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COWEB 62**

NOTE

from:	Austrian Regional Chair of the Dublin Group (Co-Chair: Hungary)
to:	Dublin Group
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Subject:	Regional report on Western Balkans

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

In the first half of 2012 Mini-DG meetings took place in Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana, and Zagreb.

2. Regional recommendations

- Although strengthening the state level institutions showed some progress, **national strategies, action plans and legislation should be adopted and continued to be carefully implemented.** The regular assessment of these documents shall form the basis when adopting new ones.
- **Further strengthen the state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions, promote the rule of law, combat organized crime in general, and continue the judiciary and police reforms.** To develop better intelligence and information-sharing structures, create a better legislative framework for undercover operations, and achieve better coordination and cooperation of law enforcement agencies both regionally and internationally.

Integrated border management should be further enhanced and further joint operations should continue to be implemented.

- **Efforts and capacity on demand reduction measures need to be further increased in order to move forward towards achieving a balanced approach when addressing the drug problem.** Prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and resocialisation activities and services need additional resources to be invested. As it was recommended in 2011, cooperation with the civil society and NGOs needs to be further fostered.
- **Anti-corruptions-measures still need to be further intensified due to the presence of clientelism within and between the state and business spheres.**
- **The cooperation with international organisations should be further intensified.** Standardisation, extension and improvement of data collection need to be further developed at central level.
- **Efforts for preparation for the challenges posed by new trends in consumption (e.g. new synthetic drugs) are recommended to be initiated.**
- **Further technical and financial support is needed.** (E.g. trainings in preparing strategic documents and multilateral cooperation methods etc.).

Albania

Report by the Tirana Mini-Dublin Group for 1st half of 2012

1. General situation in the country

In 2011 Albania could achieve remarkable results in its constant fight against drug crimes and international drug business. Fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. Albania continues to achieve success with its program to reduce the production and flow of drugs and to ensure effective control of the borders. Measures for the modernization of equipments and increased training ensured new qualitative achievements in the standards of security and service. 2010 was the year of the development and implementation of a new National Strategy, a strategy which fully complies with common EU- standards compiled for the period 2009 to 2011.

Equally the Albanian Government still uphold the so called speed boat moratorium- a law which prevents Albanian citizens from possessing speed boats of a certain size, which could be used for drug-transfers to Italy- for another two years up to 2013, as the moratorium was renewed in 2011.

The new Inter-Institutional Centre in the port of Durres for an extended control of vessels on the sea is fully operating 24h a day and shows a state-of-the-art technology. With that equipment in cooperation with Italian authorities 2 smuggling attempts to Italy could be detected right in time in 2011.

With regard to plants cultivation and its successful detection local police forces instead of State Police Anti drug units are responsible for these tasks as from 2011. They are showing a far better knowledge of possible locations and have much better and closer contacts to local Government and Law Enforcement bodies in order to react more rapidly than in the past. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police has further improved during 2011 and MEMEX-information system is operating at all border crossing points now.

1.1. Legislation and coordination

The year 2010 was the last year included in the existing antidrug strategy, and a process has started for designing the new strategy. An inter-institutional working group that will prepare the draft-strategy is created with the Order of the Prime Minister No.125 date 9 June 2010. According to this order the new strategy must be in accordance with: the EU Acquis in the drug field; EU Strategy on drugs, 2005-2012; EU Action Plan on drugs, 2009 – 2012; Action Plan on drugs between EU and Western Balkan Countries, 2009 – 2012. (This process is led by Public Health Institute and the draft is finished and it will be presented soon to the Government for approval.)

Aiming at the improvement of institutional cooperation in the fight against narcotics, the Council of Ministers Decision No.299 dated 14.04.2011 “For the approval of the Regulation for the functioning of the National Committee for the Coordination of the Fight against Drugs, its Secretariat and of the Office of the National information System on Drugs” has been adopted. This Office in Albania is the official partner of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction - EMCDDA placed in Lisbon, Portugal.

During 2011 several agreements have been signed and drafted:

- Cooperation agreement with EULEX Mission (signed on 05.10.2011);
- Bilateral Agreement between EUROPOL and Albania, for the Interconnection of Computer Networks.(signed on 07.11.2011);

- Draft of revising the cooperation agreement with Germany;
- Also a “Cooperation Agreement on joint control of sea borders”, between the Border & Migration Department and the Italian Unit for the Sea Border Control of Guardia di Finanza, was signed on 14.02.2011

During the year 2011, the number of the Liaison Officers of the Ministry of Interior of Albania increased by two officers (one in USA and another in France). A special coordinator for the Foreign Liaison Officers that are present in Albania was appointed lately in the Police Cooperation Department.

In the framework of the Project “DET ILECU II”, the network of Heads of ILECU is established, a network which has given a new input to the cooperation in the region. In compliance with this network also the Manual of Regional Cooperation for Law Enforcement is being drafted.

Cooperation with EUROPOL has seen a significant progress. Aiming to initiate the negotiations in order to sign the Operational Cooperation Agreement with Europol, in June 2011, as it was foreseen in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Agreement with Europol, the audit visit from experts from Europol on protection of personal data in Albania was held and now the approval of the respective report is expected in order to start negotiations for the signing of the Operational Cooperation Agreement with Europol, an agreement which represents the highest level of cooperation with Europol for the Non-Member States of EU. By the end of June 2011, the installation of the secure links of communication with Europol was completed. Also in November 2011, the Conference “Europol and Albania - Networks of Intelligence” was organized where representatives from all the law enforcement agencies, as well as high level management experts from EUROPOL participated.

The installation of secure links of communication with Europol has increased significantly the number of requests for strategic information and data between Europol and Albania, but also has increased the number of requests for criminal information with the Liaison Offices of the European Union and with the Third Parties attached to Europol. The number of exchanged information during this year between Europol National Unit in the Directorate of Albanian State Police and Europol is 534, compared with 153 requests for information exchange during the year 2010.

During the year 2011 the arrest of 63 citizens aiming to extradite towards other countries was made possible, compared with 43 persons arrested during 2010. It is worth mentioning the fact that the implementation of the agreement of extradition with Italy has already started.

1.2. Strengthening of capacities

Further increase of the capacities of the specialised structures against narcotics has been managed through new equipment and technology, MEMEX licenses and trainings. Support of UNODC, EU, PAMECA and ICITAP continued with providing new equipment and trainings for counter-narcotics structures. Joint trainings with other law enforcement agencies like Customs and Prosecution Office have been conducted. TIMS and MEMEX system have been further extended, improving the process of the collection and the analysis of operational data in real time.

28 specialised trainings were conducted during 2011 for the antidrug units and other police forces, where 190 police officers were trained (150 officers from antidrug units; 4 officers from Criminal Assets Investigation Unit; 15 officers from Financial Crimes Investigation Unit; 21 officers of Special Operation Unit), also 4 physicians of Police Directorates and 5 prosecutors.

The following trainings are worth mentioning:

1. Training exercise on “controlled delivery” organised by OSCE-Kosovo, with participation of Albania, Montenegro, FYROM, Bulgaria, Turkey, Kosovo and Germany;
2. Training organised by ICITAP in Montenegro “Advanced undercover techniques” with participation of regional countries.
3. Training exercise within the framework of the Vienna Convention on “cross-border surveillance” in cooperation with Austria and FYROM.
4. Training for undercover agents in special operations within the framework of SOCA Twinning Project.
5. Regional Training on Early Warning System for New Drugs, organized by EU and EMCDDA in Tirana.

In April 2011, a Plan of Joint Trainings with the prosecution office and other law enforcement agencies was approved. In this framework, common trainings against drugs, with other law enforcement agencies were conducted.

