the promotion of interagency cooperation on strategic information on drug-trafficking and organised crime in the ECO region and beyond, covering Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

And, the **Heroin Route II** project – Phase II—has been launched in December 2011 with the end date of 2014. It is implemented by UNODC-WCO for the Container control programme and EU Member States Agencies for both other components. The main specific objective of this programme is to complement and where appropriate reinforce regional or international initiatives against organised crime and trafficking activities on the Heroin Route. The expected result is regional cross border cooperation with and between customs and police in addressing the threat of trafficking and organised crime has increased.

***The project includes the following components:*** container control at high risk ports in Black Sea and along the heroin route, information networks and platforms along the Heroin Route(2.7m€ with potential participation of Kazakhstan)and Trafficking of Human Beings(1.5m€)

At the *bilateral* level we could refer to the following most important initiatives:

The **Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, the European Union** and the EU-UNDP BOMCA programme organized 10<sup>th</sup> Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) Ministerial Conference in Vienna (Hofburg), 16-17 April, 2012. Lessons learned and looking forward beyond Afghanistan 2014 in the coordination of border management and drug programmes between beneficiary countries, donors and implementing agencies were the focus of the conference.

Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) is a forum for coordination and discussion on programme activities and strategic objectives related to international border management assistance in Central Asia, with particular focus on the programmes BOMCA (Border Management in Central Asia) and CADAP (Central Asia Drug Action Programme), funded by the European Union.

During the conference, particular attention was given not only to the Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), but also to Afghanistan. Experts agreed that there is a necessity to improve cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly on the land borders of Afghanistan with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. International donors were invited to support concrete steps of cooperation and to assist in developing an action plan for enhancing bilateral cooperation on the mentioned land borders.

Recently Austria has obtained observer status at CARICC and now all the connections with Austrian law-enforcement bodies are being carried out through a Police Liaison Officer based in Moscow.

**Afghanistan, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain and Sweden** are not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Kazakhstan. However, these countries are interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

Kazakh cooperation with **Italy** is marked by a presence of an Italian Drug Liaison Officer in Tashkent, who maintains operative contacts with the Kazakh counter narcotics authorities.

**Italy** has provided financial contribution to the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries (including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) and will continue to support the Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian and Afghan Law Enforcement Personnel by providing instructors for trainings to be conducted within this project.

**Japan** carries out an Assistance Program in drug affairs, concentrating in 2 main key areas:

1. Support to Central Asian nations as an Assistance Program to Afghanistan and neighbor-states.

From supplementary budget on FY 2011 (April 2011 to March 2012 according to Japanese FY), the Government of Japan contributed \$1,965,000 to the following programs:

- XAC/K22 – “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the Northern Route by enhancing the capacity of key border check points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)” (\$1,270,000);
- KAZ/K25 – “Drug abuse prevention at selected schools in Kazakhstan” (\$50,285);
- TD/RER/H22- “Establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center” (\$542,155).

Moreover, Japan contributes to 5 border management programs of Afghanistan with the OSCE, having contributed 27,200,000 EUR in 2009. These projects include human resource development of border officers of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan custom officers, Tajikistan anti-narcotics officers.

With IOM, Japan carried out modernization of border management system in Kyrgyzstan in 2011 (\$ 1,600,000).

2. The second key area is called “Grass-roots” Grant Assistance Program.

This program is aimed to help the NGP/NPO or local community to tackle social humanitarian problems such as helping disabled persons, rendering medical assistance, assistance for homeless people etc. Grant amount is 10 million JPY (approximately \$120,000) per one project. Japan carried out rehabilitation center for drug users in 2007.

**Russia** has presented its Strategy for the Implementation of the National Anti-Drug Policy in the Period Until 2020. The Strategy envisages both direct cooperation with Central Asian states and regional cooperation in the framework of Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

The Russian Parliament ratified the CARICC Agreement in March 2011 and appointed a Liaison Officer to it in September 2012.

**Turkey** is an observer of CARICC and contributed significantly to this initiative. Earlier this year it applied for CARICC membership. Turkey plays an important role in provision of training activities for law-enforcement personnel from Central Asia, in particular through the TADOC (Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime) within the framework of NATO/Russia Council Project. Up to now, 274 Kazakhstan law enforcement personnel have participated in 39 training programs and 166 Kyrgyzstan law enforcement personnel have participated in 26 training programs implemented by TADOC within the framework of both bilateral accords and multinational organizations. On the other hand, Turkey has no active cooperation with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, but its current operational cooperation activities are performed through CARICC.

The **UK** has been a strong supporter of the work of CARICC, contributing a lot to its creation. In September 2010 the UK was granted observer status at CARICC.

The UK has no bilateral projects with Kazakhstan or Kyrgyzstan. However, the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), with considerable assistance of UNODC, prepared and delivered a joint operational exercise between Afghan and Pakistani law enforcement representatives at CARICC (Almaty) within 12-16 February, 2011. During early Dubai Process conferences reluctance for joint operations/patrolling was evident from both Afghanistan and Pakistan. CARICC was specifically chosen by SOCA to host the event and the use of its skills and facilities were also built into the exercise. The exercise was extremely successful. SOCA would like to engage with Kazakhstan on money laundering issues.

The **United States** Embassy's INL Office and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) cooperate closely with several Kazakhstan government agencies on counternarcotics activities, including the Ministry of Interior's Counternarcotics Committee and its Counternarcotics Training Center, and the Border Guard Service, and the KNB Border Guard Academy.

The following activities of the US Embassy International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) section were performed in the first half of 2013:

- **(CN) Canine Training** – The U.S. Embassy International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) section organized a June 10-28 Advanced course for senior canine trainers from Kazakhstani law enforcement agencies hosted by the Customs Control Committee and the Presidential Security Service, in Almaty. Taught by Josef Schutzenhofer from the Austrian Ministry of Interior, this is the latest course in INL's canine program, which started in 2008. The project has trained 12 dogs (and 14 handlers) in the Austrian method of training dogs for drugs and explosives detection, and use of dogs in anti-terror operations. With over 150 canine teams trained directly or indirectly by this program, and over 100 dogs bred from dogs acquired from Austrian through U.S. Embassy funding, this project has to a significant extent established the Austrian system as the standard training method in Kazakhstan.
- **(CN) Instructor Development Courses for Prosecutors** – The U.S. Embassy organized two stages of an Instructor Development Course in Borovoe –January 29-February 2 and June 1-3 – for instructors in the Prosecutor General's Office and its Institute on methods for developing and presenting counternarcotics cases. The Prosecutor General's Office requested such training for their staff from its field offices and central office. The next training course is planned for July 29-August 2.
- **(AML) Cyber Crime Training** – In cooperation with the Financial Police and OSCE, Embassy Astana INL and the Legal Attache (FBI) office organized March 12-15 course on combating cybercrime. Participants included members of the Financial Police, Presidential Administration, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Committee for National Security, Ministry of Finance Financial Monitoring Committee, and National Bank. Instructors included U.S. Customs and Border Protection and FBI agents, Ukrainian FIU and Turkish Police.
- **(AML) Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Workshop** – INL organized a workshop April 15-19 on teaching of AML courses, for university and law enforcement academy instructors. This is part of INL's long-term project to develop an AML instructional capacity in Kazakhstan that is intended to turn out AML specialists to work in law enforcement, banks and other organizations that must comply with Kazakhstan's AML law. In connection with this course, INL has also sponsored development of a revised textbook for use in training AML specialists.

- **(AML) Regional AML Workshop** – Together with the World Bank and OSCE, INL in early April organized workshops in Borovoe for Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) staff April 1-3 from all Central Asia countries, as well as a workshop on complying with revised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements April 4-5.
- **(BGS) May 21-24**, INL supported the **Interagency Training Course on Work of Law Enforcement Agencies and Mass Media**. The course engaged prosecutors from field offices, press representatives from the Border Guard Service, Committee for National Security, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Emergencies, and Journalists. The FBI Supervisory Special Agent advised to be more open with mass media. The learned common mistakes made both by mass media and law enforcement agencies and tried to find the ways out together.
- **(CN) I2 Training Course for Law Enforcement Agencies** – In cooperation with UNODC, INL invited the UNODC Information Management Specialist February 24 - March 16 to deliver two week-long courses for analysts of the Ministry of Interior Committee on Combating Drug Trafficking and one week-long course at the Committee for National Security. INL also supported consultations for Ministry of Interior analysts at the Central Asia Regional Information Coordination Center (CARRIC) May 15-16, where CARICC analysts showed samples of results of their analytical work with i2 software. INL will continue supporting the project on development of analytical capacity of law enforcement agencies.
- **(CN) INL** arranged the participation of high level officials from the Committee for National Security and Ministry of Interior Counternarcotics Committee in the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (GCMC) **Senior Executive Seminar: “Central Asia After ISAF Transition: Regional Challenges and Cooperative Responses.”** The seminar was held January 15-24, 2013 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
- **(CN) INL** also assisted the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to send the Chairman of the Ministry of Interior's Committee on Combating Drug Trafficking and Director of National Security Committee Department on Countering International Drug Trafficking to the **Thirtieth International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC)** in Moscow, June 4-6, 2013.
- INL also assisted Legatt office to arrange the visit of the Head of the Forensic Training Center of the Kazakh University of Law and Humanities to the **FBI Academy** in Quantico, Virginia and **New York Police Department** May 30-June 3, for an introduction to U.S. methods of investigating crimes and conducting forensic analysis.

#### *1.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini-Dublin groups*

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held on 17 June, 2013 in Astana (Kazakhstan). The meeting was chaired by the Italian Ambassador and the Italian Drug Liaison Officer with the further participation of representatives from a range of Mini-Dublin Group member countries and observers (Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Union Delegation, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK, the United States, as well as international organizations EU/UNDP BOMCA, OSCE and the UNODC).

#### *1.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance*

Following priority needs, identified during the previous Mini-Dublin Group session, following points remain valid:

- improving regional co-operation in the field of sharing information and experiences and co-ordination among the law enforcement bodies (e.g. in the field of controlled deliveries);
- strengthening border control;
- strengthening precursors control;
- fostering demand reduction.

#### *1.6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs*

##### Emerging threats/trends

The main threats and trends connected to the drug phenomenon in the country are the same of past years: Kazakhstan mainly remains a transit country of the drug produced in Afghanistan and exported through the northern route towards Russia and Europe. Besides, the country has extended cannabis cultivations. Unlike the first years of independence, when the economic situation of the country was very gloomy, the rapidly increasing income of the population can further favor a growth in drug consumption and drug-related problems (HIV spread, etc.). The presence of large territories with wild cannabis in many regions poses the potential threat to transform Kazakhstan into a drug producing country.

## Recommendations

- Donors should continue to support activities against the illicit traffic of precursors because, in spite of the initiatives carried out in this field, the results remain meager.
- Mini-Dublin Group underlined the importance of continuing to strengthen border control. The size and the porousness of Kazakhstan frontiers, as well as the difficulties to monitor the stretches of the boundary in high mountainous and remote areas, make it necessary to continue the work in this field.
- Effectiveness of the aid provided in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation should be carefully evaluated, using the most successful pilot projects as examples to be followed whenever appropriate. Whenever advisable, donors should apply a mechanism to monitor the usefulness of their cooperation projects on the medium/long term.
- Coordination among donor countries, on one side, and among them and beneficiary countries, on the other, should be aimed at avoiding duplications and identifying priority needs. In this respect, many participants stressed the importance of the Mini-Dublin Group as a coordination mechanism. Moreover bilateral activities (especially training) should be better coordinated among themselves to be more effective.
- Drug demand reduction, including the medical rehabilitation of drug addicts, was also indicated among the priorities which need continuous focus by donors. A rapid growth of HIV/AIDS infected is one of the most direct and heavy consequences of the drug addiction spread.
- The birth of CARICC represents a moment of great relief in the history of fight against drug trafficking in Central Asia. In order to bear the fruits of the current event, the donor countries should make every possible effort to give their experience and professionalism at disposal of CARICC. The running of practical courses and study tours, a focus on analysis, national and international coordination, and on conduct of investigations, in particular, should be considered as a priority.
- Given the current budget deficit of the project H22 on establishing CARICC, it would be advisable to ask donors consider allocating money to cover the gap in the financing of the Center for the remainder of 2013.
- It would be important to verify the results of the national drug plans by introducing periodical indicators.
- With the adoption of anti-money legislation, there is a need for a curriculum in law schools and police academies in this area.

- Due to the limited international funding of counter-narcotics activities in Central Asian states, it seems indispensable to enhance training segment within law-enforcement agencies of Central Asian states, thus, enabling them to provide trainings and develop capacities of their officials in the field of counter-narcotics. External assistance, such as participation of foreign experts, may be provided in this regard. In particular, by rendering support and assistance to the OSCE Border Management Staff College in terms of providing foreign instructors for the training sessions and courses.

## **2. Kyrgyzstan**

### *2.1. General situation in the country*

Kyrgyzstan is a key transit route for the trafficking of Afghan opiates to Europe, the Russian Federation, and China through its borders with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan faces serious problems in monitoring its border with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan due to the particular topography of the country 94% of which is mountainous.

One of the most controversial border issue regarding Kyrgyz border management and security deals with a series of enclaves in Fergana Valley, where Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan all have small pockets of territory. Kyrgyzstan hosts seven enclaves, which are believed by the Kyrgyz authorities to be used as a safe haven for illicit drugs.

There are the following main drug trafficking routes used for illicit drug trafficking in the region:

- from Gorno-Badakhshan area in Tajikistan (Horog/Murgab) through Sarytash zona to Osh;
- from Jergetal in Tajikistan through Chon-Alay, Kadamjay and Batken areas either to Osh or to Uzbekistan;
- Hodjant in Tajikistan on the main transport road to Batken, Osh and Jajalabad areas.

While there is no significant commercial production of drugs in Kyrgyzstan, cannabis and ephedra grow wild over the wide areas, especially in the Chui Valley region, and around Lake Issyk-Kul. In the past, Kyrgyzstan was a major producer of licit opium, and was the Soviet Union's main source of ephedra plant for decades. However, with skyrocketing opiate imports from Afghanistan, it has become less risky and easier to import drugs from Afghanistan via Tajikistan than to produce them locally. Despite sporadic cases of drug cultivation, this problem, compared to that of drug trafficking and drug transit, has a little impact on the general drug problem.

According to data provided by CARICC, in 2012, a total of 13,656 kg of drug substances were seized in Kyrgyzstan (which is 23.89 % less than the amount seized over 2011 - 17,942 kg) including 242 kg of heroin, which is 27 % less than the seizures of 2011 - 332 kg), and 16.5 kg of raw opium (70 kg in 2011). Seizures of the opium poppy have risen 2.8 times, reaching 398.5 kg (140.5 kg in 2011). Moreover, 367.5 kg (629.7 kg) of hashish and 2,031.2 kg (1,936.6 kg) of marijuana were seized over the year of 2012. Seizures of the precursors over the same period equal to 10,171 kg (27,787 kg).

Furthermore, the data on drug seizures over the first semester of 2013 was provided by the Kyrgyz State Drug Control Service, according to which a total of 3,644 kg (14,156 kg in the same period of 2012) of drug substances were seized over the period, including 148.3 kg (121.8) of heroin, 63.4 kg (10.7 kg) of opium, 353.2 kg (224.2 kg) of hashish, and 794.7 kg (952.9 kg) of marijuana. Over this period, seizures of precursors equaled to 2,075 kg (12,761 kg).

### **On Drug abuse and HIV:**

The number of registered drug users in Kyrgyzstan as of 1 January 2013 stands at 10,768.

As of 1 June 2013, a total of 4,541 HIV and 561 AIDS cases have been registered in Kyrgyzstan. Injecting drug user continues to fuel the HIV epidemic in the country where 66 percent of the registered HIV infections cases are among injecting drug users.

Kyrgyzstan is one of the first countries in CIS to introduce opioid substitution therapy as a part of its strategy on HIV prevention among injecting drug users as well as to provide comprehensive services including needle and syringe exchange, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse counseling, and treatment in prison settings.