During 2011, special attention has been paid to the growth of professional level and the performance of Border and Migration Police. In compliance with the Thematic Plan of the State Police Training for 2011 and also in cooperation with the ICITAP and PAMECA-III missions, Customs, Guardia di Finanzia, US Embassy in Tirana (EXBS programme), German Foundation Hans Siedel, etc, 60 trainings were organized where 1681 border and migration police employees were trained.

Some of the topics of the trainings were:

- Legal bases, Schengen standard procedures, second line control;
- Evaluation of Schengen standards;
- Struggle against illegal migration networks;
- Detection of the stolen/trafficked vehicles;
- Legal bases, entry-exit procedures and controlling of the persons and travel-documents for the vehicles at BCP;
- Recognition and usage of new vessels;
- Management of Border and Migration Police;
- Weapons of mass destruction;
- Specialized groups for taking and exchanging information;
- Tracking techniques at the green border, etc.

Regarding the strengthening of capacities in The Interagency Maritime Operational Centre, work has continued for the implementation and installation of Project “Radio Communication Network for IMOC”, a project part of the IPA 2009 program with a value of 420.000 euro financed by the European Union Delegation in Albania.

Through this system, communication will be possible according to security requirements of conducting law enforcement operations at sea. Also seven vessels for the surveillance of the blue border were delivered to the Border Police.

The Interagency Maritime Operational Centre in Durres, has shown great performance, where 2 drug-smuggling attempts to Italy during 2011 could be detected right in time and in cooperation with Italian authorities 2 tons of marijuana were seized (1.5 tons in Albania and 431 kg in Italy).

During 2011, with the financing of the European Union Delegation, 10 new buildings of BCP and 17 B&M Police stations were constructed. Control garages of the second line at the border crossing points were equipped with 15 computers. With the financing of the Albanian state the building of Pembroke Territorial Unit of Vlora was finished as well as the construction of the workshop of sailing equipments maintenance, and the training ambience of maritime border police. In the context of the EXBS program, American Embassy delivered equipments for the border police services, like projectors, clothes for the officers of vessels.

1.3. Police activities against trafficking of drugs

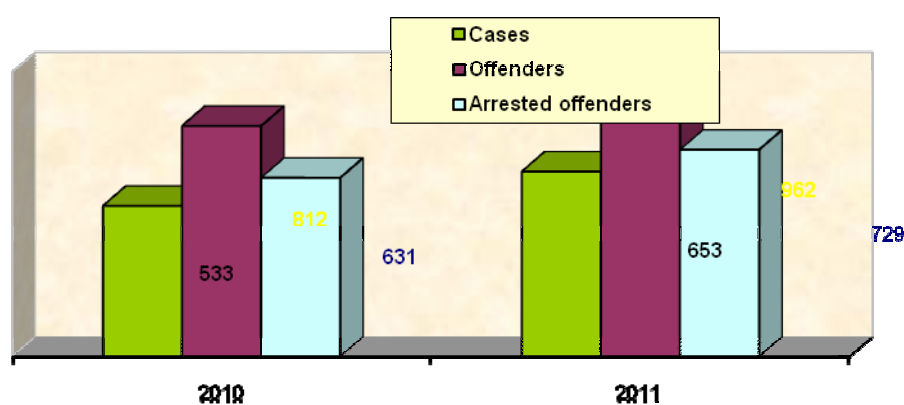
Good results in the suppression of heroin, cocaine and marijuana trafficking networks were achieved during 2011.

- 49 operations were conducted successfully using the special investigation means.
- 48 criminal groups of narcotic trafficking and distribution were dismantled and 216 members were arrested.
- This period also marked the intensification of the international cooperation. There have been conducted 29 international operations with 42 persons arrested in Albania. (16 with Italy; 4 with Germany; 2 with Switzerland; 1 with France; 1 with Belgium; 1 with Slovenia, 1 with Spain, 1 with USA, 1 with Kosovo and 1 with SELEC). It is worth mentioning, the operations of “controlled delivery” type, conducted in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies of Spain where considerable amounts of cocaine were seized. On this point we can also mention the operation “Old road” in cooperation with Swiss authorities where in three episodes 220 kg marijuana were seized and 10 persons were arrested; The operation “Due Torri Connection” with Italy where an important member of “Ndrangheta” organisation was arrested in Vlora, operation “Trio” coordinated by SELEC where 5 Balkan countries participated (Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia).

Statistic data of the Albanian State Police, Year 2011

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

Compared to 2010, the number of drug seizures increased by 22.5 %; the number of the offenders increased by 18.5 %; the number of the arrested offenders increased by 15.7 % and the number of the wanted offenders, decreased by 39.2 %.



According to the seizure of the narcotic substances an increase in the amount of Heroin (+38 %) and Marijuana (+5.4 %) is noticed and a decrease in the amount of Cocaine (-32.8 %).

1.4. Fight against cultivation of narcotic plants

With the intention to further prevent the cultivation of narcotic plants, the Minister of Interior approved the Action Plan no.624 date 11.03.2011 on the fight against narcotic plants cultivation which is being implemented.

This plan is based on best practices of cooperation and coordination with the other governmental institutions, stake-holders, NGOs, international police assistance missions accredited to the Albanian State Police, international organisations, local government structures and the community who in partnership will realise the major objectives set in the area of combating the drug trafficking against the cultivation of narcotic plants.

On 01.06.2011 the operational phase started where police forces based on information gathered and monitoring of the territory, with the use of helicopters, annihilated the discovered areas with narcotics plants. 33 monitoring operation were conducted during the operation phase. During 2011, the areas cultivated and production of cannabis further decreased. During this period, 89 cases of cannabis cultivation were noticed (-50 % compared to 2010, 178 cases) and 21267 cannabis plants were destroyed (-44 % compared to 2010, 37216 plants). Also 79 persons were preceded and 47 of them arrested, for cultivation of cannabis.

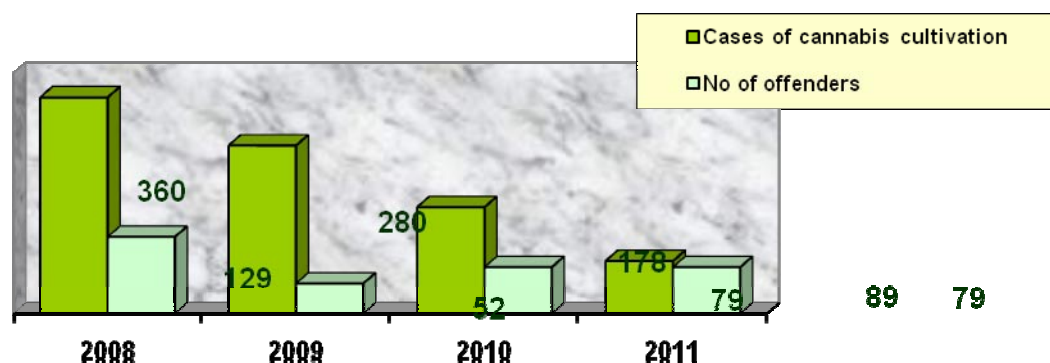
- 2 criminal groups of organising cannabis cultivation were destroyed and 9 members were arrested.
- 3 operations were conducted successfully using the Special investigation means.

In this regard Lazarat area still posing concerns although there were successful meetings with the mayor in 2011, who promised his cooperation with the anti drug units.

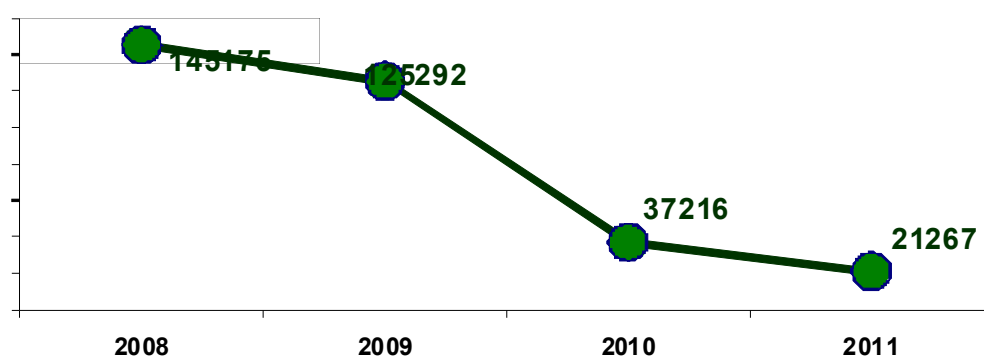
Statistic data on cultivation of narcotic, Year 2011

Type	No. Of Cases	Quantity	Persons penalty proceeded			
			Total	Arrested	In free situation	Wanted
Cannabis cultivation	89	21267 plants	79	47	19	13

**No of cases and no of offenders for cannabis cultivation
2008 - 2011**



No of cannabis plants destroyed 2008-2011



Current “trading” prices:

1 gram Heroin = 25 €, 1 kg Heroin = 10.000,- to 13.000 €, 1 kg Cocaine = 40.000 €, 1 g Cocaine = 60,- to 80,- €, 1 kg Marihuana = 300 €, One Marihuana cigarette = 1,3 €

1.5. Remarks

Austria shared concerns regarding the increasing number of illegal border crossings from the direction of Greece, as these indictable offenses mainly connected to drug smuggling as well. Concerns were highlighted regarding Lazarat – area where the situation slightly improved, but still gives reason for concern. More effective steps were urged from the antidrug units and a closer cooperation with the mayor and the landowners.

Greece shared fresh bilateral statistic data from the Greek police: Cases with drugs from Albania to Greece: 76. Number of arrested persons: 149 (94 of them were Albanian citizens). The quantities of drugs that were seized: heroin – 5 kilos and 684 grams, cocaine – 406 grams, raw cannabis – 8 tons 174 kilos and 687 grams.

PAMECA / ICITAP adds that it had successfully organized various 3 weeks long training opportunities for Albanian Law Enforcement officers together with FBI experts. The co-operation between customs and police among the neighbouring countries is further improving while comprehensive intelligence sharing among all kinds of police forces as well as increased common patrols will be a key issue for the future. Basic trainings continuing in the second half of 2012, such as the drug awareness program implementation in the Albanian schools in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Health.

Hungary raised a question to the Albanian State Police representative regarding the possible revision or suspension of the so-called speed boat moratorium as the touristic season approaches.

Albania in the answer stressed, there is no such agenda ahead of the Albanian government, as this law prevents the Albanian citizens from possessing speed boats of a certain size, which could be used for drug-transfers to Italy. The law is still in force up to 2013.

2. Tirana Mini-Dublin Group's recommendations for 2012

- Further efforts should be taken to the prevention by increasing the dynamics of the antidrug campaigns by the Police and respective Albanian Institutions.
- The earlier adopted strategy to let local police authorities control and prevent narcotic plant sites inside Albania should be under specified observation and analysis in order to prevent possible corruption and mismanagement.
- The Cannabis cultivations of Lazarat will remain an issue of concern even in future. Further measures are needed to limit drug production there and find alternative economical solutions for its inhabitants are of ongoing importance. Cultivation of crop alternatives should continuously be promoted to rural people.
- Border police activity- even along the “green border” towards Greece should be monitored more closely further on as a key element of the overall security screen. Further training courses should be organized for matching better border management capacities.

- Albania's efforts together with the continuing assistance of the International Community undoubtedly are showing progress in the ongoing fight against drug production and drug trafficking. However further intensive training activities as well as increased financial means for sophisticated technical devices are regarded as being necessary.
- According to various sources corruption still remains a major concern in Albania; special attention should be given to this problem even during 2012.

In order to strengthen the dialogue between the International Community and the Government of Albania, the recommendations contained in this report will be made available also to the relevant authorities.

<p style="text-align: center;">Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Country Report by the mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo 2012</p>
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Following written consultations, the first meeting of the mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo in 2012 took place on 12th of March 2012 at the premises of the EU Delegation in order to finalize the attached Country Report. The meeting and the consultations were chaired and coordinated by the Embassy of Hungary and co-chaired by the Embassy of Austria. The drafting of the report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the EU Delegation and the French Embassy.

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is an area of particular interest regarding illegal activities related mainly to the trafficking of drugs due to its geographic position at the crossroads of South-eastern and Western Europe. Illegal activities related to drugs are one of the most widespread forms of organized crime in the country. BiH is not, however, a hot spot in terms of production of drugs or demand related issues. Contrary to the expectations of the international community organized crime is increasing in the whole region of the Western Balkans, especially when it comes to the trafficking activities.

Similarly, little progress was made in the fight against drug trafficking in BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a transit country for international trafficking of narcotics. Organized crime groups linked with drug trafficking continued to operate through its territory. Local illicit drug consumption remained relatively low compared with other European countries. It was also noted in all the reports analyzed that arms traffic and drugs are very often mixed, and there is an evident connection between these two forms of trafficking. Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an early stage of addressing the fight against organized crime. Effective, sustainable and institutionalized mechanisms for cooperation between different law enforcement agencies are missing as well as strategic coordination.

The number of drug users in BiH appears to be increasing, especially among the younger population, but still remains low in comparison to other European countries. It is estimated that there are 7,500 injecting drug users (IDUs) in BiH which represents approximately 0,3% of the population aged 15-64. Surveys suggest that the average age of IDUs is about 30 years, around 91% of them are male and the vast majority inject heroin. One third of surveyed IDUs reported needle sharing within the last month. A positive trend has been observed in increasing safe injecting practices, safe sexual behavior and more contact with harm reducing services. Various law enforcement agencies reported a total 1300 drug law offences in BiH in 2010. Between 30% and 70% of prisoners are estimated to be dependent on drugs. Local authorities believe that the market for designer drugs, especially ecstasy, in urban areas is rising. BiH is not a significant narcotics cultivator. It is generally assumed that domestic cultivation is limited to small-scale marijuana crops grown in southern and western BiH (mainly around Trebinje and Bihac). BiH is also not a major synthetic narcotics producer and refinement and production are negligible. When authorities locate small marijuana growing operations, these finds are highlighting in media and then destroyed.

BiH is considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipment. As its neighbors, Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by trafficking on the Balkan route, linking production sites in Afghanistan via Turkey with the main European markets. One of the sub routes goes through Bulgaria, Romania and FYROM to Kosovo, then through the Serbian and Montenegrin "Sandzak" to BiH, and further on to Croatia and Slovenia. Marijuana is usually transported from western FYROM, Albania and Kosovo over to Montenegro to southern BiH. It was observed that cocaine traffickers from South-America use ports in Greece, Montenegro and Croatia, and there are already well-established land routes, partly through BiH and further to Western Europe.

BiH has similar problems as other countries on the “Balkan route” and is a transit country for synthetic drugs and cocaine from the West, and heroin and cannabis from the East. The only drug produced in BiH is cannabis with increasing indoor cultivation of genetically modified potent strains of the cannabis plant. 26,5% kg of heroin, 1,5 kg each of cocaine and amphetamine and 465,6kgs of herbal cannabis were seized in 2010 as well as 16 500 ecstasy tablets and 7 800 cannabis plants.

Street prices are. 15-25 EUR for one gram of heroin, 2,5-5 EUR for one gram of herbal cannabis, 50-75 EUR for one gram of cocaine and 1,5-2,5 EUR for one tablet of ecstasy.

There are indications that drugs are stored in locations in BiH, mainly marijuana and heroin, until they can be shipped out to destinations further along the Balkan Route.

In BiH recently, the most frequent narcotic drug has been skunk, genetically modified potent marijuana. Operative findings suggest that this type of narcotic drug arrives into BiH from Albania via Montenegro to Herzegovina and is then transported on to Western Europe.