### **On Crime:**

Kyrgyzstan is a party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to its first two supplementing Protocols.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the criminal structure of the drug industry has continuously developed and improved since the Afghan drug expansion, and currently it is completely controlled and coordinated by organized transnational criminal groups. The criminal drug trafficking groups of Bishkek city and the Chui Province have links with drug trafficking groups of the southern region of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Moreover, they are controlling narcotic substance markets and their transit as well.

In 2012, the number of drug related crimes increased slightly by 0.46 %, reaching 1,933, compared to 2011 (1,924).

The number of people arrested for drug-related crimes over 2012 went up by 5.7 % amounting to 1,360 people (1,287), including 44 (55) foreign citizens, 14 (19) of which were Tajik citizens, 11 (14) Kazakh citizens, 8 (19) Uzbek citizens, 7 (2) Russian citizens, 2 Afghan citizens and 1 Lithuanian citizen.

As of June 2013, State Drug Control Service reported the commitment of 924 drug related crimes, compared to 1,002 over the similar period of 2012.

### **On Terrorism:**

Kyrgyzstan is party to 10 of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Antiterrorism Centre of CIS and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and hosts a Regional Bureau of the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

### **On Money Laundering:**

The Kyrgyz Financial Police was established in 2000 to provide investigation of economic crimes. In November 2006, the President of Kyrgyzstan signed a comprehensive law on “Counteracting Terrorist Financing and Legalization (Money Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime.” The law also establishes a Financial Intelligence Service (Kyrgyz FIU) under the President of Kyrgyzstan - an administrative body charged with collecting and analyzing information related to financial transactions, developing systems to prevent and detect suspicious transactions, and submitting cases to the prosecutor's office for further action.

Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG). The Kyrgyz Financial Intelligence Service became a member of the Egmont Group in May 2009.

### **On Human Trafficking:**

Kyrgyzstan is a source, transit and destination country for men and women trafficked for forced labour, prostitution and forced begging. Given the poor economic conditions in the country, Kyrgyzstan is primarily a source country.

Article 124 of the Criminal Code of Kyrgyzstan criminalizes trafficking in persons.

In 2005, the *Law on Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking* was enacted by Kyrgyzstan, thus committing the country to delivering additional and specialized protection and assistance to victims.

#### *2.2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy*

On 7 April 2010 large crowds of demonstrators protesting in Bishkek broke into government buildings and forced President Bakiyev to flee the capital. Approximately 89 people were killed in the violence.

In June 2010 violence erupted in Southern Kyrgyzstan between ethnic Uzbeks and Kyrgyz. The resulting death toll was placed at 426 persons with unofficial estimates placing the number 10 times higher. Many more were injured. The violence resulted in a mass displacement of Uzbeks, who comprised the vast majority of victim. Thousands fled across the border to Uzbekistan while others were displaced internally. By late June much of the violence had abated and most of the refugees had returned.

The issue of organized crime and drug trafficking remain major threats to the ongoing political process and must be effectively responded to if Kyrgyzstan is to develop into a stable and democratic state. Failure to do so may result in longer term political instability and growing criminal influence on the political process.

Terrorism, endemic corruption, inter-ethnic tensions, rising food and fuel prices, possible disorders due to change of political situation also represent threats to security in the country.

Kyrgyzstan has ratified all three UN Drug Control conventions.

The Drug Control Agency (DCA) was established in 2003 as a specialized law-enforcement agency with a coordination role in drug control and replaced the former State Drug Control Commission.

It was abolished by Presidential Decree in 2009, as a result of comprehensive restructuring of various ministries and presidential apparatus, and its functions were transferred to the relevant departments of the Ministries of Interior and Health.

Starting March 2010, a Chief Department on counter narcotics under the Ministry of Interior, replaced the DCA by assuming all its tasks and competence in the field of counter-narcotics. Thus the Ministry of Interior of Kyrgyzstan appeared as a body responsible for coordinating all drug-related activities in the country.

On 17 August 2010 a new State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) has been established in Kyrgyzstan by presidential decree. Establishment of the SSDC provided the legal grounds for reassigning the DCA's assets (equipment, vehicles, buildings etc), human resources and relevant functions to the State Service on Drug Control.

Kyrgyzstan was the first country in Central Asia that included drug control and related matters in its poverty alleviation and development strategies. The national drug control policy is outlined in the "Plan of measures to combat narcotics" adopted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in 2004.

### *2.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs*

Current ROCA portfolio is guided by the Strategic Outline for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus 2012-2015. The inclusion of Transcaucasia under the Strategic Outline reflects the shared challenges that bind these states together: narcotics trafficking, drug abuse, spread of HIV/AIDS, border control inefficiency, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, corruption, money laundering and terrorism.

In order to respond effectively to the evolving threat to human security and the rule of law in Central Asia and Transcaucasia, UNODC offers its cooperation and support to the countries of the region prioritizing the following seven areas:

1. Inter-regional and regional cooperation and coordination on drugs, crime and terrorism issues between Central Asia and Transcaucasia states with wider region, including Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the Caspian Sea and South Eastern Europe;

2. Countering transnational organized crime and drug trafficking;
3. Countering corruption;
4. Rule of law and criminal justice systems;
5. Preventing and combating terrorism;
6. Health and social aspects of illicit drug use and its consequences;
7. Research and trends analysis.

UNODC's presence in Central Asia began in 1993 with the establishment of the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Today there are Programme Offices in all five Central Asian States and the value of the programme portfolio has increased from \$26 million in 2004 to \$91 million in 2013. These includes 6 national and 22 regional and global projects.

Current thematic distribution on ongoing projects consists of:

- Law Enforcement – 40%;
- Legal Assistance – 20%;
- Human Trafficking – 5%;
- Regional Precursor Control – 5%;
- Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention – 15%;
- Strengthened Border Control -15%

The Regional Programme for Promoting Counter Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan & Neighbouring Countries for 2011-2014 (RP) is another example of UNODC's shift towards programming structure and building synergy between the agency's drugs and crime mandates. The RP is a strategic framework for UNODC's engagement in the region designed to provide a platform for better coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region and aimed at enhancing the counter-narcotics capacities across the region through better coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation. It has a clear strategic focus on drug control and provides a thin overarching layer that gives additional regional focus. Consists of four sub-programmes (SPs):

**SP1: Regional law enforcement cooperation:** during the first year of the implementation, the focus has been on strengthening existing regional cooperation mechanisms and laying the groundwork for new areas of regional coordination and cooperation. Two Task Force meetings were held to guide the interventions under the SP1 by identifying priorities and needs for the region.

The **Afghanistan-Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan (AKT)** initiative was launched under the RP to enhance sub-regional cooperation. The AKT initiative has already resulted in concrete outcomes. The DCA of Tajikistan conducted two joint operations with the State Service on Drug Control of Kyrgyzstan, as a result 11 kg of drugs were seized.

To improve the regional operational response through enhanced inter-agency collaboration on **precursors**, the Regional and National Intelligence Working Groups that aim at linking up the different levels of interdiction and strengthening coordination nationally and regionally.

**SP2: Inter-regional/regional legal cooperation in criminal matters:** contributed to providing relevant assistance and training to senior experts from 8 countries to build their capacities in strengthening international/regional cooperation in criminal matters.

Among other things, to **increase regional cooperation in narcotics-related criminal cases** (outcome 4), a legal assessment mission to Kyrgyzstan was conducted in June 2012 that helped identify the priority needs of the country and challenges towards international and regional cooperation in legal matters, collect information and data on the Kyrgyz national legislation/institutional frameworks on anti-money laundering and the counter financing of terrorism.

**SP3: Prevention and treatment of addiction among vulnerable groups:** initial work has taken place in some innovative areas such as the development of toolkits/guidelines/protocols for LEAs to enable early identification of drug users, ethical engagement, human rights of drug users and referral pathways to treatment, and regional guidelines/protocols for effective system of alternatives to incarceration for drug using offenders.

**SP4: Trends and impacts** is designed to enhance trends analysis and impact monitoring capacity at the regional level, focusing on Afghanistan and the seven countries most immediately affected by the Afghan drug flow dynamics. In the first year of implementation, UNODC has focused on preparatory work for the launch of substantive interventions such as, baseline assessment and consultations.

In response to the request of the Government of Kyrgyzstan the UNODC started developing of the Integrated Country Programme (2011-2013) which is designed to achieve 7 outcomes:

1. Drug and crime legislative and regulatory frameworks improved
2. Organized criminal activity identified, investigated and prosecuted
3. Border management enhanced to interdict criminal activity and increase revenue collection
4. Prison management improved in line with international standards
5. Strengthened integrity of public officials
6. Improved access to evidence-based programming for primary prevention of drug use among mainstream and disenfranchised youth
7. Improved access to and quality of drug treatment
8. Expanded access by drug users and prisoners to the comprehensive package of HIV-related health and social services.

There is currently only one on-going national project in Kyrgyzstan, as the KGZ T90 (Support to prison reform in Kyrgyzstan) was accomplished in 2013:

**KGZ K50 “Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic – Phase I”** (budget: \$3.2 million; duration: 2011-2013).

This project provides comprehensive support to the new State Service in order for it to function as the lead and coordinating body for counter-narcotics activity in Kyrgyzstan promoting cooperation with its counterparts in the region. The support includes provision of training and equipment as well as any necessary development of the legal, administrative or physical infrastructure and support in building law enforcement cooperation both in the region and international level. The overall goal of the project is developing the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic into an effective and sustainable specialized law enforcement organization.

Kyrgyzstan also participates in several *regional projects*, including **precursor control (RER/E29), criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange (RER/F23), narcotics training for law enforcement (XAC/I97), computer-based training for law enforcement (RER/F60), HIV prevention among drug users and in prisons (XCEA01), prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training (GLO/K01), treating drug dependence and its health consequences (GLO/J71).**

### **XCEA01 (OFID/UNODC Partnership on Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among Vulnerable Groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe):**

- The project was extended till December 2016 nevertheless there is a budget shortfall for project countries
- Draft inventory of existing national drug-and HIV related protocols/guidelines is being prepared by all six project countries. A comparative content analysis (on compliance with WHO recommended standards of services) of national protocols/guidelines on the 10 interventions of the “comprehensive IDU package” is going on in Kyrgyzstan with an assessment tool being developed by the UNODC International Consultant and elaborated at a workshop for national experts (December 2012 in Almaty);
- A cross-disciplinary manual addressing social-medical and legal aspects of HIV prevention among PWUD for the faculty of university-level teaching institutions in the field of health care, criminal justice/penitentiary and social work developed by a group of national experts. To the date the final version of the manual is being edited and proofread and will be piloted in lead education institutions of the project countries.

### **GLO/K01 (primary prevention of drug use through enhancing parenting skills):**

- Regional meeting “Drug use prevention through family skills training programmes: Perspectives for regional collaboration” was held for high level officials and FAST trainers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and observers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Uzbekistan in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19-20 June 2012. During the meeting delegations from concerned countries presented their national concepts on scaling up and ensuring sustainability of the FAST programme. As the result of the meeting, the family skills programming was very well received by implementing countries and is a welcomed addition to the programming of neighboring countries.
- During series of FAST trainings conducted by 6 Intern-trainers (3 in each country) under supervision of FAST certified international trainers within the frame of third implementation cycle in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, team of trainers consisting of 48 school teachers, psychologists and parents (24 from each country) from 6 pilot schools (3 from each country) were prepared. As the result of the training Intern-trainers were certified as National FAST Trainers.

- Prepared team of trainers conducted 8 training sessions for recruited families ( 40 in Kazakhstan and 42 in Kyrgyzstan) in 6 pilot schools (one session in a week during 8 weeks) in each country.

**GLO/J71 (treatment of drug dependence):**

The Republican Narcology Centre (RNC) is the recipient of the grant US\$ 85,000 for implementation of the project activities in 2012. The main objective of the grant is further promotion of the work initiated under the Treatnet project in Kyrgyzstan in 2010-2011 years through provision of the RNC with funds that are required for

- Quality rendering and enhancement of services offered to active injecting drug users with the use of new progressive methods in treatment of drug addiction.
- Education and skills development to conduct initial screening and/or short-term intervention, as well as the elements of psycho-social counseling, counseling skills and relapse prevention, and motivational interviewing of experts – doctors, substance abuse professionals, psychotherapists of harm reduction programs, and psychologists working in the educational system and engaged in prevention and psychological correction of drug addiction.
- Consolidation of knowledge and training of experts as regional trainers for further continuous training of young experts on site.

In particular Treatnet funds were used for:

- Further provision of services to substance abusers - Methadone based detoxification of active drug users in the RNC hospital. Rehabilitation of drug addicts.
- Prevention of mortality among IDUs. - Opioid overdose mortality reduction.
- Prevention and raising awareness of substance abuse effects - Personnel capacity building through training and skills development in Treatnet Training Package (TTP)
- Introducing new forms of treatment based on TTP through training.

Within the frames of implementing “Service Delivery” and “Capacity Development” components of the project:

- 115 patients received detoxification service with methadone;
- 43 drug users covered by rehabilitation programme;
- 79 patients received motivational interviewing;
- 43 patients received cognitive-behavioral therapy;
- 43 drug users went through group and family sessions;
- 37 patients having completed treatment trained on relapse prevention training course;
- 1460 active drug users received naloxone for overdose prevention;
- 84 specialists during individual trainings, and 48 specialists during national trainings.

**RER/F23 - “Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange.”**

This project improved criminal intelligence collection and information management capacity, and established mechanisms for exchange, receipt and dissemination of information between drug control bodies. Along with required training, the project provided specialized equipment and criminal intelligence analysis software. The project will continue to contribute to establishing a solid base for law enforcement agencies in the region to become self-sufficient in collecting information/intelligence, disseminating and sharing the data amongst themselves.

The following activities were implemented in Kyrgyzstan in 2012:

- On 21 February 2012, F23 project procured and handed-over hardware for the analytical unit of the Kyrgyzstan State Service on Drug Control (SSDC). Delivered equipment installed for newly joined officers to support on-going cases and criminal investigations. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the State Service Drug Control (SSDC), Deputy Chairman and Head of Analytical Department.
- 20 – 22 February 2012, meetings with representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies of Kyrgyzstan were organized to assess and monitor project achievements and update government officials on the F23 project developments and harmonize joint efforts.

- The semi-annual operational expert meeting within the frame of project F23 took place in Astana, Kazakhstan (3-4 May 2012), where representatives from the Law Enforcement Agencies of counter narcotic departments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were in attendance. The key element of discussions at this meeting was the strengthening of investigative cooperation between countries and to continue developing a common approach focusing on the use of similar working methodologies, using the same analysis software in order to facilitate and smooth exchange of analytical reports and investigation results.
- The F23 working meeting (2 May, 2012) was arranged with the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan to update on the project development and discuss future project implementation. During the meeting the issue of software use and possible trainings were discussed as well. Suggestions and recommendations that were made during the meeting are reflected in the project work-plan.
- The F23 finalized the procurement of hardware for the Operational Analysis Department (OAD) of MOI Kyrgyzstan. The handover ceremony was arranged at the MOI and was attended by the Deputy Minister of the MOI. Deputy Minister expressed his appreciation for the constant support provided by the project and mentioned that the OAD is providing assistance to all departments of the MOI involved in investigation of all types of crimes. Several examples were mentioned, including support provided during homicide investigations (June 2012).
- A meeting with the Head of Analytical Department of SSSC Kyrgyzstan was arranged to assess the analytical work implementation and discuss the modern analytical methods of criminal investigations (June 2012).
- Criminal Intelligence Awareness Session for the management staff of the Main Illicit Drugs Combating Department and Operational Analysis Department (OAD) of MOI Kyrgyzstan, was arranged, with more than 15 officers in attendance. After the session it was requested to consider the procurement of additional user dongles for the OAD, as the workload is increasing from day to another. It was also remarked that due to OAD's good performance and high quality of work implementation, the number of analysts in the department has been increased (June 2012). As a follow up to this request additional licences were handed over to the OAD.

- Another Criminal Intelligence Awareness Session was organized and provided to the SSDC Kyrgyzstan management staff using the same approach and methodology as it was performed at the MOI. The Heads of operational units/departments were present at the session (June 2012).
- Project F23 semi-annual Intelligence Officers Expert Meeting was organized in Tbilisi and was attended by eight country representatives (Afghanistan, Caucasus and four Central Asian countries – Turkmenistan did not attend). INL was represented by officers from Washington D.C., Georgia and Armenia. The DEA also sent a special agent based in Almaty. Priorities of the discussions were focused on the situation in Armenia and Georgia (the latter still pending signature), methodologies and operational execution of criminal intelligence analysis, strengthening of agency cooperation and professional improvement of networks between law enforcement analysts.
- Kyrgyzstan approved project extension through June 2014.