In addition, there is an increasing evidence of indoor cultivation of genetically modified skunk in BiH in illegal laboratories that are equipped with sophisticated equipment.

As to the purity, in general, heroin is of poor quality, diluted usually with paracetamol and caffeine. Lactose is also the most common additive in ecstasy. Cocaine is commonly cut by lidocaine. However, during an operation in Sarajevo in March 2010, the SIPA seized about one kilogram of cocaine-hydrochloride with high purity and without any additives. This may indicate a difference between wholesale and street quality of drugs.

Drug trafficking in the Federation seems to be mainly controlled by groups originating from Sandzak (Montenegro and Serbia) and Kosovo. Traffickers have capitalized in particular on an ineffective and fragmented justice system, public sector corruption, a fragmented police structure (there are 11 police agencies in the Federation alone), and the lack of specialized equipment and training.

Law enforcement authorities postulate that persons from all ethnic groups and constituent peoples are involved in the narcotics trade, often collaborating across ethnic lines. In the past, violent incidents and killing of some notorious persons linked to organized crime provide evidence of conflict and tensions among BiH criminal groups and possibly with groups from abroad. However, these incidents have also provided useful leads, resulting in arrests of key figures in the drug trade. Regarding 2011 the situation was considerably quieter.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains at the early stage in the fight against drug trafficking, as well as in taking effective action on reducing drug demand. Without the establishment of the Drug Office, the institutional capacity to coordinate and systematically implement the policy framework remains weak. The performance of law enforcement agencies in the fight against drug trafficking is still uneven across the country.

1.1. Legal framework - administrative capacity

Law enforcement agencies improved cooperation with countries in the region, resulting in a better and quicker flow of information. Bosnia and Herzegovina further improved international cooperation and reported regularly to the International Narcotics Control Board. However, reporting to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in line with the required standards remains a problem.

The database on perpetrators of drug-related offences improved with the aid of new equipment. State-level law enforcement agencies and Federal Police administration are using it and Cantons were also connected. Republika Srpska (one of the two constituting entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina) is not connected to the database. A drug-users database integrating existing registries at rehabilitation centers is established in Republika Srpska.

Individual law enforcement Agencies are showing improved capability to identify and disrupt organized drug trafficking operations. In the first half of 2011 there have been a number of successful operations some of which show an improved ability for joint working both between the levels of law enforcement within BiH and also regionally on an international level in the field of narcotics control and information collection and exchange. However, the figures for seizure still remain poor. Further efforts are still needed regarding an effective judicial follow-up as well as to improve joint investigation, coordination and cooperation. The establishment of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies was a landmark in such progress in 2010 and continued political and administrative support for establishment of its full operational capacity during 2011-2012 should be vital to improving such capability in the future, allowing the activities of the Directorate not to be focused on the international aspects of coordination only. This means also that the increase of financial support for the Directorate would be desirable.

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

The main state-level law concerning illicit drugs is the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs which came into force in 2006. The possession of drugs for personal use is not allowed in BiH.

The draft law on amendments to the Law on Prevention and Suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs was adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2011, but still awaits its approval by the parliament.

The main changes envisaged in the draft law would be:

- Clear division of responsibilities among the bodies involved in supervision of production and trade of narcotic drugs and prosecutors in BiH;
- Clarification of procedures for the destruction of seized drugs;
- Introduction of the requirement for autopsy and toxicological analyses of the post mortem biological samples in all cases of suspected or obvious drug related deaths;
- Creation of register of drug related deaths in the Ministry of Civil Affairs;
- **Establishment of the Office for Drugs**, professional multidisciplinary team of experts responsible for the coordination and supervision of all activities envisaged under the National Strategy of Supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs in BiH for period 2009-2013 and its action plan, especially in the field of prevention, medical treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, training, statistics and research as well as evaluation of interventions.

The decentralization of the police and judiciary, poses particular challenges to the ability of central institutions of BiH to implement a coherent security policy. In face of these challenges, however, there has been steady progress in reforming and stabilizing the crime fighting system by consolidating state institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, Border Police (BP), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Intelligence Security Agency (OSA), the Service for Foreigner's Affairs, the Office of the BiH Prosecutor, and the State Court. Reported initiatives of RS authorities questioning the competence and legal basis of the BiH Prosecutor's Office and State Court would, however, undermine previous achievements in setting up and consolidating the state level judiciary.

1.1.1. Legislation

After almost one and a half year following the general elections of 3th of October 2010 a new Council of Ministers was formed in February 2012, there is hope for the adoption of new legislation and the amendment of existing legislation in this field.

Legislation in place:

- *Law for Control of Production and Trafficking of Drugs and Psychotropic-Substances*
- *Law for Control of Legal Drugs*
- *Law for File Records in Health*
- *Law on Prevention and Suppression of Drugs (BiH Official Gazette no. 8-60), which came into effect on February 15, 2006*
- *National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013*
- *State Action Plan for the Fight against the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013*

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

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

1.1.2. Institutions - organisation and cooperation

Many BiH institutions are engaged in the fight against drugs, namely the police authorities (entity Ministries of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security of BiH and the Brcko District Police Service), the Judiciary (Ministries of Justice at all levels-state, entity and cantonal and in Brcko District), the indirect Taxation Authority of BiH (BiH Council of Ministers), the Ministry of Health (on entity and local level) and the entity Ministries of Culture and Education. Non-governmental organisations are engaged as well, both directly and indirectly.

New systems and processes required for the effective sharing and collection of intelligence between agencies are being developed. The cooperation between agencies needed to disrupt organized criminal networks involved in drug trafficking is insufficient and would require further regulation, or at least, more political will for better coordination and cooperation. Representatives from RS Interior Ministry and police have opted to avoid participating in regular coordination meetings (Police Directors Board Meeting) with their counterparts from Federation and state Ministries of Interior and Security as well as with Federation and state police and security agencies.

During the reporting period, the Directorate for coordination of police bodies (DPC) was regularly reinforced. This allowed the DPC to recruit high-ranking police officers from other police agencies. The DPC incorporated the Office for Cooperation with Interpol and took over the Department for protection of people and buildings, which was previously under the State Protection and investigation Agency (SIPA). The rulebook of the Directorate for coordination of police bodies was also adopted. The independent board that supervises the police has been established and is operational. The Directorate received the responsibility and staff for international police cooperation (including Europol and Interpol) and VIP protection. The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies is responsible for communication, cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies, including the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs.

At the same time, institutions created by the police reform laws were established at a slow pace. The lack of institutionalized cooperation between all law enforcement agencies and the limited strategic guidance hinder the achieving of more efficient policing.

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

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

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

The existence of many police and security agencies in BiH, and the resulting problem of coordination often result in unbalanced cooperation and sometimes even rivalry between the individual police agencies in BiH. However, the police agencies in BiH have carried out several joint international operations in combating illicit drug trafficking, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies of Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy and Austria. Although significant results were achieved in 2011, a similar trend in drug trafficking and its counteracting can be predicted and especially on wider regional level an increase in activities related to organized crime can be expected.

In 2011 coordination between the different enforcement agencies remained on a case-by-case basis. Effective judicial follow-up and deterrent policy on crime are missing. The rulebook on safekeeping and destruction of seized narcotic drugs, agreed between the Entities, Brcko District and State – level law enforcement agencies, was not adopted because of financial constraints. Large amounts of illicit substances confiscated since the Law on prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs was adopted are still awaiting destruction. (The Council of Ministers established the Commission of the Destruction of Narcotic Drugs, which is supposed to draft the guidelines for storing and destroying seized drugs. The rulebook has been adopted but the commission is not operational at present). The issue of a safe destruction of drugs still remains a challenge for BiH.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of an international law enforcement coordination unit signed between the Directorate for coordination of police bodies (DPC) the State Protection and Investigation Agency (SIPA), the border police, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, the Federation Police Administration, the Brcko District Police and the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) remains to be implemented.

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

The level of implementation of the strategy and action plan for the prevention and suppression of drug abuse remained very low. A mechanism for coordination and implementation is missing, since the State-level Office for Drugs provided for in the strategy and action plan have still not been established. Amendments to the Law on prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs, which establish the State-level Office for Drugs and improve control over precursors, remain to be adopted by the Parliament. (The State Strategy for control and combating abuse of Drugs was adopted by the BiH Parliament on the 26th of March 2009. This includes provision for the establishment of the State level Office for Narcotics. The accompanying action plan for its implementation has been adopted by the Council of Ministers).

The national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in BiH for the period 2009-2013 is the first ever drug strategy in BiH. (see above 1.1.2 Institutions and next page).

Total expenditure of drug policy has not yet been estimated, however the annual cost of drug related treatment, social rehabilitation and harm reduction at the state level has been approximately estimated at 18 million BAM (9,2 million EUR).

The National Drug Strategy 2009-2013 sets priorities of the fight against drugs, through the general objectives:

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

By the end of 2010, the commission of the suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs prepared an evaluation report on the implementation of the action plan which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 2011. In this report the Commission noted that the action plan should emphasize the following:

- Council of Ministers will encourage governments of the entities and Brcko district to increase the planned level of resources for combating drug abuse in their budgets,
- for subsequent evaluation of the action plan, a working group for evaluation should be established,
- more substantial implementation of the action plan in the present system is required,
- necessary steps should be taken as soon as possible to adopt the draft law on amendments to the law on prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs, and establish the Office for Drugs at the state level.

However, the adoption of amendments to the Law on prevention and suppression of abuse of narcotic drugs is still pending.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has improved its cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board. Implementation of the action plan for the prevention and suppression of drug abuse is not very advanced. The overall institutional situation of the country does not facilitate the establishment of the coordination mechanism and the implementation of the measures announced in the national action plan on drugs. Specific budgetary allocation for data collection would facilitate the implementation of the strategy.

In BiH there are two methadone therapy centers with a combined capacity of about 160 patients. The limited capacity of the country's psychiatric clinics, also charged with treating drug addicts, is problematic, as the number of addicts and drug-related deaths in the country is rising steadily.

Social rehabilitation programs for drug users are conducted of the period of 1-3 years in therapeutic communities based on occupational therapy with the final aim of social reintegration. There are 11 therapeutic communities in BiH, some operated by religious communities, others by NGOs, and one governmental (campus Rakovica-Sarajevo). There are 3 therapeutic communities for female users (Aleksandrovac, Banja Luka, Majcino Selo, Medugorje).

Addiction treatment within the health system is available for 8 specialized centers, a network of nearly 60 community mental health centers and also from general practitioners. In addition there are 11 rehabilitation centers which follow the principles of therapeutic communities.

Medical treatment is available in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The average age of the patients was nearly 30 years, 92% were male and the primary substance was predominantly opiates followed by cannabis.

3. List of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

Organized crime networks continue to operate throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and have a negative impact on political structures and the economy. A number of large-scaled operations were nevertheless successfully conducted, thanks to the cooperation amongst different law enforcement agencies. Implementation of the strategy for the fight against organized crime continued. However, lack of adequate resources limits its effectiveness. There was a slight increase in special investigative measures.

Legal and institutional obstacles to more systematic use started to be addressed. The Council of Ministers adopted a decision allowing the establishment of a network of police liaison officers in neighboring countries, with Europol and in some EU countries. The aim of this network is to improve international cooperation and exchanges of information on fighting transnational organized crime.

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

Cooperation with other countries is established and materialized through INTERPOL, SELEC Centre, and an agreement among BiH, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro.

A road map for an operational agreement was submitted to Europol for assessment. The communication link with Europol is not yet operational. Furthermore, local police offices in border regions have conducted their own engagement and established means of cooperation with their counterparts of the other side of the border, thus BiH law enforcement agencies have contributed to the continued improvement of bilateral and regional efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking in 2010 and 2011.

Due to the decentralized character and the existence of a large number of law enforcement agencies, the data collection system on police arrests for drug crime is not integrated at the state level.

In **2011**, statistics for entities published display the following information:

For RS, 219 criminal offences were disclosed of illegal manufacture and trafficking in narcotics, that is 6 criminal offences or 2.9% more than in comparative period. Having established reasonable doubt to have committed these criminal offences, 193 reports were submitted against 329 individuals. The number of submitted reports is 0.5% higher, while the number of reported individuals is 16.3% lower.

For FMUP, 380 individuals have been committed for 321 offences of illegal and trafficking in narcotics. 683 individuals have been committed for 679 offences for use of drugs.

Seizures for entities have been reported as below for 2011:

Type de drogue	RS	FBIH	PAF	SIPA
Heroin	773.57 gr.	6 kg. 4	32 kg.	2 kg.
Cocaine	193 gr.	42.2 gr.	5 gr.	?
Marihuana	213 kg 83 gr.	143 kg. 98 gr.	18 kg.	?
Hashish	10 gr.	5 gr.	2.2 gr.	?
Amphetamines	791.44 gr.	4 kg.	?	?
Cannabis stems	2162 items	4554 items	474	?
Skunk	?	?	47 kg.	18 kg.
Ecstasy	?	?	?	974 pills
Cannabis seeds	6925 items	8094 seeds	74	?

International cooperation

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

Since 2007 the **Austrian** Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Interior of RS are cooperating in fighting illegal drug trafficking, including advanced investigation techniques. In February 2011, a new twinning project led by Austria was started with the aim to support the strategy implementation and the action plan for integrated border management in BiH.

Hungary has implemented a twinning project to support the BiH Border Police. The purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the BiH Border Police to combat organized cross-border crime efficiently, through an exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices, with a focus on improving information management.

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

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

Italy continues to follow closely both at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In December 2011 the Italian Ministry of Interior (Central Directorate for Antidrug Service and Police cooperation Service), along with BiH Ministry of Security, organized the 2nd training course on fight against drugs for representative of the various police bodies (Entity and State levels), focusing on special investigation techniques. For the same purpose, a 5-days visit study to the Italian Central Directorate for Anti-drug Services has been planned in 2012.

France is closely following, at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In September 2011, the French Ministry of Interior (Central Directorate for Antidrug Service from Paris Police), along with BiH Ministry of Security, organized a 5-days training course on the fight against drugs for representatives of the various police bodies (Entities, State levels and Brcko District). For 2012, France plans operational and technical cooperation on different topics. At first, a dog training for searching drugs, secondly an action on money laundering from drug trafficking, then a visit in the French police directions of the anti drug offices and finally, as a prevention programme for youth, a presentation of different types of drugs will be organized.

Slovenia has signed a bilateral agreement on police cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, but there were no activities connected with drug related issues carried out on the basis of the agreement during the reporting period.

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

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

The U.S. Government's bilateral law enforcement assistance program continues to emphasize task force training, improved cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, and other measures against organized crime, including narcotics trafficking. The U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) program, funded by the U.S. State Department, provided specific counternarcotics training to entity Interior Ministries, SIPA and BP. The USG Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) program provides equipment and training to law enforcement agencies including the BP and Indirect Taxation Administration (ITA), which has increased their ability to detect and interdict contraband, including narcotics. The U.S. Department of Justice's Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance Training (OPDAT) program provides training to judges and prosecutors on organized crime-related matters for state, entity and district prosecutors, judges and also law enforcement officers. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in Rome maintains liaison with its counterparts in Bosnian state – and entity – level law enforcement organisations. The DEA has also sponsored specific narcotic interdiction training courses in Bosnia. The U.S. Department of Defense also assisted by providing counternarcotics equipment for border police through the U.S. European Command. In addition, law enforcement officials from Bosnia attended regional training courses offered by the U.S. Coast Guard on small boat operations and maintenance.

4. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

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

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

5. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs

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

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

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

Though some progress has been made on operational cooperation between the many law enforcement agencies within BiH in the fight against organized crime (including sharing of intelligence and joint action, formal coordination and exchange of information), particularly sharing the of intelligence remains weak. A coordination mechanism has been set up between police directors, the Chief Prosecutor and the Ministry of Security; however that mechanism needs to be further strengthened. Results of police operations have not been adequately converted into successful prosecutions and convictions. The State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) has reached a staffing level of 70 %.

Not enough qualified candidates could be found to fill all the vacancies. The laws on the SIPA and border police were brought into line with the new police reform laws. The need for full implementation of the National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues.

During the reporting period in 2011 and in the first quarter of 2012 the institution of BiH have been subject to temporary financing rules due to the delayed adoption of the state budget for 2011a and its outstanding adoption for 2012.

The recent period has seen a trend of especially the Republika Srpska withholding support to state level institutions. Whereas this does not affect the urgency of identified priorities and needs assessed as such, it may influence the pace and feasibility of activities aimed at strengthening state level institutions and could call for creative approaches.

It is worth stressing again that the issue of drug destruction becomes a source of growing concern both for the BiH authorities and foreign experts. The rule book being in place the potential assistance should focus on the destruction process itself and the share of related experience with the BiH experts.

Croatia

Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Zagreb

1. General situation

Croatia is facing the problem of drug use as well as organized international drug smuggling. Due to its geographical position, Croatia is a corridor between Eastern and Western Europe, which results in a large flow of goods and passengers. The so-called “Balkan Route” is the most important route for drug smuggling from Eastern to Western Europe. This route is the shortest road distance between producing countries and the EU illegal drug market. In the last years the “Balkan route” has been used not only for heroin smuggling but also for smuggling of cocaine, amphetamines and precursors.

1.1. Production data

There are no significant drug production cases in Croatia. Only several cases of organized marihuana cultivation and some cases of intensive indoor cultivation by smaller criminal groups were noted.

1.2. Statistical data of the drug related crimes

During the year 2011 altogether 7.767 criminal offences related to abuse and trafficking of drugs were reported. In 2010 7.784 cases were reported (decrease: 0,22%). 5.715 persons have been reported under Section 173 Criminal Code (2010: 5.423; increase: 5,38 %) and 6.342 seizures of all kinds of drugs have been realized (2010: 5.982; increase: 6,02 %), in the following amounts (seizures during the 2011):

cocaine: 4 kg 394 g

heroin: 33 kg 155 g

hashish: 2 kg 712 g

amphetamine: 23 kg 40 g

ecstasy: 3 149 tablets

LSD: 778 doses

Marihuana: 395 kg 981 g

1.3. Seized quantities of drugs by year from 2009 to 2011

TOTAL SEIZED NARCOTIC DRUGS OF ALL TYPES	2009	2010	2011
HEROIN (grams)	59 kg 8 g	97 kg 927 g	33 kg 155 g
HASHISH (grams)	112 kg 945 g	3 kg 412 g	2 kg 712 g
MARIHUANA (grams)	445 kg 103 g	421 kg 754 g	395 kg 981 g
COCAINE (grams)	6 kg 713 g	14 kg 777 g	4 kg 394 g
AMPHETAMIN (grams)	12 kg 766 g	6 kg 190 g	23 kg 40 g
HEPTANON-METHADONE (tablets)	4.070	3.449	5.586

Relevant seized drug cases

On August 03 2011 Police officers in Istria discovered 20 kg 680 gram marihuana in a truck and arrested one Croatian citizen.

On August 07 2011 a Police officer at the international road border control in Zaton Doli inspected a car with Bosnia and Herzegovina national license plates, which was used by a Croatian citizen and found 480 doses of LSD.

On October 07 2011 a police officer investigated another three Croatian and one Bulgarian citizen and during the search of apartments and cars in total 27 kg 461 gram of heroin and 45 kg 82 gram material for cutting heroin, plastic bags and other equipment were found and seized.

On December 06 2011 police officers in the IBCP Tovarnik found and sized 27 kg 664 g marijuana in one truck with Serbian license plates. One Serbian citizen was arrested.

On December 23 2011 In Zagreb airport during the search of one bag from one Croatian citizen 984 g cocaine was found and seized.

1.4. Origin of the drugs on the Croatian market, trafficking routes

Marijuana on the Croatian market originates from Albania and is smuggled by organized criminal groups through Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina into Croatia and further on towards Western Europe (so-called “Balkan Route”).

The global trend of hyper-production of cocaine in certain countries of South America and the re-direction of the routes used for smuggling cocaine towards the unsaturated European market is noticed at Croatia’s “blue border” by various forms of smuggling cocaine by using container traffic, sailing boats, bulk carriers, so-called “cruisers” etc. A new trend of smuggling of cocaine by private air planes has been detected lately.

2. Anti-drug strategy, institutional changes, new legislative measures, developments

In the period from May 2011 until February 2012, work of the Office for Combating Drug Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia (Office) was aimed at regular monitoring of implementation of strategic documents and further development of legal and institutional frameworks of national policy for combating drug-related problems in the Republic of Croatia.

On February 3 2011 the List of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Plants from which drugs can be produced has been updated and a total of 20 new drugs/substances added, i.e. synthetic cannaboides, so called Spice products, as well as derivates from amphetamines, pyrovalerone and cantinone. Regarding the Spice derivates, new forms that have been seized on the territory of the Republic of Croatia have been added to the list, as other European countries had done it before.

In July 2011, Croatian Parliament adopted the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Suppression of Drugs Abuse (OG 84/11) which enabled to adequately transfer into legislation of the Republic of Croatia the decision of Executive Committee from 22nd December 1994 on introduction of unique forms for all countries of the Schengen zone, which authorized medical doctor issues to a person travelling to any country in Schengen zone with a medicine containing drugs in the amount necessary for personal use, in the duration of maximum 30 days. Additionally, legal proposition is streamlined with the Council Decision (2001/419/JHA) from 28th May 2001, on regulating exchange and transfer of drug samples between Member States of the EU for the purpose of exchange of information about analyzed samples. In this respect, Ministry of Interior is assigned as National Contact Point for transfer and analysis of drug samples.

In order to improve reporting to European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), on 2nd May 2011, first national survey on use of drugs and other addictive substances in general population of the Republic of Croatia was initiated. Survey was conducted on sample of 4800 people and is entirely harmonized with EMCDDA guidelines, in order to enable comparison of research results at the EU level. Member States of the EU are recommended to conduct such surveys every four years, since they represent one of five key epidemiologic indicators which EMCDDA bases its work on. Financing for survey was provided by the Office, former Ministry of Health and Social Care and EMCDDA. Social Science Institute „Ivo Pilar“ has conducted the survey and final report on survey results will be available in the beginning of March 2012.

To get a better insight of structure and characteristics of drug market in Croatia, the Office has initiated and co-financed a survey among users of harm reduction programs, conducted by Criminology Department of Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb, in cooperation with Croatian Red Cross and NGOs Terra, LET, HELP and Institute.

Survey was conducted on sample of 622 people from different parts of the country. Apart from use, availability, prices and reasons for taking illegal drugs, prevalence of new psychoactive substances in Croatia was also surveyed. Data gathered through the research are used for comparison with the information from Ministry of the Interior in order to gain detailed insight into illegal drugs market, using analysis of all available information, results of which could be used for planning of adequate measures. Survey results were published in June 2011.