**XAC/I97 (counter-narcotics training of law enforcement):**

This project is designed to assist the NATO-Russia Council to deliver high-quality, professional law enforcement training to drug enforcement officers of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the five Central Asian counties in order to help them combat the threat of trafficking in opiates within and through their territories.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen drug control through the provision of specialised training to the selected personnel of the competent law enforcement bodies.
- To strengthen capacities of the law enforcement training institutions through training of trainers, exchange with experience and technical assistance

The project is planning to provide about 50 training courses at the All-Russian Advanced Training Institute of MoI Russia (Domodedovo) in Moscow; at the North-Western Training Centre of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service; Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC); Siberian Law Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (Krasnoyarsk); DEA Academy in Quantico as well as Mobile Training courses in Kyrgyzstan in 2013.

During the reported period the following activities have been completed:

- Training session “Counter Narcotics Activities” at the All-Russian Advanced Training Center (Domodedovo) for totally 17 law enforcement officers from Afghanistan (3), Kazakhstan (3), Kyrgyzstan (2), Tajikistan (3), Turkmenistan (3) Pakistan (3) from 5 to 20 February;
- Drug Enforcement Training course for 15 officers from the State Drug Control Service of Kyrgyzstan conducted by DEA instructors from 25 February to 1 March;
- Drug Enforcement training session at the North-Western Training Centre of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (St. Petersburg) for totally 17 operational officers from Kazakhstan (3), Kyrgyzstan (3), Tajikistan (3), Turkmenistan (3) and Uzbekistan (5) from 11 to 22 March;
- Drug Enforcement training session at the Siberian Law Institute of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (Krasnoyarsk) for totally 15 investigators and prosecutors from Kazakhstan (2), Kyrgyzstan (3), Tajikistan (4), Turkmenistan (3) and Uzbekistan (3) from 11 to 22 March.

Additionally, UNODC cooperates with Kyrgyz authorities in several *global projects* including the **Legal Advisory Programme (GLO/900), Promoting the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (GLO/T55), the Paris Pact Initiative (GLO/Y09) and Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism (GLO/R35).**

Kyrgyzstan is a member of **CARICC** (the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors), established within the Memorandum of Understanding on sub-regional drug control cooperation dated May 4 1996 (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). CARICC is a project of the UNODC with the timeline from 2004 till 31 December 2015, and with the overall budget of 15.4 million USD.

The main objectives of CARICC are:

- Coordination of the efforts of the member-states in combating the illicit drug trafficking at the regional level;
- Facilitation of the enhanced cooperation between the competent authorities of the member-states in combating trans-border crime associated with illicit drug trafficking;

- Establishment of cooperation mechanisms between competent authorities of the member-states;
- Assistance in organizing and executing joint international operations and investigations, including controlled deliveries;
- Collection, storage, protection, analysis and exchange of information in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking.

Currently the project “Establishment of CARICC” is facing problems with funding. The budget of CARICC is short of roughly 500.000 USD, which were pledged by the donors, but, not allocated due to the fact that the issue of the rotation of the CARICC leadership has not been solved. Some donors reserved money for the CARICC and will make it available once the decision of the rotation of the leadership is taken. In spite of the intensive efforts undertaken by the UNODC staff and the project team to facilitate this process, the progress is still slow, since the decision-making is on the side of member-states, and bilateral consultations and expert-meetings should be conducted between the interested parties. The UNODC has declared that it will be unable to pay monthly salaries to the CARICC personnel after July c.a. By the Presidential Decree as of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Mr. B.Sarsekov was released of duties of the Director of CARICC pilot phase. To the moment, the post of CARICC’s Director (and its Deputy) is considered to be vacant. However, in response to the UNODC Note Verbal to the Kazakh MFA, the latter explained that the aforementioned Presidential Decree had no impact on the current legal status of Mr. B.Sarsekov, who should continue performing his duties as CARICC Director.

Earlier in 2013 Turkey has applied for the accession to CARICC membership, which initiative has already gained support of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Poland, indeed, has applied for its consideration for an observer status.

At the *multilateral* level there is also a number of projects funded by the European Union.

**BOMCA** has started its new phase BOMCA 8 since July 2011 (will last until June 2014). It has drug focused component 3 “Strengthening Counter Drug Capacities in Agencies Working at Borders”. The main objective of this component is to enhance capacities for law enforcement officers in charge of fighting trafficking of illicit drugs across borders with the aim to support the interception of drugs and precursor chemicals.

The EU provides funding for the project “**Fight against trafficking from and to Afghanistan (Heroin Route I)**” implemented by GIZ and partners (Interpol, UNODC, World Customs Organisation, Bundeskriminalamt). The project started in 2008 and has been extended to 2013. Its overall objective is to strengthen the stability of the region and the security and health of the populations living in the countries along the heroine routes by supporting the trans-regional cooperation in the fight against trafficking from and to Afghanistan.

Kyrgyzstan is involved in the *ECO-DOCCU (Drugs and Organised Crime Coordination Unit)* capacity building component of the project in terms of strengthening the ECO-DOCCU as the focal point for regional. Trans-regional and international coordination and in the promotion of interagency cooperation on strategic information on drug-trafficking and organised crime in the ECO region and beyond, covering Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

And, the **Heroin Route II** project – Phase II—has been launched in December 2011 with the end date of 2014. It is implemented by UNODC-WCO for the Container control programme and EU Member States Agencies for both other components. The main specific objective of this programme is to complement and where appropriate reinforce regional or international initiatives against organised crime and trafficking activities on the Heroin Route. The expected result is regional cross border cooperation with and between customs and police in addressing the threat of trafficking and organised crime has increased.

***The project includes the following components:*** container control at high risk ports in Black Sea and along the heroin route, information networks and platforms along the Heroin Route (2.7m€), and Trafficking of Human Beings (1.5m€)

At the *bilateral* level we could refer to the following most important initiatives:

The **Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, the European Union** and the EU-UNDP BOMCA programme organized the 10<sup>th</sup> Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) Ministerial Conference in Vienna (Hofburg), 16-17 April, 2012. Lessons learned and looking forward beyond Afghanistan 2014 in the coordination of border management and drug programmes between beneficiary countries, donors and implementing agencies were the focus of the conference.

Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) is a forum for coordination and discussion on programme activities and strategic objectives related to international border management assistance in Central Asia, with particular focus on the programmes BOMCA (Border Management in Central Asia) and CADAP (Central Asia Drug Action Programme), funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP.

During the conference, particular attention was given not only to the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), but also to Afghanistan. Experts agreed that there is a necessity to improve cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly on the land borders of Afghanistan with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. International donors were invited to support concrete steps of cooperation and to assist in developing an action plan for enhancing bilateral cooperation on the mentioned land borders.

Along with this, Austria participates in projects conducted by OSCE in Kyrgyzstan and conduct training activities intended for law enforcement units working in mountainous areas.

Recently Austria has obtained observer status at CARICC and now all the connections with Austrian law-enforcement bodies are being carried out through a Police Liaison Officer based in Moscow.

**Afghanistan, Belgium, Czech Republic, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain and Sweden** are not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Kyrgyzstan. However, these countries are interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

**France** hosted a visit of Mr. Orozaliev, Head of the State Service on Drug Control in Kyrgyzstan, to France in 2011. Furthermore, one week training on drug investigation for counter-narcotic units of Kyrgyzstan was planned for 2012.

France also continues to support the Border Police Management College in Dushanbe and CARICC.

**Italian** cooperation with Kyrgyzstan is marked by a presence of a Drug Liaison Officer in Tashkent who maintains operative contacts with the Kyrgyz counter narcotics authorities.

Italy is also a strong supporter of the CARICC initiative. In 2009 Italy was granted observer status of CARICC after its initial financial contribution to this organization.

Along with this Italy has provided financial contribution to the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries (including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) and will continue to support the Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian and Afghan Law Enforcement Personnel by providing instructors for trainings to be conducted within this project.

**Japan** carries out an Assistance Program in drug affairs, focusing on the below stated issues.

Within the Assistance Program to Afghanistan and neighbor-states financial support was rendered to Central Asian nations.

From supplementary budget on FY 2011(April 2011 to March 2012 according to Japanese FY), the Government of Japan contributed \$ 1,965,000 to the following programs:

- XAC/K22 - "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the Northern Route by enhancing the capacity of key border check points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)" (\$1,270,000);

The project aims to counter the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs). This includes development of infrastructure, provision of equipment for Border Liaison Offices, organization of extensive training for the staff and establishment of legal ground for inter-agency cooperation.

Communication, coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies are the key elements to combat illicit drug trafficking. Border Liaison Office (BLO) system is one of the sustainable mechanisms which enable law enforcement agencies communicate and cooperate with their colleagues on other side of the border. This project envisages establishment of 8 BLOs including 2 pairs of BLOs at 2 BCPs along the Kyrgyzstan (Karamyk and Bor-Dobo BCPs) and Tajikistan (Karamyk and Kizil Art BCPs) border as well as 2 pairs of BLOs at 2 BCPs along the Tajikistan (Sary Asiyo and Dusti BCPs) and Uzbekistan (Oybek and Fotehobod BCPs) border.

- KAZ/K25 Drug abuse prevention at selected schools in Kazakhstan (\$50,285);
- TD/RER/H22 Establishment of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (\$542,155).

Moreover, Japan contributes to 5 border management programs of Afghanistan with the OSCE, having contributed 27,200,000 euro in 2009. These projects include the human resource development of border officers of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan custom officers, Tajikistan anti-narcotic officers.

With IOM, Japan carried out modernization of border management system in Kyrgyzstan in 2011 (\$ 1,600,000).

**Russia** has presented its Strategy for the Implementation of the National Anti-Drug Policy in the Period Until 2020. The Strategy envisages both direct cooperation with Central Asian states and regional cooperation in the framework of Collective Security Treaty Organization, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.

The Russian Parliament ratified the CARICC Agreement in March 2011 and appointed its liaison officer to the organization in September 2012.

**Turkey** is an observer of CARICC and contributed significantly to this initiative. Earlier this year it applied for CARICC membership. Turkey plays an important role in provision of training activities for law-enforcement personnel from Central Asia, in particular through the TADOC (Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime) within the framework of NATO/Russia Council Project. Up to now, 274 Kazakhstan law enforcement personnel have participated in 39 training programs and 166 Kyrgyzstan law enforcement personnel have participated in 26 training programs implemented by TADOC within the framework of both bilateral accords and multinational organizations. On the other hand, Turkey has no active cooperation with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, but its current operational cooperation activities are performed through CARICC.

The **UK** has been a strong supporter of the work of CARICC, and contributed \$300,000 to its creation. In September 2010 the UK was granted observer status of CARICC.

The UK has no bilateral projects with Kazakhstan or Kyrgyzstan. However, the UK's Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), with considerable assistance of UNODC, prepared and delivered a joint operational exercise between Afghan and Pakistani law enforcement representatives at CARICC (Almaty) on 12-16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011. During early Dubai Process conferences reluctance for joint operations/patrolling was evident from both Afghanistan and Pakistan. CARICC was specifically chosen by SOCA to host the event and the use of its skills and facilities were also built into the exercise. The exercise was extremely successful.

The **United States** are not currently widely involved in counter-narcotics activities in Kyrgyzstan. Although, INL Office together with the World Bank and OSCE, INL in early April organized workshops in Borovoe for Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) staff April 1-3 from all Central Asia countries, as well as a workshop on complying with revised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements April 4-5, which also involved Kyrgyzstani law-enforcement representatives.

#### *2.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini-Dublin groups*

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held on 17 June, 2013 in Astana (Kazakhstan). The meeting was chaired by the Italian Ambassador and the Italian Drug Liaison Officer with the further participation of representatives from a range of Mini-Dublin Group member countries and observers (Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Union Delegation, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK, the United States, as well as international organizations EU/UNDP BOMCA, OSCE and the UNODC).

#### *2.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance*

Following priority needs, identified during the previous Mini-Dublin Group meeting, remain valid:

- improving regional co-operation in the field of sharing information and experiences and co-ordination among the law enforcement bodies;
- strengthening border control;
- strengthening precursors control;
- fostering demand reduction.

## 2.6. *Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs*

### Recommendations

- Donors should continue to support activities against the illicit traffic in precursors because, in spite of the initiatives carried out in this field, the results remain meager.
- Mini-Dublin Group underlined the importance of continuing to strengthen border control. The porousness of Kyrgyzstan frontiers, as well as the difficulties to monitor the stretches of the boundary in mountainous and remote areas, makes it necessary to continue the work in this field carried out up to now.
- Effectiveness of the aid provided in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation should be carefully evaluated, using the most successful pilot projects as examples to be followed whenever appropriate. Whenever advisable, donors should apply a mechanism to monitor the usefulness of their cooperation projects on the medium/long term.
- Coordination among donor countries, on one side, and among them and beneficiary countries, on the other, should be aimed at avoiding duplications and identifying priority needs. In this respect, many participants stressed the importance of the Mini-Dublin Group as a coordination mechanism. Moreover bilateral activities (especially training) should be better coordinated among themselves to be more effective.
- Drug demand reduction, included the medical rehabilitation of drug addicts, and was also indicated among the priorities which need continuous focus by donors. A rapid growth of HIV/AIDS infected is one of the most direct and heavy consequences of the drug addiction spread.
- The birth of CARICC represents a moment of great relief in the history of fight against drug trafficking in Central Asia. In order to bear the fruits of the current event, the donor countries should make every possible effort to give their experience and professionalism at disposal of CARICC. The running of practical courses and study tours, a focus on analysis, national and international coordination, and on conduct of investigations, in particular, should be considered as a priority.
- It would be important to verify the results of the national drug plans by introducing periodical indicators.
- Donors should closely cooperate with Kyrgyz Government in order to improve the conditions of the population, since very often drug-related issues are an immediate consequence of poor economic condition.

- Due to the limited international funding of counter-narcotics activities in Central Asian states, it seems indispensable to enhance training segment within law-enforcement agencies of Central Asian states, thus, enabling them to provide trainings and develop capacities of their officials in the field of counter-narcotics. External assistance, such as participation of foreign experts, may be provided in this regard. In particular, by rendering support and assistance to the OSCE Border Management Staff College in terms of providing foreign instructors for the training sessions and courses.

### **3. Tajikistan**

#### *3.1. General situation in the country*

As the gateway to the “northern route” of trafficking, Tajikistan is on the frontline of opiate trafficking from Afghanistan to the Russian Federation, Europe and increasingly to China. Although cultivation and potential opium production declined in Afghanistan in 2010, the consequences of opiate flows through Tajikistan continue to be worrisome.

The opiates production in Afghanistan is a threat for stability and security in Tajikistan. Large stockpiles are believed to exist in northern Afghanistan along the borders with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan that enable drug traffickers to provide deliveries of opium and heroin across the Afghan border into and through Central Asian countries destined to Russia and West European countries.

In addition to trafficking in illicit drugs, trafficking in chemical precursors is also becoming a growing regional concern. Transforming raw opium into heroin requires the early addition of chemical precursors. As Afghanistan does not produce these chemicals, large volumes of illicit precursors required for the conversion of opium are being smuggled in from other countries, including Tajikistan.

The principal methods of drug smuggling are transporting drugs in hand-baggage, secret compartments of vehicles, among personal items and clothes, among foodstuff (fruits and dried fruits), by intracavitary.

The cross-border nature of drug trade clearly requires a regional response, and there is a significant ground for such co-operation, particularly, in terms of border management. Thus enhancing border controls and law enforcement capabilities is crucial, particularly for Afghanistan's immediate neighbors – Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Border management is an enormous challenge given that Central Asian borders with Afghanistan represent close to 2,400 km of difficult terrain – the border of Tajikistan with Afghanistan alone constitutes 1,344 km. Law enforcement agencies of Central Asian states are hampered by a widespread lack of resources, training and equipment. As a result, only a small fraction – some 5 % - of the amount of all drugs transited through the region are seized, while Tajikistan is responsible for the largest share of these seizures.

In 2012 law enforcement bodies of Tajikistan seized 5,979 kg (4,238 kg in 2011) of drug substances, including 515.283 kg (509.842 kg in 2011) of heroin, 626.903 kg (490.312 kg) of opium, 2,315 kg (1,897 kg) of hashish and 2,516 kg (1,333 kg) of marijuana. Moreover, a tremendous decrease in seizures of precursors was registered with 11.7 kg of precursors seized in 2012, compared to 12,535 kg of those seized in 2011.

Furthermore, as of April 2013, 2,061 kg of drug substances, a 76 % increase in comparison to the similar period of 2012, were seized by the Tajikistan law-enforcement bodies.

Within the same period, the number of drug-related crimes in Tajikistan accounted for 895, compared to 927 in 2011. In this regard 989 (921) individuals were arrested. Drug-related criminal cases brought before court in 2012 finalized with indictment of 1,054 individuals, which is 7 % more than the number of those, held criminally liable in 2011. According to the information provided by the law-enforcement bodies of the country, over recent years number of convicts for drug-related crimes equaled to 12-13% out of total number of convicts.

### *3.2. A short update on the country's anti-drug strategy*

Tajikistan is a party to *the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1961 UN Single Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1972 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances*. Moreover, Tajikistan is a party to *the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* as well as its *Protocols on the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons*. In September 1999 Tajikistan has signed an agreement on cooperation in combating transnational crime, including drug trafficking along with other Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan).

Moreover, the five Central Asian states, as well as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey are the members of the *Economic Coordination Mechanism* supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Tajikistan from the first days of its independence is resolutely supporting any rational and constructive initiatives aimed at fight against illegal drug trafficking and drug addiction. Tajikistan is strongly committed to the concept that practical results in combating the drug threat is only achievable by regional response which includes coordinated measures and complex use of all available means and ways. Moreover, Tajikistan believes that the fight against drugs should take place both in the countries of origin and in the countries of their consumption. Thus, the reduction in the drug use will lead to the reduction in their manufacture respectively.

However, the Tajik vision of the Afghan problem focuses not only on the development of regional cooperation in fighting Afghan opiates trafficking, but also on promoting trade and economic cooperation with Afghanistan as a country located on crossroads of international communications. On that premises Tajikistan has built five bridges on border river of Panj and provided a favorable financial conditions is going to build several other bridges.

Tajikistan also supports initiatives aimed at improving social and economic situation in Afghanistan by means of international cooperation. Stable Afghanistan along with enhanced border controls will diminish risks to the regional security.

On the basis of world's best practices the anti-drug strategy, including short-term, long-term action plans and programs, as well as multilateral levels of cooperation, has been developed. A number of urgent measures towards stabilizing drug situation, curbing the drug smuggling channels, reducing the level of illegal drug trafficking and drug abuse have been undertaken.

Within 1996-2007 three national counter-narcotics programmes were implemented in Tajikistan. "The Comprehensive State Outreach Programme for the Drug Abuse Prevention and Countering Illicit Circulation of Drugs in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2008-2012" was adopted by the Decree of the Government in 2007. The programme has accomplished all the objectives, though a problem of using some parts of the Tajik state territory for further transit of Afghan opiates in Central Asian states, Russia and Europe still exists. In this regard, a "National Strategy for Countering Illicit Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Tajikistan in 2013-2020" was developed and adopted by the Presidential Decree.

The main objective of this Strategy is a substantial reduction in illicit traffic of drugs and their non-medical use, in scale of consequences of the illicit traffic for health security of population, society and state, that is being implemented by:

- Enhancing the system of measures, aimed at the organization of fight against drug trafficking;
- Enhancing the system of timely detection of drug-addicted individuals, enhancing also the quality of their treatment and social rehabilitation;
- Ensuring the state control system over the circulation of drug substances;
- Enhancing the legislative and normative basis for control over the circulation of drugs.

For implementation of counter-narcotics policy the following measures are undertaken:

- Development, adoption and implementation of branch-wise programmes on preventing illicit circulation of drug substances;
- Improvement of inter-institutional cooperation mechanism in fight against illicit drug traffic;
- Reinforcement and enhancement of material and technical resources of law-enforcement and power structures;
- Reinforcement of border control system;
- Expansion of international cooperation in the sphere of drug control;
- Enhancement of material and technical resources of drug services and introduction of effective treatment methods.

The expected results of the Strategy are:

- efficient functioning of the system of measures of countering drug trafficking;
- effective control over the licit circulation of drug and psychotropic substances;
- drug demand reduction;
- enhancement of the state system of drug abuse prevention and treatment, as well as that of social rehabilitation of drug addicts.

With the final withdrawal of Russian border troops from the Tajik-Afghan border in October 2005, Tajik forces are remained solely responsible for patrolling and maintaining the border. In January 2007, the Tajik State Committee for Border Protection (SCBP) was subsumed under the new State Committee for National Security (SCNS).

The Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan was established with the support of UNODC project in 2000. The DCA has become the leading drug enforcement agency in the country with the capacity to undertake long term intelligence-led operations.

Several initiatives have been recently taken by the DCA, among which are:

***Cooperation with the law enforcement bodies of Afghanistan***

The Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan attaches great importance to the cooperation with the Afghan law enforcement agencies in the sphere of personnel training, that deal with the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

The training of Afghan counternarcotics police officers is a clear evidence of a committed development of cooperation with law enforcement bodies of Afghanistan.

***Meeting of senior representatives from counter narcotics agencies of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan***

A First Tripartite AKT Ministerial Meeting within the framework of Cooperation in Counter Narcotics and Border Management in Drug Control among the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Tajikistan, was held in Dushanbe on May 31, 2012. UNODC Executive Director participated in it as part of the official visit to Afghanistan and Tajikistan on 27 May and 1 June, 2012.

Earlier, a meeting of senior representatives from counter narcotics agencies of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan (under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries) was held in Dushanbe on January 20, 2012 to discuss issues related to strengthening of cooperation in combating drug trafficking. Issues related to organization of joint struggle against organized crime groups, exchange of operational information and training of personnel were among major topics.

A Protocol of the Trilateral Meeting of Heads of Drug Control Bodies of Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was signed on January 20, 2012.

A Memorandum on implementation of Vetted Unit Programme in the Republic of Tajikistan by DCA and the US DEA was signed on March 15, 2012.

In general, Tajikistan has signed 12 multilateral and 17 bilateral agreements in this field.

### **On organized crime:**

A databank on incidents, persons, operative information and criminal cases, containing also the information received from other law enforcement bodies of Tajikistan and those of other states is being developed. Data collection on DCA services' and divisions' activities as well as the information on drug seizures by other law enforcement and security agencies of Tajikistan is being performed.

Currently the databank "ibase8" contains more than 440 thousands of objects, including 34,331 individuals, 5,626 of them are citizens of Afghanistan, 193,468 phone numbers, 21,736 addresses, 2,550 vehicles, 8,761 incidents, 481 heroin producing laboratories, 481 record management cases.

Over the first quarter of 2012 7,337 new objects were introduced in the "ibase8" database.

As a result of the 18 received inquiries on phone talks analysis 120 schemes (patterns) were designed. 9 written inquiries on controlling of individuals, involved in illicit drug trafficking and organized crime related activities were worked out.

### **On corruption:**

Alongside with the activity of countering illicit drug trafficking, Tajikistan attaches significant importance to fight against corruption. A State Law "On fight against corruption" was adopted in 2005. Tajikistan acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption in September 2006. The Agency for State Financial Control and Combating Corruption was established in Tajikistan in early 2007. Activity of the agency led to the rise in corruption related offences detection. Moreover, a State Strategy for Fight Against Corruption was implemented in 2008-2012. A new Strategy for 2013-2020 is currently being developed.

### **On trafficking in human beings:**

Given the poor economic conditions in the country, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and other forms of illegal migration to Kazakhstan, Russia, and European countries are the issues of a profound concern in Tajikistan.

The Special Unit to Combat Racketeering, Kidnapping and Human Trafficking was established in April 2004 as part of the Department for the Fight against Organized Crime within the Ministry of the Interior.

**On terrorism:**

Tajikistan is party to 12 of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism.

Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Tajikistan were enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan on 18 June 2008. These amendments are related to terrorism offences.

Under the decision of the Supreme Court of Tajikistan of 30 March 2006, 10 organizations including Al-Qaida and the Taliban were classified as terrorist and extremist organizations and their activities were banned.

As per official data, over the past several years, the Hizb Ut Tahrir religious extremist organization has become more active on the territory of Tajikistan. Members of the organization have been arrested in various parts of the country, mainly for dissemination of brochures and leaflets with extremist content.

In late August 2010, over two dozen individuals sentenced as terrorists escaped from prison in Dushanbe and launched attacks as they travelled to various regions of the country. Many of these individuals had been opposition fighters during the Tajik civil war and had been arrested in eastern Tajikistan during government sweeps in 2009. In early September 2010, a suicide car bombing resulted in over two dozen deaths or injuries among police in the northern city of Khujand. An obscure terrorist group, Jamaat Ansarullah, supposedly related to the Islamic Movement of Turkestan, claimed responsibility. Some escapees and their allies, allegedly including Islamic Movement of Turkestan terrorists, attacked a military convoy in the Rasht Valley (formerly known as Karategin) east of Dushanbe on September 19, 2010, reportedly resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries to government forces, leading to the arising concerns among some observers that Tajikistan was becoming more unstable.

However, the government has claimed in early 2011 that it has stabilized the situation in eastern Tajikistan.

### *On money laundering:*

In the framework of UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries a regional workshop on cash smuggling and launch of the Criminal Assets Southern Hub (CASH) initiative was held in Dushanbe on 25-27 January 2012 with the participation of the 8 countries. It has laid ground to the development of regional cooperation in countering illicit money flows. The main objective of the initiative is to strengthen law enforcement capacities in countering money flows and confiscating the assets of drug trafficking networks.

As part of the CASH initiative, the first “FIU to FIU” (Financial Intelligence Unit), “Customs to Customs” and “Police to Police” meetings of the representatives of the 8 countries were organized in conjunction with the Dushanbe meeting on 27 January 2012, aimed at building trust, providing effective information exchange, and paving the way for practical and operational cooperation.

Within the above mentioned events, held in Dushanbe in the first quarter of 2012, member-states of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries were proposed a model regional MoU on AML matters.

### *3.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs*

A UNODC Regional Program for Promoting Counter Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries for 2011-2014 has been adopted. The Regional Program is a strategic framework for UNODC’s engagement in the region and it is designed to provide a platform for better coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region, bringing coherence to the activities conducted by UNODC. The aim of the Regional Program is to enhance the counter-narcotics capacities across the region through better coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation. The Regional Program will be implemented with four sub-programs corresponding to thematic focus identified in the course of consultation with the governments. The four sub-programs include: regional law enforcement cooperation; international/regional cooperation in legal matters; prevention and treatment of addiction among vulnerable groups; analysis and monitoring of trends and impacts.

Along with this Program, a number of **UNODC** counter-narcotics projects are being implemented at national and regional level. They include:

***TD/XCE/A01 OFID/UNODC partnership on effective HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable groups in Central Asia and Eastern Europe - Phase II***

A round table meeting “OST introduction in penitentiary system of Tajikistan” was organized to discuss ways of OST introduction in prisons of the country where the needs assessment report was presented and endorsed along with draft action plan for 2012-2015 and OST clinical protocol for prisons, all developed with support of UNODC-CARHAP.

***TD/GLO/K01 “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries”***

A round-table was organised and held in Dushanbe on 23 March 2012 .The range of round-table participants included respective institutions and ministries as well as secondary schools of Dushanbe who discussed results and achievements of the Pilot Programme “Families and schools together” implemented within the project framework in Tajikistan over 2010-2011.

***TD/TAJ/H03***

The project procured and delivered required equipment for the newly established DCA Public Relations Unit. One of the priorities of DCA is to work and support Mass Media initiatives. Considering the agency’s activities and importance of the problem related to drug trafficking and drug abuse, the agency pays a great attention to volume and quality of information presented to comprehensive and objective evaluation of its activities and, in order to support and improvement of DCA Public Relations Unit efficiency. The establishment of the mini-studio within the DCA Public Relations Department will solve the following tasks:

- presenting conclusion and timely credible information on drug situation in the country and region ( in three languages: Tajik, Russian and English);
- weekly/monthly presentations, newsletters updating on important events happened in the field of fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse;
- organizing and recording of “Round tables” with participation of prominent scientist, writers, narcologists, lawyers to discuss and share views on fight against drug trafficking and drug prevention;

- record of discussions and/or interviews with representatives of international delegations visiting the DCA to learn experience of different countries in this field
- provision of information on UNODC activities in the Republic of Tajikistan and other international organizations.

### ***TD/RER/F23***

The hand over ceremony of the hardware procured by the F23 project to the analytical unit of the SSDC was arranged (21 February 2012). The analytical unit of the SSDC was enlarged and delivered equipment will be installed for newly joined officers.

### ***TD/TAJ//E24***

In cooperation and coordination with Tajik Border Guards, the project has designed and conducted five days border control training for operative and analytical experts of the border forces with involvement of 14 officers from the Main Department and regional departments of the Border Forces. This training was conducted from 24 September to 29 September 2012 and high qualified trainers/experts from Russian Border Cooperation Group, OSCE and local experts contributed to successful delivery of the sessions to the officers.

In July-August 2012, the project handed over to beneficiary agencies specific equipment, delivered with support of three contracts concluded during the previous reporting period. Those three contracts were accomplished in line with the provisions of the project work plan and detailed specifications developed in consultation with the beneficiary agencies under administration of UNDP. Specific equipment and uniforms will be used to conduct border and drug control activities by operational staff of the Mobile Teams of the Intelligence Department of the Tajik Border Guards and Counternarcotics Department of the Ministry of Interior.

### **RER/H22 – “Establishment of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)”**

CARICC became a focal point for regional operations including operation “TARCET” and controlled deliveries operations. Due to CARICC efforts, a number of successful operations were conducted in the region.

After the ratification of the CARICC Agreement by the Parliaments of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, the CARICC became fully operational from structural point of view with available vacancies for liaison officers from all member states. However, at this stage its effective functioning as well as realization of joint operations and sharing of intelligence-led information will totally depend on the will of participating states to cooperate and share operational information.

In early September the meeting of the case officers involved in investigation of the activities of the criminal groups consisting of West African traffickers took place in CARICC. The meeting was attended by the officers from Central Asian countries, Turkey, Ukraine, China, US and Malaysia. Concrete information was exchanged, further coordination planned. Targets were identified.

Moreover, Russia has appointed liaison officer to CARICC which took his post on 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

One of the key recent CARICC developments was a regular (4th) meeting of Council of National Coordinators of CARICC Member States (CNC) that took place in Bishkek on 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, as a result of which the People's Republic of China, Romania and Ukraine according to their requests, were granted an observer status within CARICC.

Also the principal directions of CARICC activities for 2013-2015 in the field of assistance in the preparation and conduct of multilateral international operations, collection, protection, analysis and exchange of information, international cooperation and the organizational support of CARICC were adopted by the CNC.

Currently the project "Establishment of CARICC" is facing problems with funding. The budget of CARICC is short of roughly 500.000 USD, which were pledged by the donors, but, not allocated due to the fact that the issue of the rotation of the CARICC leadership has not been solved. Some donors reserved money for the CARICC and will make it available once the decision of the rotation of the leadership is taken. In spite of the intensive efforts undertaken by the UNODC staff and the project team to facilitate this process, the progress is still slow, since the decision-making is on the side of member-states, and bilateral consultations and expert-meetings should be conducted between the interested parties. The UNODC has declared that it will be unable to pay monthly salaries to the CARICC personnel after July c.a. By the Presidential Decree as of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Mr. B.Sarsekov was released of duties of the Director of CARICC pilot phase. To the moment, the post of CARICC's Director (and its Deputy) is considered to be vacant.

However, in response to the UNODC Note Verbal to the Kazakh MFA, the latter explained that the aforementioned Presidential Decree had no impact on the current legal status of Mr. B.Sarsekov, who should continue performing his duties as CARICC Director.