In November 2011, in cooperation with Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of Zagreb University, a first pilot survey of availability and types of new psychoactive drugs was conducted in order to gather relevant information for efficient functioning of national Early Warning System of New Psychoactive Substances. This was an on-line survey, conducted on the biggest forum in Croatia (Forum.hr), including over 1000 people. Report on results of the survey was published in January 2012.

In the context of adaptation of Croatian system to the European standards and receiving information on all demand reduction programs implemented in Croatia, in 2011, the Office has initiated setting up of the Database for Programs on Combating Drug Abuse in the Republic of Croatia. The database contains fields of prevention, treatment, harm reduction programs, social reintegration and best practice examples. It has become active in February 2012, and will begin to gather information from implementers of different projects in spring 2012. The goal of the database is to receive information about all the demand reduction activities that are being implemented on all levels in Croatia, as well as raising the level of program and project quality. Efficient programs will receive a quality certificate by which the EMCDDA and the Office guarantee their efficiency and quality, and which will provide priority for national and regional (local) administration funding. Evaluated programs that are shown to be successful will be nominated as Croatian examples of best practice to the EMCDDA's Best Practice Portal, but which will also be promoted as such at national level. For the purpose of presentation of mentioned Database as well as promotion of evaluation, regional workshops in cooperation with the EMCDDA were organized in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek, in the period from 23rd until 26th May 2011.

During October 2011 the Croatian Parliament has adopted a new Penal Code which is fully compliant with the EU Acquis, which will be implemented in the beginning of 2013.

At the beginning of October 2011, the Office has officially delivered the fifth national Report on Drug Situation in the Republic of Croatia (2010 data) to the EMCDDA.

Since the National Strategy on Combating Drug Abuse 2006-2012 was valid until 31st December 2011, in May 2011, the Office has initiated preparations for drafting of new National Strategy on Combating Drug Abuse for the period 2012-2017. With aim to produce even better strategy, the Office has together with experts from the Dutch Mental Health and Addiction Institute – Trimbos, and with support of the European Commission's TAIEX Unit (TAIEX program) as well as the EMCDDA's horizontal IPA3 project, conducted evaluation of the National Strategy 2006-2012. The goal of evaluation was to implement objective analysis of National Strategy measures, based on scientific principles, to find out in what capacity the aims presented in the Strategy were met and which results were accomplished in activity implementation in the field of individual priorities of the National Strategy. Results of the evaluation were presented in special Report on Evaluation Implementation, which was published in November 2011, and which provided basis for defining priorities of the National Strategy on Combating Drug Abuse for the period 2012-2017.

In September 2011, a TAIEX seminar was held in Split, during which a multidisciplinary expert working group discussed initial draft of new National Strategy and was introduced to examples of good practice of EU Member States in strategic planning in the field of drugs. Pertaining to previously mentioned basic strategic document, the Action Plan on Combating Drug Abuse in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2012-2014 was drafted, as well as the Action Plan on National Drug Information System 2012-2013. In January 2012, final drafts of the mentioned documents were sent for official response to responsible state bodies, in order to initiate adoption procedure by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Parliament, after adoption State Budget of the Republic of Croatia for 2012.

In March 2011 three additional police officers have been allocated to the Drugs Department in the Ministry of the Interior. Additionally, due to reorganisations, the staff of the regional offices of the Police National Office for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime have also been increased.

From July 2011 Guidelines regarding the cooperation between police and customs (also in cases of drugs crimes) are put in force.

3. International cooperation

Not only due to its strategically important geographical position, Croatia is an active and highly respected partner in many international operations and projects. The most important projects are as follows.

3.1. IPA

The European Union IPA 2007 Twinning project „Strengthening capacities of the Ministry of Interior in combating drugs trafficking and drug abuse“, is implemented by the Republic of Austria in cooperation with several Croatian institutions under the leadership of the Croatian Ministry of Interior.

The project's first component is related to the Toxicology department of the Forensic Science Centre. The second component focuses on the Criminal police. The project was completed in July 2011.

3.2. Policing the Western Balkans

The Austrian Ministry of Interior carries out the project “Drug Policing the Western Balkans” combating organized drug crime along the Balkan Route. Croatia hosted a follow-up conference in Zadar, which bore such good results that the project was prolonged for three further years “Drug Policing the Western Balkans – Advanced 2009-2012”.

Primary activities are:

- to set up a contact network along the Balkan Route
- to conduct joint targeted operations and investigations
- to set up Joint Investigation Teams (JIT).

3.3. BESA

“BESA” was founded by the General Secretariat of Interpol with the support and sponsorship of SEPCA (Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association) in which Croatia participates since its beginning in December 2009.

The foreseen duration of this project was two years, until December 2011, with the possibility of extension.

Besides the permanent members of SEPICA (Republic of Croatia, Serbian Republic, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, FYROM, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Albania) representatives of Turkey and the U.S. (FBI) also participate as associate members.

The aim of the project is to conduct joint operational activities against detected international criminal smuggling organisations and to create a network of police officers for initiating, planning, organizing and conducting joint operations against major criminal organisations in the region of South-East Europe. Countries are obliged to actively participate in monthly meetings that are held in all participating countries, nominate operational actions that are focused on significant leaders of the organized crime and exchange operational information and information about new forms of crime and to respect the administrative mode of communication via Interpol's I-24/7 etc.

3.4. International Drug Enforcement Conference

On 4-7 April 2011 the 28th International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) took place in Cancun, Mexico with participants from 104 countries present. IDEC has become a global forum that provides an opportunity for senior drug law enforcement officials to meet, deliberate and determine the most effective strategies to attack and defeat criminal drug trafficking organisations. This year DEA offered the post of the Secretary of the meeting to the Republic of Croatia, as appreciation for good cooperation and work as a reliable and trustworthy partner.

All the mentioned activities have resulted in success both in combating drug crime in Croatia as well as in other European and South American countries.

3.5. Concrete results of the international cooperation and operations

Since January 2010 the Drugs Department of the Croatian Ministry of the Interior had a leading role in investigations (code name SPIDER WEB) against a Croatian criminal organisation for international drugs trafficking from the Caribbean to Europe. Croatian police closely cooperated with the DEA, Austrian and German police forces which led to parallel investigations and proceedings that were planned and coordinated by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 105 kg Cocaine and arrests of altogether 10 persons in the USA, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia on 12 April 2011. In the complex investigation a new modus operandi for drugs trafficking was detected, i.e. smuggling of bigger amounts of drugs with small private aircrafts from the Caribbean Islands to Europe.

The Drugs Department of the Croatian Ministry of the Interior had a leading role in the investigations (code name DOGMA III) against a Croatian criminal organisation for international drugs trafficking from South America to Spain aimed for the European illegal drugs market. Croatian police engaged in close cooperation with the DEA, Guardia Civil Kingdom of Spain, police from Slovenia, police custom service from Czech Republic, police from Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Dutch police. They had opened parallel investigations and proceedings that were planned and coordinated by the Croatian Ministry of the Interior. The operation resulted in the seizure of 368 kg of cocaine on 11 May 2011 in Spain, and the arrests of 11 persons (seven Croatian citizens, one Slovenian, one Albanian, one Spanish and one Serbian citizen).

4. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

There is no need or request for external assistance by the Croatian authorities.

5. Mini-Dublin Group recommendations

Since Croatia has developed a good structure for combating drug use, strategic planning, and the implementation of the measures and has had good results, it has been recognized as a partner whose system is an example of good practice, and whose experience is a good foundation for cooperation with other countries in the region, but also with other European Union countries.

By setting up the Department of the National Drugs Information Unit and International Co-operation at the Office on Combating Narcotic Drugs Abuse, an operative cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has been continued. At present the National Drugs Information Unit has to a high degree been harmonized with the EU agency standards. Croatia aims to improve the way of solving the problems associated with illicit substance consumption via active cooperation with relevant international organisations, bilateral and regional cooperation and by using available EU funds.