Earlier in 2013 Turkey has applied for the accession to CARICC membership, which initiative has already gained support of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Poland, indeed, has applied for its consideration for an observer status.

Moreover, alongside with the abovementioned activities, on 28-29 May 2013, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and UNFPA Sub-regional Office in Central Asia conducted the joint national workshop "International standards to ensure the availability and quality of services to protect and support victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants" in Dushanbe, the Republic of Tajikistan. This event was organized in the framework of the project "Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society actors" which is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the United States. The main goal of the workshop was to improve the quality and accessibility of social services for victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants.

Tajikistan is cooperating with ROCA through national projects such as TAJ/E24 - "Strengthening control along the Tajik/Afghan border" and TAJ/H03 - "Tajikistan Drug Control Agency (DCA) - (Phase II of TAJ/D65)", and a number of regional projects, such as XCE/A01 - Capacity building for a more effective HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable populations in Eastern Europe (Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), RER/F23 - "Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange", XAC/X50 - Strengthening Criminal Justice Capacities of Central Asian Countries to Counter Terrorism in Compliance with Principles of Rule of Law, XAC/K22 - "Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)", XAC/I97 - "Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel", XAC/X44 - Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, RER/E29 - "Precursors control in Central Asia" XCE/A01 - Capacity building for a more effective HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable populations in Eastern Europe (Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) as well as through several global projects: GLO/900 - “Legal Advisory Programme”, GLO/Y09 - “Paris Pact Initiative, Phase IV: A Partnership to Combat Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan”, GLO/J71 - “Partnership for Action on Comprehensive Treatment (PACT) - Treating drug dependence and its health consequences / OFID-UNODC Joint Programme to prevent HIV/AIDS through Treatnet Phase II”.

There is also a number of *multilateral* projects, funded by the **European Union**, such as Drug Action Programme in Central Asia (CADAP).

### **The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP)**

The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP) is an EU funded programme dedicated to assisting the further development of effective, comprehensive drug policies in Central Asia and extending the achievements of previous CADAP phases.

The objective of CADAP is to support the EU Drug Strategy in “preventing and reducing drug use, dependence, and drug-related harms to health and society” through the gradual adoption by Central Asian beneficiary authorities of the EU good practices in the field of drug policies and by building capacities within the governments and civil societies to provide sustainable continuation of CADAP activities. Thus, the main goal of the programme is to encourage Central Asian governments to commit to sustainable strategies in the field of drug addiction and to bring current systems of drug addict prosecution into accordance with international strategies and standards.

The programme has a regional outreach combining networking and capacity building on the regional level with national activities adjusted to the identified needs and requirements in the five Central Asian partner countries.

The CADAP 5 phase had a budget of 4.9 million Euros and formally started on 5 July 2010. Activities finished on 30 June 2013. Currently the sixth phase of the programme is being discussed to be launched later this year. CADAP was implemented by a consortium from EU member states, led by GIZ. The GIZ is supported by scientific partners from the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany.

The “CADAP 5” consisted of the following components: 1) DAMOS (Drug Abuse Monitoring System), 2) TREAT, 3) MEDISSA (Media and Info Service on Substance Abuse).

The main outcomes of CADAP 5 are:

- accomplishment of a number of regional activities across the components;
- organization of numerous study tours (Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany) for experts of Central Asian states;
- country reviews and annual reports were prepared; improved standards of data collection and reporting on key drug and epidemiological indicators were achieved; Drug Information Maps were updated (DAMOS);
- series of workshops and trainings for narcologists, psychologists and social workers were held; equipment and furniture to narcological clinics provided; technical assistance rendered for the construction of rehabilitation center for drug-addicted inmates (TREAT);
- organization of sustainable groups, including experts from healthcare, education, law-enforcement agencies, mass-media, youth and women's organizations, as well as local self-government bodies, and embracing wide sections of population (MEDISSA).

On 27 May 2009 the **OSCE** launched the initiative of Border **Management Staff College (BMSC)** in Tajikistan, Dushanbe aimed at training senior border officials. The guiding philosophy of the OSCE BMSC is creating open but secure borders by bringing together knowledge and experience from the 56 participating States of the OSCE, the College provides specialized training for senior management of border security agencies. Utilising the OSCE network to disseminate knowledge and experience, it offers opportunities for in-depth analysis of international standards in border management, and exchange of the latest techniques and best practices. It is also a nucleus for cooperation and information exchange among border professionals. Financial support for the College has been provided by: Belgium, Germany, Kazakhstan, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

At the *bilateral* level the following important initiatives can be mentioned:

**Afghanistan** stressed the importance of international co-operation in combating drug trafficking and underlined the need of a balanced approach in contrasting both drug supply and demand. Furthermore, Afghanistan's antidrug strategy was presented.

**Bulgaria** and **Romania** are not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Tajikistan. However, both countries are interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

The **Czech Republic** continues to be involved in the DAMOS / CADAP program in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, focusing among other activities on building The Drug Information System. Czech experts have conducted an estimate of drug users' mortal rate in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

In mid-March 2012, twenty representatives of the Drug Control Agency, Ministry of the Interior, Republican HIV Centre, National Centre on Monitoring the Drug Situation and Drug Prevention, Narcological Service, Penitentiary Service, and NGOs active in the field met at a workshop with Czech experts, following a week-long study visit to the Czech Republic in 2011 during which the Tajik experts were exposed to the comprehensive Czech system of the prevention of HIV in high-risk groups. The project was jointly funded by the UNDP CIS Bratislava using the earmarked resources of the Czech Trust Fund and by the UNDP in Tajikistan, which operated within the framework of the programme of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

**France's** cooperation with Afghanistan and neighboring countries is realized by presence of one police attache' and four police liaison officers in Pakistan as well as by presence of one police attache' based in Almaty with competence on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

**Italian DCSA** cooperates with Tajik counter-narcotics law enforcement through Drug Liaison Officer (DLO) based in Tashkent. The main tasks of the DLO are to provide operational support to the local law enforcement services in regard to investigations with apparent links to Italy.

Italy is also a strong supporter of the CARICC initiative. In 2009, Italy was granted observer status of CARICC after its initial financial contribution to this organization.

Along with this, Italy provided financial contribution to the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries and will continue to support the Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel by providing instructors for trainings to be conducted within this project.

Moreover, the Italian expert was invited to provide training to representatives of law-enforcement from all Central Asian states apart from Turkmenistan at two-day regional workshop "Regulatory Mechanisms for Precursor Control in Central Asia" organized by UNODC ROCA in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on 26-27 October, 2011.

From 2007 to 2009, **Japan** conducted the Seminar on Criminal Justice for Central Asia. The recipient countries are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. The objective of the seminar is to attain effective measures in the course of judiciary procedures and criminal investigation towards narcotic crimes and treatment of abusers.

**Latvian** experts are participating in different programmes active in the region, namely BOMCA, US EXBS, OSCE. Latvia continues to host study tours for border guards and customs officials from Uzbekistan and Central Asia (two such visits took place this autumn under BOMCA and US EXBS programmes). Latvia is also participating in NATO – Russia Council (NRC) Counter Narcotics training project for Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani personnel. The State Border Guard of Latvia is in the process of signing MoU with respective institutions in both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that might bring more opportunities for cooperation in the future also in bilateral programmes.

**Poland** is not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Tajikistan. However, the country is interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

**Russia** pays special attention to Central Asian region. Neighborhood to unstable Afghanistan makes it attackable to growing drug threats. The Russian Federation continues developing multilateral and bilateral cooperation with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the field of counter-narcotics.

Thus, professional development courses are organized for law-enforcement officers of Central Asian states, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the framework of Russia-NATO Council project (283 participants were trained in 2013). Moreover, it is planned to organize additional training courses with the purpose of reinforcing regional transboundary cooperation.

The two countries also successfully cooperate in the framework of CARICC and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Currently Russia, together with Uzbekistan, is promoting an initiative to upgrade Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, based in Tashkent, into Universal Center for Counteraction to Challenges and Threats to Security of SCO Member-States that will also perform drug-enforcement functions.

**Turkey's** cooperation with Tajikistan is carried out by trainings for law-enforcement personnel active in the field of counter-narcotics delivered by its International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC).

Moreover, police training activities are also performed for Afghan and Uzbek police officers by *Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)*.

Turkey participated in 7 training programmes, carried out for Tajikistan law-enforcement personnel, three of which were organized under the auspices of UNODC.

Bilateral **UK**/Tajikistan counter-narcotics activities are conducted through the Tajik Drugs Control Agency and the UK's Serious Organized Crime Agency officials at the British Embassy in Kabul and cover provision of counter-narcotics training and support. During 2006-2009 the British Embassy in Dushanbe provided £500,000 to support the BOMCA and the BOMBAF border management projects. The UK multilateral activities/support continues to be provided through EU and OSCE project support through Brussels and Vienna respectively.

Moreover, it was reported that SOCA is planning to designate its Drug Liaison Officer, the competence of which will embrace all Central Asian states and, maybe, also Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Since 2000, the **United States** government has provided over 70 million US dollars in assistance to Tajikistan through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), DOD and US Export and Border Security (EXBS).

#### *3.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini-Dublin groups*

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2013 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting was chaired by the Italian Ambassador with the participation of representatives from a range of Mini Dublin Group member states and observers, namely Afghanistan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, EU Delegation, France, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, UK, USA, and Uzbekistan and representatives of UNODC, CADAP and OSCE.

### 3.5. *Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance*

The Tajik delegation during the Mini-Dublin Group meeting has highlighted the following priority needs that require the international assistance, as well as cooperation of the Mini-Dublin Group member-states:

- Establishing in Tajikistan a unified **Counter Narcotics Training Academy** on effective training and retraining of personnel dealing with the fight against illicit drug trafficking, this may involve the establishment of a National Cynological Center and a Specialised Training Center for training and retraining the law enforcement personnel;
- Rigging of the Cynological Center with the necessary equipment;
- Prospecting for financial opportunities for the following projects implementation:
- “Establishment of the Training Center within the Drug Control Agency under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan”;
- “Establishment of the Media-Club within the Drug Control Agency under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan”.
- Strengthening the DCA role as a part of the international network of the law enforcement agencies of Central Asia and developing the cooperation with public and international law enforcement agencies. For these purposes, there is a need to develop and foster bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation with the competent authorities of foreign states on the basis of previously signed and newly concluded agreements, protocols, including the implementation by and participation from the part of DCA in joint operations on fighting the illicit drug trafficking at national and international levels.
- Establishing new DCA regional departments in Djirgatal and Darvaz regions;
- Intensifying DCA DLOs activities in Afghanistan (Fayzabad, Talukan, Kunduz) and Kyrgyzstan (Osh) to extend and enhance the efficiency of DCA’s cooperation with the law enforcement bodies and special services of the above stated countries in fighting the illicit drug trafficking.
- Fortifying borders, supplying the closed circuit television systems (CCTVs);
- Performing operative work on organized criminal gangs by the law enforcement bodies of Russia, Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan, US DEA on the territories of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Russian Federation, carrying out a ”controlled delivery” operation as well.

- Performing operative and identification work on the individuals, involved in money laundering, as well as those involved in marketing and driving of hijacked cars from Lithuania in cooperation with German BKA and law enforcement agencies of Lithuania.
- Establishing the Working Group from among the representatives of the drug control agencies of the Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.
- Providing regular reports (quarterly, semiannual, annual), news and analytical information on the drug situation in the country and in the region to convey it to the President, Government and other interested ministries, institutions, including UNODC and donor-states.
- Continuing training and retraining activities for the DCA officers.
- Continuing procurement of special technical facilities, vehicles, equipment and consumables to enhance the DCA's effectiveness, taking into account relevant inquiries.
- Supplying equipment for the judges' laboratory;
- Supplying air scanning equipment;
- Continuing to organize trainings on operative and strategic information analysis for the DCA Information and Analysis Department officers.

### 3.6. *Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs*

#### Recommendations:

- It is necessary that the actions should have been undertaken at bilateral level by single Dublin Group Member states and at multilateral level by the UNODC, European Commission, Russia, OSCE, etc., mutually complemented and reinforced one another, in order to avoid the overlapping of similar projects;
- the participants of the Mini-Dublin Group welcome the completion of the ratification process of the CARICC Agreement in all seven founding states in 2011 (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The CARICC, fully operational since March 2009 after the necessary number for ratification of the CARICC Agreement had been secured, can represent a platform for the exchange of information related to drug-trafficking and the coordination of joint operations involving all member states along so-called the "Northern route". In order to bear the fruits of the current event, the donor countries should make every possible effort to put their experience and professionalism at disposal of CARICC. The running of practical courses and study tours, a focus on analysis, national and international coordination, and on conduct of investigations, in particular, should be considered as a priority;

- drug demand reduction, including the medical rehabilitation of drug addicts, were also indicated among the priorities that need continuous focus by donors. A rapid growth of HIV/AIDS infected is one of the most direct and heavy consequences of the drug addiction spread;
- recipient countries should adopt all measures, also in terms of legislative adjustment, in order to ensure sustainability, ownership and visibility of the projects;
- donor countries should take further action, also in coordination, aimed at maintenance and sustainability of the equipment provided;
- donor countries should continue being involved and committed to the further funding of the DCA activities;
- due to the limited international funding of counter-narcotics activities in Central Asian states, it seems indispensable to enhance training segment for law-enforcement agencies of Central Asian states, thus, enabling them to provide trainings and develop capacities of their officials in the field of counter-narcotics. External assistance, such as participation of foreign experts, may be provided in this regard. In particular, by rendering support and assistance to the Border Management Staff College in terms of providing foreign instructors for the training sessions and courses.

#### 4. **Turkmenistan**

##### 4.1. *General situation in the country*

Turkmenistan is not a producer or source country for illegal drugs or precursor chemicals, but is believed to be one of the main potential conduits for the smuggling of narcotics and precursor chemicals.

The country is sandwiched between the Western route of Afghan opiates travelling through Iran and the Northern route of Afghan opiates travelling through Central Asia.

Common methods of transporting illegal narcotics include concealment in cargo or passenger vehicles, deliveries by pedestrian carriers or animal transport, and in some cases concealment in the body cavities or stomach of humans and animals.

According to the information provided by CARICC, over the year of 2012, Turkmenistan seized 752.5 kg of narcotic drugs, which is 11 % less than that of 2011 (845.3 kg). Among them 14.9 kg of heroin (39.2 kg in 2011), 662.6 kg of raw opium (753.6 kg), 39 kg of hashish (11.4 kg) and 36 kg (37.6 kg) of marijuana. An overall decrease in drug seizures is recorded for almost all the categories of narcotic drugs, amounting for 63 % decline for heroin seizures, 13.7 % for raw opium, 4.6% for marijuana, though the seizures of hashish have increased 3.5 times.

According to the same source, in 2012 the Turkmen law enforcement agencies registered a total of 1,070 drug related crimes, a decrease by 54.6 % compared to the same period of 2011 (1,654), 695 (1,118) of which refer to the drug-sale and 177 (180) to trafficking. A decline of 42.3 % in the number of people arrested for the drug-related crimes can be noted from 1,969 in 2011 to 1,384 in 2012. Out of 1,384 arrested in 2012, 62 (52) were foreign citizens.

CARICC has also communicated that in the first three months of 2013 189 drug-related crimes were registered in the country compared to 255 in the first trimester of 2012. Drug-sale crimes amounted to 124 (176), while 28 (26) crimes were registered for drug trafficking. For the same period c.a. 282 people were arrested (387) for committing drug-related crimes, 9 (22) of which were foreign citizens.

CARICC also provided the following drug statistics concerning the first trimester of 2013. For this period 95.15 kg (329.935 kg) of narcotic substances were seized by Turkmen law enforcement bodies, 205 g (1.346 kg) of heroin, 88.282 kg (322.289 kg) of raw opium. Moreover, 6.662 kg (6.175 kg) of marijuana, 247 pills (1262), 10 ampules (158) and 0.5 ml of psychotropic substances (120 ml) were also seized.

#### *4.2. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy*

Turkmenistan acceded to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1961 UN Single Convention and its 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The Government has taken measures to make national laws and regulations in the field of drug control compliant with the international drug control conventions.

The Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan adopted the “Law on Narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, precursors and measures on counteraction of its illicit circulation” (Drug Control Law) in 2004.

Some provisions on licit control are provided in the "Law on licensing of individual types of activity" (2008), and the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan "On measures on regulation of foreign trade activities in Turkmenistan" (1994) in combination with the subsequent amendments.

In 2010 the Parliament passed some amendments to a package of laws, including the Criminal Code, reducing the maximum prison term for serious crimes and introducing administrative sanctions for non-recidivist cases of possession of small quantities of narcotics.

Turkmenistan adopted a *Working Plan on Fighting Illegal Drug Trafficking, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Rendering Assistance to Drug and Psychotropic Substance Addicts for 2011 – 2015*. The program consists of 5 parts, envisaging enhancement of legal framework in the sphere of counter-narcotics and development of a national strategy on narcotics, psychotropic substance and precursors control; measures on fighting the illegal trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors; measures aimed at ensuring control of legal use of narcotic and psychotropic substances and precursors; measures on providing assistance to drug and psychotropic substance addicts, as well as development and strengthening of international cooperation.

The responsibility to execute and implement the provisions of the working program is assigned to "State Service of Turkmenistan for Security Protection of Healthy Society", State Coordination Commission on Fighting Drug Addiction under the Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), Ministry of National Security (MNB), Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General's Office, Supreme Court, State Border Service, State Customs Service, Mejlis (Parliament), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other relevant agencies and institutions of Turkmenistan.

The State Drug Control Service was established by Decree of the President of Turkmenistan in January 2008. The Service coordinates anti-drug policy and operational drug interdiction measures throughout the country. The Service is also responsible to oversee the implementation of the International Conventions on the prevention of illicit trafficking and preparing the list of substances to be considered narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. In August 2012 the name of the Service was changed into "State Service of Turkmenistan for security protection of healthy society"; its powers are expected to be expanded to possibly encompass drug demand reduction and prevention activities, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users, national measures to prevent smoking and alcohol addiction.

At the international level, in his address to the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in September 2012, the Turkmen Foreign Minister, Rashid Meredov, outlined the priorities of Turkmen foreign policy. In particular, in the Government's official position paper, distributed prior to the session, under its Peace and Security section among priority areas of cooperation with the UN, joint activities of the UN Member States in combatting illicit drug trafficking were also mentioned. As a member of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Turkmenistan committed to support further enhancing of multilateral dialogue on counter-narcotics and continuation of the consistent implementation of practical measures to eradicate the drug threat. Turkmenistan also urged to engage the expert community in discussing effective approaches to regional and national projects and programmes of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Union, as well as bilateral projects with Governments in the region and suggested establishing a permanent consultative mechanism at expert level.

In an attempt to establish control over incoming foreign aid, a Presidential decree on mandatory state registration of projects and programs of gratis-type foreign technical, financial, humanitarian assistance and grants was issued in January 2013, which set the procedure for maintaining a single registry of projects and programs. In compliance with the new procedure, relating projects shall be subject to mandatory state registration. Foreign financial assistance provided by foreign donors (foreign States, international organizations, financial institutions, foreign companies and funds, international NGOs and religious organizations, as well as individuals) to their Turkmenistan counterparts (recipients of foreign aid) will be considered as projects/programs implemented with foreign assistance. As per the new regulation, foreign sponsors are required to inform MFA about all kinds of foreign assistance provided to national foreign aid recipients. In addition, a special governmental inter-agency commission in charge of approving these programs and projects was set up.

In order to implement the MoU between Turkmenistan and UNDP, signed last year, the Turkmen President issued a decree on establishing a UN-Turkmenistan Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) – a consultative body that was designed to consider and approve UN system projects to be cost-shared by Turkmenistan. UNODC has already submitted the concept notes of two national projects aimed at strengthening the capacities of Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Service on Protecting Security of Healthy Society, respectively.

A nation-wide plan of anti-drug operations code-named “Go’knar (Opium Poppy)-2013” was launched in Turkmenistan on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. It will last eight months with air and motor raids to be held in remote and less accessible regions of Turkmenistan that could reveal the existence of plantations of opium poppy and wild hemp.

**On corruption:**

Turkmenistan acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption in March 2005. In 2013, Turkmenistan is expected for the first time to be reviewed on the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption under the review mechanism. The Prosecutor’s General Office has been identified by the Government as the national focal point agency.

**On trafficking in human beings:**

The Government adopted a law on combating human trafficking on 14 December 2007. In May 2010 relevant amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code to criminalize human trafficking - Article 129-1.

**On terrorism:**

Turkmenistan has ratified 14 of the 16 international legal conventions against terrorism. The legal basis for countering terrorism is the Law “On the Fight Against Terrorism” (2003) and the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code. The State Counter-Terrorism Commission, established by the President of Turkmenistan, coordinates the activities and ensure cooperation among the Government bodies involved in combating terrorism.

**On money laundering:**

An Anti-Money Laundering Law was adopted by the Parliament of Turkmenistan and signed by the President in May 2009. The law came into force in August 2009, but it became fully operational only after the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the Ministry of Finance on 15 January 2010.

By the decision of the 12th plenary meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) in May 2010, Turkmenistan was granted the EAG membership. Membership in the EAG has opened up opportunities for Turkmenistan to actively participate in FATF (Financial Action Task Force)'s activities and cooperate with other countries and international organizations in countering money laundering and terrorism financing.

In June 2012 FATF decided to remove Turkmenistan from its monitoring system under its on-going global AML/CFT compliance process. The FATF welcomed Turkmenistan's significant progress in improving AML/CFT regime and noted that Turkmenistan has largely met its commitments set up in the Action Plan regarding the strategic shortcomings identified by FATF.

**On regional co-operation:**

Turkmenistan is a member of **CARICC** (the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors), based in Almaty (Kazakhstan) and established within the Memorandum of Understanding on sub-regional drug control cooperation dated May 4, 1996, among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The main objectives of CARICC are:

- Coordination of Member-States' efforts in combating illicit drug trafficking at the regional level;
- Facilitation of enhanced cooperation between the competent authorities of Member-States in combating trans-border crime associated with illicit drug trafficking;
- Establishment of cooperation mechanisms between competent authorities of Member-States;
- Assistance in organizing and executing joint international operations and investigations, including controlled deliveries;
- Collection, storage, protection, analysis and exchange of information in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking.

Turkmenistan, as one of the coastal States of Caspian Sea, also became party to the agreement "On Security Cooperation in the Caspian Sea".

Visit of the UNODC Executive Director to Turkmenistan is expected to take place on 27-28 May, with the purpose to discuss a wide range of issues of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UNODC at global, regional and national level.

#### *4.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs*

At the international level, there are a number of **UNODC** Regional Office for Central Asia counter-narcotics initiatives.

Turkmenistan participates in several regional projects, including the CARICC project (RER/H22), countering terrorism (XACX50), precursor control (RER/E29), criminal intelligence analysis (RER/F23). Turkmenistan has also been taking part in narcotics trainings for law enforcement agencies under NATO-Russia Council project (XAC/I97) since September 2006. Turkmen officers continued to improve their capacities in the fixed site and within mobile training courses, organized on the territory of the Russian Federation (Domodedovo Training Institute, North Western Institute and Siberian Law Institute), Turkey (Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime) and in Turkmenistan. Training courses were provided in several areas of drug enforcement (basic and specialized) and targeted officers with different level of experience. In 2013 Turkmenistan has continued its cooperation with the project and the very first forensic training was provided for officers and staff of Ministry of Internal Affairs in Ashgabat.

In 2012 EU funded a regional project on Strengthening the Capacity of the Central Asian Countries to Protect and Assist Victims of Human Trafficking and Smuggled Migrants (XAC/X44) that involved more than 20 representatives of Turkmenistan in training courses and national consultative meetings, aimed at building the capacity of the relevant ministries and local NGOs on effective identification and protection of victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants.

Moreover, UNODC cooperates with Turkmenistan in several global projects including the Legal Advisory Programme (GLO/900), Promoting the Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air to UNTOC (GLO/T55), the Paris Pact Initiative (GLO/K31), and the “container Control Programme (CCP) – Turkmenistan Segment” (GLO/G80).

In 2013 Turkmen Government endorsed the implementation of two US-funded UNODC projects:

- A national project on strengthening customs service and other law enforcement agencies’ capacity in implementing border and trade control, in particular, strategic export/import control regimes;

- A regional project on Strengthening Criminal Justice Capacities of Central Asian Countries to Counter Terrorism in Compliance with the Principles of Rule of Law.

**At the multilateral level** there is also a number of projects, funded by the European Commission.

The fight against drug trafficking and drug abuse is one of the top priorities for Europe in the Central Asian region. For more than nine years now, the EC has supported the five partner beneficiary countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) in trying to alleviate the negative consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse through its multi-phases Border management in Central Asia Programme (BOMCA) and Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP). While BOMCA continues to promote in particular the concept of Integrated Border Management, CADAP supports a balanced drug policy through the focus on both drug demand and drug supply issues.

The current **BOMCA** phase focuses on the following three objectives:

1. To help increase security in Central Asian region;
2. To contribute toward the facilitation of legitimate trade and transit;
3. To reduce the illicit movement of goods and people.

For 2013 the following activities were planned:

- April 2013 - Regional Workshop to Integrate and Network Drug Profiling Units into Regional Information Sharing Structures in Close Collaboration with CARICC, Tashkent, Uzbekistan;
- April 2013 - National Training on International Shipment of Strategic Goods, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan;
- May 2013 - Customs Training Centers' Directors Meeting on Consortia of Training Centres, Astana, Kazakhstan;
- May 2013 - National Training Course on Intelligence Gathering, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan;
- June 2013 - Border Guards Training Centers' Directors Meeting on Consortia of Training Centres, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- September 2013 – National Training on Anti-Corruption Mechanisms, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- October 2013 – Annual Central Asia Border Security Initiative Conference (CABSI), Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- November 2013 - Study Tour to Belgium to improve inter-agency and international cooperation for cross border investigations under the heading of enhancing counter-drug capacities of state border management agencies.

The current phase 8 of BOMCA commenced in July 2011 and will conclude in June 2014. The total project budget for 2013 is USD 577,762.

The current **CADAP** phase has a budget of 4.9 million Euros and started on 20 January 2010. Activities will finish in mid-October 2013. CADAP is being implemented by a consortium from EU member states, led by GIZ.

There are currently four components of CADAP: 1) drug abuse monitoring and data collection (DAMOS), 2) drug epidemiology and treatment within and outside prisons (TREAT), 3) raising awareness among population (MEDISSA), 4) coordination and networking (OCAN).

**DAMOS** is the component that helps the Governments develop a better understanding of the drug trafficking, drug use, misuse and abuse situation in the Central Asian region, as well as the impacts and consequences of those complex phenomena. This will further result in improved policy decisions.

Currently the progress is considered not stable due to the slow start. Still, three workshops were conducted in 2013 for the preparation of the first draft version of Country Situation Summaries (CSS). At present the first draft of CSS was submitted to the government for approval for finalization and further publication.

**TREAT** is aimed at supporting the introduction of modern drug addiction treatment methods within the public health system and the prison system by promoting the development of comprehensive and integrated treatment methods that are able to deliver a continuum of care for drug users, including drug dependence treatment, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B/C prevention and care, and reduction of the health other social consequences.

Now the main focus is concentrated on treatment and “treatability” of addiction, as opposed to punishing approach, stipulated by the Presidential Decree of 2012 on rehabilitation centers, which, in the end, resulted in the opening of the Centers of “Trust” with the financial participation of CADAP, and carrying out of additional trainings on psychotherapy.

Moreover, within the framework of the Atlantis programme, the decision was taken by the Ministry of Interior to invite medical staff from all prisons. Also the request from the Atlantis center was received for materials to be translated into Turkmen language as the working language of the community.

**MEDISSA** concentrates on helping the Governments to prevent potential new drug users and reduce the number of current drug addicts by better informing the general public of the risks to drug usage.

**OCAN** serves as the backbone with regard to project management issues of all three specific components. Furthermore, it provides the framework for partner coordination and project monitoring and implementation.

**OSCE** Centre in Ashgabat currently implements “Practical Training on Effective Mechanisms of Integrated Border Management and Security Operations in Turkmenistan”. Within the framework of the project, over the month of May, the Centre organized a series of five-day training courses for border officials and law enforcement officers on integrated border management techniques. Some sixty border management, migration, drug control, customs, transportation police and national security officials participated in the courses, which focused on effective border management mechanisms and helped to increase the participants’ capacities to conduct relevant border protection and security operations. The training courses were moderated by two international experts and were held in Ashgabat, Mary, Turkmenabat and Dashoguz.

In September, the project will be continued by two similar five-day training courses in Turkmenbashi and Ashgabat with focus on maritime border management, border patrolling, surveillance, passenger-document-cargo inspection procedures and practices. The participants will be representatives of border management, navy, migration, drug control, customs, transportation police, and national security agencies.

**At the bilateral level** the state of the current initiatives was highlighted by the representatives of MDG participant countries:

**France** does not have specific bilateral cooperation with Turkmenistan in the field of counter-narcotics.

**Germany’s** cooperation with Turkmenistan is carried out through the BKA liaison officer based in Tashkent.

**Italian** cooperation with Turkmenistan is performed through the presence of an Italian Drug Liaison Officer based in Tashkent covering Central Asian region including Turkmenistan. Being a strong supporter of the CARICC initiative, in 2009 Italy was granted observer status of CARICC after its initial financial contribution to this organization.

**Japan** does not have specific bilateral cooperation with Turkmenistan in the field of counter-narcotics.

**Romania** hosted a delegation of Turkmen State Drug Control Service and Border Guards State Service in April 2012. Moreover, Romania continues to maintain an effective dialogue with the Turkmen authorities, aimed at intensification of the mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. In particular, in October 2012 an inter-agency MoU in the sphere of counter-financing terrorism and anti-money laundering was signed. Also in 2012 Romania was granted the observer's status within CARICC.

**Russia** is strongly supporting the UNODC project XAC/I97 – “Pilot Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian and Afghan Law Enforcement Personnel” funded by NATO/Russia Council, by providing trainers and training centres in Russia.

**UK** no longer has any bilateral counter-drug projects in Turkmenistan. Nevertheless, the UK is strongly supporting UNODC and OSCE.

Since November 2010, the **U.S.** State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) continued to support the Government of Turkmenistan's counternarcotic efforts within the framework of Letter of Agreement (LOA) on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Assistance.

During the first half of 2013, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) has continued to support Turkmenistan's efforts in countering narcotics trafficking, transnational crime, and strengthening the criminal justice system in the framework of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the United States on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Assistance.

Moreover, at the beginning of February 2013, INL launched the seventh round of English Language Training (ELT) classes for law enforcement officials. 50 law enforcement officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice (for the first time ever), Prosecutor General's Office, State Border Service, State Migration Service, State Customs Service, State Service to Protect the Security of a Healthy Society, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have signed up for the seven month long training seminar in English (at both the advanced and beginners level).

Also, in March, INL organized a one-week seminar for 25 Drug Unit Commanders of the State Service to Protect the Security of a Healthy Society in Ashgabat. The training was conducted by experts from the DEA Regional Training Team based in Almaty.

#### *4.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini-Dublin Group*

The Mini Dublin Group meeting was held on May 23, 2013 in Ashgabat. The meeting was chaired by the First Counselor of the Italian Embassy in Moscow with the assistance of the Italian Regional Drug Liaison Officer, as well as with the further participation of representatives from Mini Dublin Group members and observers (France, Germany, Japan, Romania, Russia, UK, USA, BOMCA, Europa House, OSCE and the UNODC).

#### *4.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance*

The following priority needs identified during the previous Mini Dublin Group session remain valid:

- strengthening border control;
- strengthening precursors control;
- training, according to a ‘train-the-trainer’ formula with a special focus, in particular, on special operations and exchange of best practices;
- enhancing the practices of financial investigations and information sharing.

#### *4.6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs*

#### Recommendations

- Donors should continue to focus on the need to contribute to the efforts of the Turkmen Government to strengthen drug control capacity along the Turkmen borders as well as to reinforce precursor control capacities;
- The donor community should continue to support the Government of Turkmenistan in following up steps already undertaken towards counter narcotics cooperation and information sharing;
- Donors should support current efforts by the Turkmen Government on demand reduction.

## 5. Uzbekistan

### 5.1. General situation in Uzbekistan

The drug situation in Uzbekistan continues to be serious. Stable drug production rates in neighboring Afghanistan and drug flow of Afghan origin along the “Northern route” remain the main factor that impacts negatively on the drug situation in Uzbekistan.

There are several routes of drug trafficking to the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The delivery of opium, heroin and cannabis is usually carried out from the south of Uzbekistan through the territory of Tajikistan, and from Afghanistan through the Amudarya River to Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions; from the southeast to Samarkand and Sirdarya regions and from the northeast to the Fergana Valley and Tashkent region.

The transit of drugs from Uzbekistan is performed using cars and vehicles, railway and air transport. Drug transiting methods remain the same as in the past: illicit drugs are usually concealed in secret compartments of vehicles, among foodstuff, household articles and personal items, in hand baggage, pockets, and by intracavitary.

In 2012 Uzbek law enforcement agencies seized 3,043 kg of drugs (5,404 kg in 2011), including 261.5 kg (622.2 kg) of heroin, 770 kg (984 kg) of opium, 1,451 kg (3,081 kg) of marijuana, 230.7 kg (367 kg) of hashish, and 330 kg (413.1 kg) of poppy straw.

The number of drug-related crimes, registered in 2012, equaled to 8,155 (8,171), 4, 217 (2,271) of which account for drug traffic, 676 (522)—for smuggling in drugs, 1,479 (1,511)—for illicit cultivation of drug-containing plants, 157 (169)—for maintaining drug-involved premises and 1,626 (1,698) – for other types of drug-related crimes.

In this regard, 136 (107) foreign citizens were arrested, including 43 (32) Tajik citizens, 25 (21) Afghan citizens, 23 (17) Russian citizens, 21 (12) Kazakh citizens, 5 (7) Kyrgyz citizens and 5 (3) Turkmen citizens. 109.5 kg (182.5 kg) and 10 pills of drug substances, 1948 pills of psychotropic substances and 120 liters of precursors were seized from them.

Drug smuggling is mainly organized through the hardly controlled mountainous parts of the border afoot or using horses, as well as handmade swimming devices while crossing Amudarya.

For the purposes of detection and suppression of illicit cultivation of drug-containing plants, prevention of drug-related crimes, as well as blocking of drug trafficking channels, a large-scale national operation “Black Poppy” is carried out. Thus, in 2012 more than 10 thousands of law enforcement officers and almost 7.3 thousands of public officials and representatives of local governmental institutions, including 430 mobile posts and 353 screening patrols were engaged into this operation. Difficult of access on ground mountainous, desert and rough terrains were subject to control flyarounds by the helicopters of Uzbekistan Airways. Thereby, 1,211 (1,338) cases of illicit cultivation of drug-containing plants were revealed accounting for a total area of 1.2 (2.6) hectares. The crops of wild hemp over the territory of 2.38 (2.37) hectares were exterminated.

The total number of people registered at narcological dispensaries of the Republic decreased by 962 and equaled to 17,235 (18,197). A decrease in number of drug- addicts in the age group 20-39 to 63.7 %, in comparison to 65.3%, was registered in 2012.

## 5.2. *Short update on the country’s anti-drugs strategy*

Uzbekistan is a party to a number of international treaties related to combating illicit drugs. Among them are the *1988 UN Drug Convention*, the *1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances*, and the *1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs* as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The country has also become a party to the *2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention)*, and its *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (Palermo Protocol)*. Uzbekistan is also a party to *UN Convention against Corruption*.

On September 14, 2011 the President of Uzbekistan signed the Law “On ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC)”, thus the CARICC Agreement entered into force for Uzbekistan too.

In the framework of regional cooperation, a mutual agreement on cooperation in combating transnational crime, including trafficking in illicit drugs was signed by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in September 1999. The above mentioned states, along with Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan, are also members of the Economic Coordination Mechanism, an initiative supported by the UNODC. Moreover, in the context of its membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization several agreements on enhanced counter-narcotics cooperation were signed by Uzbekistan in 2006.

Starting from 2007, Uzbek Government has launched several other intensive campaigns to increase people's awareness on the dangers of drugs.

A National Program for 2011-2015 was adopted by the Head of the Uzbek State Commission on Drug Control. The program will focus on drug-prevention and drug demand reduction activities unlike the previous programme for 2007-2010, which attached paramount importance to the activities related to the fight against illicit circulation of narcotic drugs.

On 28 September, 2010, Uzbekistan adopted amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, having introduced a new section entitled "International cooperation in criminal matters". The amendments established the grounds and procedures for mutual legal assistance and extradition that had previously not been regulated by law. The amendments were drafted in accordance with the UNODC recommendations that had been submitted to the relevant national authorities of Uzbekistan and, in particular, to the International Department of the General Prosecutor Office that originally initiated the draft amendments. The new provisions of the CCP, among other things, allow for extradition and mutual legal assistance (MLA) on a reciprocity basis. Previously, bilateral or multilateral treaties were the only legal grounds for MLA, and extradition.

### **On Corruption:**

In 2008, Uzbekistan acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). At this extent, the Government established a Working Group under the General Prosecutor Office comprised of representatives from 12 national agencies to draft a national anti-corruption action plan, which would include measures to implement the UNCAC. The National Anti-Corruption Plan, incorporating recommendations provided by UNODC, has been drafted and submitted to relevant governmental agencies for review.

In March 2010, Uzbekistan joined the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Correspondingly, an assessment of anti-corruption legal and institutional frameworks of Uzbekistan was conducted and a review report including recommendations was adopted during the 9<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan Meeting in December 2010.

In March 2010, the Government of Uzbekistan signed the UNODC UZBT65 project aimed at establishing a more solid foundation in preventing and combating corruption, achieved through effective implementation of the UNCAC. So far, all activities, envisaged by the project work plan, have been successfully implemented in close cooperation with the Government of Uzbekistan. Following negotiations with the Government's focal point, more activities supplementing the ongoing project have been identified and additional funding has been sought for the project's extension for another two years.

As a member of the monitoring team established under the OECD ACN Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, within the framework of the joint first and second round of monitoring, Uzbekistan participated in the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan's 11th monitoring meeting, where it presented the chapter of the monitoring report on criminalization and law enforcement. The meeting that took place in Paris on February 22-24, 2012, adopted the monitoring reports on Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

### **On Trafficking in Human Beings:**

The Government of Uzbekistan has been increasingly active in anti-human trafficking. On 17 April 2008, the Government adopted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, and relevant amendments were introduced to the Criminal Code in accordance with the Law on Modifications and Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Context of Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Countering Human Trafficking" (adopted on 16 September 2008).

In an effort to counter human trafficking effectively, the Republican Interagency Anti-Human Trafficking Commission has been established.

In November 2008, the Republican Rehabilitation Centre on rendering assistance and protection to the victims of human trafficking under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection was established.

### **On Terrorism:**

Uzbekistan is a party to 13 out of the 16 universal legal instruments against terrorism. Uzbekistan is a member of the Antiterrorist Centre of Commonwealth Independent States (ATC CIS) and hosts the Regional Antiterrorism Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

On 29 June to 3 July 2009, the UN Security Council Counter Terrorist Committee's representatives visited Uzbekistan to assess the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1535 (2004), 1566 (2004).

**On Money Laundering:**

Article 243 of the Criminal Code imposes liability for the legalization of proceeds derived from criminal activity from 5 to 10 years of imprisonment.

The AML/CFT Law “On Modifications and Amendments to the Law on Countering the Legalization of Criminal Proceeds and Funding Terrorism” came into force on 22 April 2009. Amendments to 16 other laws were adopted by the Parliament in September 2009.

Previously being the EAG observer, Uzbekistan joined the EAG as a member state in 2005. The evaluation of the regime for efforts in anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) of the Republic of Uzbekistan was conducted by the EAG in November 2009 and was then discussed and adopted by the EAG Plenary in June 2010.

Uzbekistan became a member of the Egmont Group in July 2011.

In the framework of UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries a regional workshop on cash smuggling and launch of the Criminal Assets Southern Hub (CASH) initiative was held in Dushanbe on 25-27 January 2012 with the participation of 8 countries, including Uzbekistan. It has laid ground to the development of regional cooperation in countering illicit money flows. The main objective of the initiative is to strengthen law enforcement capacities in countering money flows and confiscating the assets of drug trafficking networks.

As part of the CASH initiative, the first “FIU to FIU” (Financial Intelligence Unit), “Customs to Customs” and “Police to Police” meetings of the representatives of the 8 countries were organized in conjunction with the Dushanbe meeting on 27 January 2012, aimed at building trust, providing effective information exchange, and paving the way for practical and operational cooperation.

Within the above mentioned events, held in Dushanbe in the first quarter of 2012, member-states of the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries were proposed a model regional MoU on AML matters.

### *5.3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs*

The UNODC Regional Program for Promoting Counter-Narcotics Efforts in Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries for 2011-2014 is currently being implemented. The Regional Program is a strategic framework for UNODC's engagement in the region and it is designed to provide a platform for better coordination and facilitation of counter-narcotics efforts across the region, bringing coherence to activities conducted by UNODC. The aim of the Regional Program is to enhance counter-narcotics capacities across the region through better coordination and facilitation of regional cooperation. The Regional Program will be implemented with four sub-programs corresponding to thematic focus identified in the course of consultation with the governments. The four sub-programs include: regional law enforcement cooperation; international/regional cooperation in legal matters; prevention and treatment of addiction among vulnerable groups; analysis and monitoring of trends and impacts.

In the framework of Regional Programme UNODC is currently performing assessment of training LE analysts in intelligence analysis and the use of analytical tools. The overall aim of the assessment is to identify what has been done collectively, positive and negative outcomes, current requirements, and how the efforts might be best expended pushing forward. The option of working with one or more regional partners in developing a center of excellence approach in conducting analyst training is something that is also aimed to be assessed under this exercise.

Workshop on Northern Route of Afghan Opiate Trafficking held at CARICC on 27-28 June 2013. Heads of analytical departments of the law enforcement agencies of Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Russia, Ukraine, as well as representatives of China, France, Germany, Turkey, UK, USA and international and regional organizations, such as CSTO, OSCE, RATS of SCO participated in it. The following issues have been discussed by the participants: the trends in drug seizures and concealment methods, profiles of key drug trafficking groups in Central Asia; possibility of trafficking to Europe through Northern Route ( a threat analysis); illicit cultivation, future challenges and plans in Afghanistan; post-2014 scenarios and implications for Central Asia; UNODC Afghan Opiate Trade Project Reports and findings.

## **RER/E29 “Precursors Control in Central Asia”**

Thus, under the auspices of UNODC a Second Operational Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Precursor Chemicals was conducted jointly with CARICC in Almaty on July 1-2, 2013. Investigative and analytical officers of LE agencies from Afghanistan, Iran, China and UAE involved in investigation of three cases of Acetic Anhydride seizures in Afghanistan briefed on progress made to identify and dismantle criminal networks involved in diversion and smuggling of precursors chemicals and cooperating in possible source, transit and destination countries.

## **RER/H22 – “Establishment of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)”**

This initiative can be considered strategic for MDG members because many of them are donors and/or observers at Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC).

The project was developed to assist in establishing CARICC. The Centre serves as a regional focal point for communication, analysis and exchange of operational information in “real time” on cross-border crime, as well as a centre for assistance in organization and supporting coordination of joint operations. This is improving the effective activity of and cooperation among competent authorities in member states in preventing and combating trans-border drug trafficking and international drug-related organized crime.

CARICC became a focal point for regional operations including operation “TARCET” and controlled deliveries operations. Due to CARICC efforts, a number of successful operations were conducted in the region.

After the ratification of the CARICC Agreement by the Parliaments of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan in 2011, the CARICC became fully operational from structural point of view with available vacancies for liaison officers from all member states. However, at this stage its effective functioning as well as realization of joint operations and sharing of intelligence-led information will totally depend on the will of participating states to cooperate and share operational information.

In early September the meeting of the case officers involved in investigation of the activities of the criminal groups consisting of West African traffickers took place in CARICC. The meeting was attended by the officers from Central Asian countries, Turkey, Ukraine, China, US and Malaysia. Concrete information was exchanged, further coordination planned. Targets were identified.

Moreover, Russia has appointed liaison officer to CARICC which took his post on 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

One of the key recent developments for CARICC was a regular (4th) meeting of Council of National Coordinators of CARICC Member States (CNC) took place in Bishkek on 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, as a result of which the People's Republic of China, Romania and Ukraine according to their requests, were granted an observer status within CARICC.

Also the principal directions of CARICC activities for 2013-2015 in the field of assistance in the preparation and conduct of multilateral international operations, collection, protection, analysis and exchange of information, international cooperation and the organizational support of CARICC were adopted by the CNC.

Currently the project "Establishment of CARICC" is facing problems with funding. The budget of CARICC is short of roughly 500.000 USD, which were pledged by the donors, but, not allocated due to the fact that the issue of the rotation of the CARICC leadership has not been solved. Some donors reserved money for the CARICC and will make it available once the decision of the rotation of the leadership is taken. In spite of the intensive efforts undertaken by the UNODC staff and the project team to facilitate this process, the progress is still slow, since the decision-making is on the side of member-states, and bilateral consultations and expert-meetings should be conducted between the interested parties. The UNODC has declared that it will be unable to pay monthly salaries to the CARICC personnel after July c.a. By the Presidential Decree as of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013, Mr. B.Sarsekov was released of duties of the Director of CARICC pilot phase. To the moment, the post of CARICC's Director (and its Deputy) is considered to be vacant. However, in response to the UNODC Note Verbal to the Kazakh MFA, the latter explained that the aforementioned Presidential Decree had no impact on the current legal status of Mr. B.Sarsekov, who should continue performing his duties as CARICC Director.

Earlier in 2013 Turkey has applied for the accession to CARICC membership, which initiative has already gained support of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Poland, indeed, has applied for its consideration for an observer status.

Moreover, the following projects are currently being implemented:

**RER/F23 - Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange.**

This project has installed modern intelligence systems and analysis software providing operational analysis training at counter narcotic agencies in all 5 Central Asian countries. The challenges associated with supporting the rule of law in Afghanistan are self-evident. This project is contributing to international efforts by helping the Counter Narcotic Police Afghanistan (CNPA) to develop a criminal intelligence capacity. Existing activities are on-going and it is proposed to extend them to include the Afghan Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF). Because of the security situation, such activities are inevitably protracted and progressed cautiously.

**RER/F60 “Computer based drug law enforcement training in the member countries of the memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on sub regional Cooperation in Drug Control” (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan)**

In July 2013 project was absorbed by the global project which will be implemented further by the UNODC HQs.

**XAC/K22: “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossing points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs)”.**

Ongoing concerted efforts are required to build capacities at the Central Asian Border Crossing Points (BCPs), enhance the level of expertise of officers at these crossings and establish working, intelligence-sharing and communication mechanisms between the agencies employed there. The Border Liaison Office (BLO) concept is considered a cornerstone to achieving this objective within Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and it has been extended in an effort to increase communication with counterparts in Afghanistan.

**XCE/A01 – “Capacity building for a more effective HIV/AIDS prevention among vulnerable populations in Eastern Europe (Azerbaijan, Moldova, Ukraine) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)”.**

This project, which started operationally at the beginning of 2011, enables system-wide reforms in addressing HIV epidemics related to injecting drug use in both the greater public and among detained populations. In order to achieve this goal, technical assistance is provided to eight countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Moldova). This assistance will lead to the development of a model of health and social protection services allowing most at-risk populations to access evidence-based and cost-effective interventions in both community and prison settings. It is expected that by the end of the project, national capacities will be enhanced in order to allow the full integration of HIV-related interventions in both primary health care and specialist services, as well as in social protection services and health care services in penitentiary systems. Demonstration models are being implemented in selected territories, providing for continuity of care, reduced risk-behaviour, and improved adherence to ARV and TB treatment. This project also assists countries in improving the involvement of the police and other law enforcement forces in constructive partnerships with HIV-related health care and social protection services.

**XAC/X44 “Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society actors “**

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian countries to identify, protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants especially women and children (hereinafter, collectively, “Victims”), in partnership with NGOs and other civil society actors, mainly by providing legal drafting support focusing on the protection of Victims’ rights, developing operational standards for law enforcement personnel on victim identification and conducting training on best practices, and developing a Partnership Plan for effective cooperation among Government, NGOs and civil society actors.

## **XAC/I97- “Pilot project on counter narcotics training of Central Asian and Afghan law enforcement personnel”**

There is a need for professional training in modern drug control and law enforcement techniques in West and Central Asia. This need has been recognized by the NATO-Russia Council, subsequent to an expert group meeting on Central Asia that took place in November 2004. On 8 December 2006, the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) decided to implement a mid-level drug control training pilot project in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The NRC approached UNODC’s Regional Office for Central Asia to implement the project. The training has been and will continue to be provided by mobile training teams travelling to each country, as well as in fixed training facilities in Russia and Turkey.

Additionally, UNODC cooperates with Uzbekistan in several global projects. These projects include the **Legal Advisory Programme (GLO/900)**, promoting the implementation of the **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (GLO/T55)** and **“Paris Pact Initiative, Phase IV: A Partnership to Combat Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan”**. Uzbekistan also participated in the project **Partnership for Action on Comprehensive Treatment (PACT) - Treating drug dependence and its health consequences/OFID-UNODC Joint Programme to prevent HIV/AIDS through Treatnet Phase II (GLO/J71)**, as well as in the **GLO/K01 - Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries**.

At the *multilateral* level there is also a number of projects, funded by the European Union, such as Drug Action Programme in Central Asia (CADAP).

### **The Central Asia Drug Action Programme (CADAP)**

The CADAP is an EU funded programme dedicated to assisting the further development of effective, comprehensive drug policies in Central Asia and extending the achievements of previous CADAP phases.

The objective of CADAP is to support the EU Drug Strategy in “preventing and reducing drug use, dependence, and drug-related harms to health and society” through the gradual adoption by Central Asian beneficiary authorities of the EU good practices in the field of drug policies and by building capacities within the governments and civil societies to provide sustainable continuation of CADAP activities. Thus, the main goal of the programme is to encourage Central Asian governments to commit to sustainable strategies in the field of drug addiction and to bring current systems of drug addict prosecution into accordance with international strategies and standards.

The programme has a regional outreach combining networking and capacity building at the regional level with national activities adjusted to the identified needs and requirements in the five Central Asian partner countries.

The CADAP 5 phase had a budget of 4.9 million Euros and formally started on 5 July 2010. Activities finished on 30 June 2013. Currently the sixth phase of the programme is being discussed to be launched later this year. CADAP was implemented by a consortium from EU member states, led by GIZ. The GIZ is supported by scientific partners from the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany.

The “CADAP 5” consisted of the following components: 1) DAMOS (Drug Abuse Monitoring System), 2) TREAT, 3) MEDISSA (Media and Info Service on Substance Abuse).

The following activities were implemented in 2012 within CADAP 5 in Uzbekistan:

- A National training and seminar on developing of draft of Annual Report and Country Profile, as well as planning further activities for 2012 was held in Tashkent within the DAMOS component on 13-15 March of 2012.
- Consequently, a National seminar on reviewing the first draft of the Annual Report and Country Profile for 2011, preparing them for publication, took place in Tashkent on 26-27 June 2012.
- DAMOS working group in Uzbekistan had successfully worked out the Country Profile and the Annual Report for 2010 and 2011.
- Three Regional Workshops on Steering and Monitoring of Drug Service Systems, on Community Based Drug Services and on Treatment for Drug Addicts in Prisons were successfully carried out with participation of Uzbek delegations. (TREAT)

- National Workshops on Training Public Health Personnel in modern treatment methods were held in Fergana in July, 2011, and April, 2012. (TREAT) In the framework of the component, in terms of providing logistic support, office equipment and furniture worth of 60 mln of UZS (25,000 Euros) was purchased and delivered to the Ferghana narcological dispensary in December 2011.
- Development of Detailed Drawings of the Facility: Reconstruction of the Building for the rehab centre for drug-addicted inmates at the Penitentiary Institution УЯ 64/29 in Navoi city, for which 25,000 euros were allocated. For the Development of Detailed Drawings of the Facility and for the conclusion of the examination almost 36,6 mln UZS (15,900 euros) were spent. The total cost of construction and assembly works of the whole complex of building, structures and utilities is 1,081,340,690 UZS (440,937 euros).
- Working Group in Urgench was successfully established in 2011, as well as Action Plan on community based prevention work was drafted within the MEDISSA component.
- National seminar on pre-assessment and summing up the Media campaign and activities were conducted in Urgench on 16-20 January, 2012.(MEDISSA)
- A National Steering Committee Meeting within the OCAN component took place in Tashkent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2012.

In general, the main outcomes of CADAP 5 are:

- accomplishment of a number of regional activities across the components;
- organization of numerous study tours (Lithuania, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany) for experts of Central Asian states;
- country reviews and annual reports were prepared; improved standards of data collection and reporting on key drug and epidemiological indicators were achieved; Drug Information Maps were updated (DAMOS);
- series of workshops and trainings for narcologists, psychologists and social workers were held; equipment and furniture to narcological clinics provided; technical assistance rendered for the construction of rehabilitation center for drug-addicted inmates (TREAT);
- organization of sustainable groups, including experts from healthcare, education, law-enforcement agencies, mass-media, youth and women's organizations, as well as local self-government bodies, and embracing wide sections of population (MEDISSA).

The **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz)** cooperates with the Government of Uzbekistan in the field of counter-narcotics through “Assistance to the Fight against Illicit Drug Circulation and Expansion” project. The goal of this project, which started in 2008, is to support the efforts of the National Centre for Drug Control (NCDC) and to increase its technical capacity. The phase 2 of the project is currently being implemented.

On 1-3 February, 2012 the OSCE PCUz organized a workshop in Tashkent for 14 regional experts of NCDC on the latest national regulations and respective government agencies’ preventive measures supporting the fight against illicit drug and chemical precursors trafficking. Similar workshops were held for 52 NCDC regional experts on 16-17 April in Urgench and on 24-25 May in Termez.

On 1-3 May a workshop for heads of organizational and methodological departments of Drug Abuse Prevention Centers, anesthesiologists, narcotics experts, social workers and secretaries of district committees for drug control was organized in Tashkent for 25 participants.

Moreover, in 2012 the Information Bulletin on Drug Related Situation in Central Asia was published; a support for the NCDC’s webpage upgrade was rendered; NCDC’s library was rendered a technical support. In January 2013 a short-term training course for law enforcement representatives was to be organized in London.

One of the most recent OSCE initiatives, **Border Management Staff College (BMSC)** in Tajikistan, Dushanbe aimed at training senior border officials, was inaugurated on 27 May 2009. The guiding philosophy of the OSCE BMSC is creating open but secure borders by bringing together knowledge and experience from the 56 participating States of the OSCE, the College provides specialized training for senior management of border security agencies. Utilising the OSCE network to disseminate knowledge and experience, it offers opportunities for in-depth analysis of international standards in border management, and exchange of the latest techniques and best practices. It is also a nucleus for cooperation and information exchange among border professionals. Financial support for the College has been provided by: Belgium, Germany, Kazakhstan, Norway, Sweden and Turkey.

At the *bilateral* level the following important initiatives can be mentioned:

**Afghanistan** shared the results of cooperation among Uzbek border control agencies, Ministry of Interior and security services and their Afghan counterparts. Furthermore, Afghanistan's antidrug strategy was reported.

**Bulgaria** and **Romania** are not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Uzbekistan. However, both countries are interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

The **Czech Republic** continues to be involved in the DAMOS / CADAP program in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, focusing among other activities on building The Drug Information System. Czech experts have conducted an estimate of drug users' mortal rate in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

**France's** cooperation with Afghanistan and neighboring countries is realized by presence of one Police Attaché and four Police Liaison Officers in Pakistan as well as by presence of one Police Attaché based in Almaty with competence on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The **Italian DCSA** cooperates with Uzbek counter-narcotics law enforcement through Drug Liaison Officers (DLO) based in Tashkent. The main tasks of the DLO are to provide operational support to the local law enforcement services in regard to investigations with apparent links to Germany and Italy.

**Italy** is also a strong supporter of the CARICC initiative. In 2009 Italy was granted observer status of CARICC after its initial financial contribution to this organization.

At the same time **Italy** provided financial contribution to the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries and will continue to support the Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani Law Enforcement Personnel by providing instructors for trainings to be conducted within this project.

**Japan** provided grant aids (grants up to 827,000,000 yen or 8.37 mln USD) for the installation of large-sized X-ray Scanning Units to improve the customs clearance and to strengthen the prevention of smuggling in narcotics and arms by automobile and railway cargos at Ayritom Customs Check Point (in Surkhandarya region on the Uzbek-Afghan border), Oybek border checkpoint (in Tashkent region on the Uzbek-Tajik border), and Galaba Railway Check Point (in Surkhandarya region on the Uzbek-Afghan border).

**Latvian** experts are participating in different programmes active in the region, namely BOMCA, US EXBS, OSCE. Latvia continues to host study tours for border guards and customs officials from Uzbekistan and Central Asia (two such visits took place this autumn under BOMCA and US EXBS programmes). Latvia is also participating in NATO – Russia Council (NRC) Counter Narcotics training project for Afghan, Central Asian and Pakistani personnel. The State Border Guard of Latvia is in the process of signing MoU with respective institutions in both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that might bring more opportunities for cooperation in the future also in bilateral programmes.

**Poland** is not currently involved in counter-narcotics activities in Uzbekistan. However, it is interested in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics in Central Asian region in the future.

**Russia** and Uzbekistan steadily develop cooperation in ceasing the drug flow from Afghanistan in bilateral and multilateral formats (CIS, SCO, CARICC and UNODC).

Russia continues training Uzbek drug-enforcement officers in special training centers in Domodedovo and St. Petersburg along with organizing mobile trainings in Tashkent in the framework of implementing Russia-NATO Council Project on Counter-Narcotics Training of Central Asian, Afghan and Pakistani law-enforcement personnel (283 participants were trained in 2013). High-level Steering Meeting of this project was held in Tashkent in June 2012. Russia contributes also in training of Uzbek dog experts in Rostov-on-Don cynological center under the Regional UNODC Program for Afghanistan and neighboring countries.

During latest political contacts Russia and Uzbekistan confirmed common position that the most effective way to stop Afghan drug threat is to exterminate poppy and hemp crops, to prevent intrusion of precursors and to destroy drug producing laboratories in Afghanistan.

Moreover, it is planned to organize additional training courses with the purpose of reinforcing regional transboundary cooperation and supporting the Uzbek request for equipping National Counter-Drugs Training Center.

Currently Russia, together with Uzbekistan, is promoting an initiative to upgrade Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, based in Tashkent, into Universal Center for Counteraction to Challenges and Threats to Security of SCO Member-States that will also perform drug-enforcement functions.

**Turkey's** cooperation with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is carried out by trainings for law-enforcement personnel active in the field of counter-narcotics delivered by its International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC).

Thus, in the course of 2011 the following trainings were implemented by TADOC with the participation of Uzbek and Tajik law enforcement officers:

- Training on regional controlled delivery under NATO-Russia Council project (on 27 June-08 July in Kazakhstan) where 6 representatives from both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan took part;
- Training on the crime intelligence analysis under NATO-Russia Council project (on 12-16 September in Uzbekistan) with 30 participants;
- Training on the risk analysis and drug search techniques with TIKA support (on 24-28 October in Uzbekistan) with 16 participants;
- Training for border liaison officers with UNODC support (on 24-28 October in Tajikistan) with 15 participants;
- Training on Border Liaison Officers with UNODC support (on 31 October-4 November in Uzbekistan) with 15 participants.

Moreover, over 2011 joint trainings of Uzbek and Turkish officers were held under the auspices of Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency (TIKA) with the assistance of NRC. Four projects were accomplished in 2012-2013 period, involving Uzbek and Turkish law-enforcement officers, two of which were carried out under the auspices of the UNODC and two others under the auspices of TIKa.

At the moment, there is no permanent **UK** Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) representation in Central Asia, though SOCA continue to look at the possibility of opening a regional office in Tashkent, which is welcomed by the Government of Uzbekistan. It was reported that SOCA is planning to designate its Drug Liaison Officer, the competence of which will embrace all Central Asian states and, maybe, also Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Moreover, three senior officials from the Department of Criminal Investigation and Counter Terrorism in the Ministry of Interior, the Drugs Trafficking Subdivision of the National Security Services and the Department for Contraband Combat of the State Customs Committee spent 2 days with SOCA in London at the end of March. It was a useful and productive visit and participants indicated that they would like to discuss what practical training or other assistance the UK could offer in this sphere in the future, particularly as regards border management. The Embassy of the UK is going to contact the Ministry of Interior to discuss this issue in the nearest future.

The **United States** highlighted the activities of three main governmental agencies dealing with the drug-related issues and policies, also maintaining bilateral relations with their Uzbek counterparts.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is highly committed and involved in providing training and coordination activities. In August 2011 from the part of DEA a study visit to the US for the Uzbek law enforcement officers was organized with the purpose of holding trainings in more effective identification of suspicious containers.

Department of Defense (DoD) together with CENTCOM provides assistance in border guards services and border post management.

The State Department *Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs* (INL) is dynamically cooperating with UNODC and OECD in sponsoring DDR (Drug Demand Reduction) trainings.

The most profound concern underlined by the US is the problem of withdrawal of the material cargo from Afghanistan after 2014, which can cause an uncontrollable flow of drug substances throughout Central Asia. To this extent, partnership and cooperation among all the Central Asian states and their border services become extremely important.

#### *5.4. Place and date of meetings of Mini-Dublin groups*

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2013 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting was chaired by the Italian Ambassador with the participation of representatives from a range of Mini Dublin Group member states and observers, namely Afghanistan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, EU Delegation, France, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, UK, USA, and Uzbekistan and representatives of UNODC, CADAP and OSCE.

#### *5.5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance*

In order to strengthen the capacities of the competent bodies and to achieve more productive outcomes from the efforts in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking and its negative consequences, the following proposals were submitted by Uzbekistan since previous meetings to the donor community:

- to provide additional funding for UNODC Project (F60) in order to establish additional training classes in the regions of Uzbekistan and enhance the capacity of existing classes in the academies;
- to strengthen technical capacities of special anti-drug units of NSS especially in mountainous, hardly accessible areas of Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Samarkand, Tashkent, Navoi regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan;
- to improve the existing drug prevention work by:
  - creating centers of medical and social rehabilitation of drug addicts;
  - supplying narcological institutions with the modern equipment for diagnosing.

#### *5.6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs*

##### Recommendations:

- It is necessary that the actions should have been undertaken at bilateral level by the single Dublin Group Member states and at multilateral level by UNODC, European Union, Russia, OSCE, etc. mutually complemented and reinforced one another, in order to avoid the overlapping of similar projects;

- the participants of the Mini-Dublin Group welcome the completion of the ratification process of the CARICC Agreement in all seven founding states in 2011 (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The CARICC, fully operational since March 2009 after the necessary number for ratification of the CARICC Agreement had been secured, can represent a platform for the exchange of information related to drug-trafficking and the coordination of joint operations involving all member states along so-called the “Northern route”. In order to bear the fruits of the current event, the donor countries should make every possible effort to put their experience and professionalism at disposal of CARICC. The running of practical courses and study tours, a focus on analysis, national and international coordination, and on conduct of investigations, in particular, should be considered as a priority;
  - drug demand reduction, including medical rehabilitation of drug addicts, were also indicated among the priorities that need continuous focus by donors;
  - donor countries should take further action, also in coordination, aimed at maintenance and sustainability of the equipment provided;
  - due to the limited international funding of counter-narcotics activities in Central Asian states, it seems indispensable to enhance training segment within law-enforcement agencies of Central Asian states, thus, enabling them to provide trainings and develop capacities of their officials in the field of counter-narcotics. External assistance, such as participation of foreign experts, may be provided in this regard. In particular, by rendering support and assistance to the Border Management Staff College in terms of providing foreign instructors for the training sessions and courses.
-