Within the negotiations on accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, Chapter 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security - includes the topic of cooperation in the field of drugs. The obligations arising from the relevant EU Acquis Communautaire have been met by adopting fundamental strategic documents in the field of drug control, the development of the National Drug Information System in accordance with the EMCDDA standards and by setting up the National Contact Point at the Ministry of the Interior, which will enable transfer and exchange of drug samples and drug profiling results for the purpose of better cooperation with the EU member states. The most important follow up question may concern the actual situation related to “South-European Drugs Initiative” and “Drug Policing the Western Balkans – Advanced 2009-2012” projects.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</u> Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Skopje</p>
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Update November 2011

1. General situation in the country

1.1. Production of illegal drugs

Self-cultivated marihuana, mainly for the use within the country is the only known illegal production of drugs. Licit poppy straw and poppy straw concentrate are produced in the central and eastern part of the country for medical purposes on approximately 1000 hectares, which means an increase of 100% compared to the former cultivated 500 hectares. 24 companies/institutions which are dealing with import, export or transit of drugs and/or precursors have been registered in the meantime. The agricultural inspectorate reports regularly to the Ministry of Health on the registered poppy cultivation, based on which reports on the quantities of extracted alkaloids are established. Under UN Convention 1961 article 12 the Ministry of Health is obliged to report regularly to the INCB (International Narcotic Control Board) in Vienna, on a quarterly and annual basis. During random controls with the objective of monitoring the poppy fields in the so-called “risky period” the inspection team and ICMPD representatives did not find any signs of possible illicit production of opium.

1.2. Trafficking

The territory of the country lies along major drug trafficking routes, heading from Turkey through the Balkans towards Western Europe. A major concern is the transit of large quantities of heroin from Turkey (originating from Afghanistan) towards Western Europe. Therefore, the capacity and active engagement of the government in combating trafficking continue to have crucial importance for containing any expansion of trans-shipments of narcotics.

In the meantime domestic drug use is on the increase. Trafficking is often related to or part of smuggling and other trans-border activities of minorities, who are actual majorities in border areas and/or larger cities. There is also often a link to organised crime, whether on local, regional or on international level, with relations to migrant populations living in Western Europe. The re-establishment and existence of criminal structures beyond the borders of the Former Yugoslav Republic of FYROM, e.g. in Kosovo, is alarming and could create additional possibilities for trafficking and organised crime. There is also west-east trafficking of cocaine from the Albanian harbours through the country towards Greece.

1.3. Drug consumption / Domestic Programmes / Demand Reduction

In order to increase the accuracy, the Macedonian Drug Observatory prepared specially designed software for evaluation of the data and to estimate treatment demand and problem drug use with a high level of accuracy.

Currently questionnaires on epidemiological treatment are being fed into the database. During September- October 2011, MDO performed a census directed at a specific part of the population, i.e. drug users, which are targeted within the treatment network (public and private hospitals, health centres, NGO programs, prisons treatment centres and programs). This will provide an opportunity to implement data comparison methods, capture recapture, but also valuable evaluation and analysis.

In 2011, the Government doubled (in comparison with the previous years) the funding available for implementation of “Program for health care for persons with drug addiction”. It is expected that the quality of the services will increase as a result. MDO prepared a report on quantitative and qualitative analysis of the pillar Drug Demand Reduction as well as a comparative analysis of the treatment services in EU countries and FYROM to be evaluated by the FYROM Government.

This Report was adopted recently and it will be a valuable tool for a new approach in the treatment of drug users, using the experiences of the EU.

Prevention (part of the Drug Demand pillar of the National Drug Strategy) was targeted as a weak point in the evaluation of the National Drug strategy in 2010. After the preparation, adoption and start of implementation of the Program for prevention in 2011 implementation is increasing. By the evaluation made in May 2011, in quantitative form it currently stands at 58% implementation; further implementation will take place at the start of the school year in September 2011. The evaluation in May showed 34 municipalities (out of 85) are covered in the following regions: Skopje (24 high schools are covered), South East (10 high schools are covered); East (11 high schools are covered); Polog region (10 high schools are covered); North East (9 high schools are covered), which are 5 out of a total of 8 regions in FYROM.

Evaluation of the qualitative aspects shows that preventive activities are being targeted by responsible persons within the Project between FYROM NGO, Ministry of Education and Science of FYROM and the Trimbos Institute from the Netherlands, (with financial support from the Dutch MATRA Program) to the pupils. Moreover, preventive activities are being targeted towards increasing the capacities of the school educational teams (teachers and psychologists). Together with the authority responsible for the development of the educational system in FYROM, Preventive Manual is being developed with specific methodologies and different techniques how to implement preventive activities, how to develop healthy lifestyle and early detection and intervention of drug use in school youth. This manual will be incorporated in the educative process during 4 years of high school and in all FYROM high schools. It covers theory and practical exercises and information on the main types of narcotics. It is expected that with this corporative approach, preventive activities will be permanent and not dependent on specific project activities. It is estimated that it will bring knowledge, values, and stand points for good behaviour and preventive skills to the high school pupils.

1.4. Drug supply reduction

In the first 6 months of the year 2011 the Ministry of interior detected 263 criminal acts, 222 of which were committed in the area of “illegal production and trade of narcotic drugs” and were committed by 275 individuals, and 41 acts for ‘enabling the use of narcotic drugs’ committed by 48 perpetrators.

Bi- and multilateral law enforcement operations, which were performed in the last months with great success, e.g. together with Turkey, Germany and Austria, have to be assessed most positive and should be further enhanced and promoted.

Confiscated Drugs	Statistics 2009	Statistics 2010	Statistics 2011 (first 6 months)
Marihuana	701,5 kg	452,1 kg	128,4 kg
Heroin	213,8 kg	38,12 kg	11,6 kg
Cocaine		2,69 kg	1,46 kg
Amphetamine (incl. Meth-amphetamine, Ecstasy, Ephedrine)	14,899 pills	12,504 pills	582 pills

Source: Interministerial commission on drugs

The biggest confiscation of marijuana (105 kg) happened on June 11. The drugs were smuggled from Albania into the territory of the Former Yugoslav Republic of FYROM.

The quantity of drugs which are transiting the country – mostly in direction East to West and from South to North – is hardly to estimate. The UNODC report from 2010 (chapter 5 – Heroin, page 121) states figures of 20-25 tons of Heroin transiting the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Border control efforts are being strengthened through the development of partnership and effective working relationship with organisations such as INTERPOL, SELEC, SEPICA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, and UNODC. Cooperation with INTERPOL and SELEC Centre, besides the other international organisations, are crucial for effective coordinated action to tackle organized crime, and also for tactical approach, due to a highly developed database that allows the identification and targeting of repeat offenders; data that identifies “hot spots” and linked “series of crimes”; data that helps identify preventive measures; evidence linking offenders to crimes. With the support of Interpol, FYROM law enforcement is able to identify information essential to security: the goals, the new corridors to identify criminal networks; the links that are associated to specific networks.

In the process of implementation of the FYROM National Drug Strategy, pillar: supply reduction: all efforts are concentrating on developing an accurate picture of the drugs (and organized crime) business, with a focus on the nature and extent of the problems; the trends; to know where the main threats lie.

Law enforcement is making efforts to understand the challenges better, to identify the priorities better, to acting more effectively, better assessing progress. All efforts are being concentrated on intelligence-led policing, which enables law enforcement to: encourage the development of more effective partnerships, to get better information and intelligence, to identify and act more preventable, to move from reactive to proactive targeting - locally, nationally and internationally.

A considerable amount of data on drug supply is already being collected, but there is need to pay attention to the standardization, extension and improvement of the data collection system that is already in place. It has been acknowledged that the entire drug supply chain will need to be taken into consideration, and a variety of indicators can be created that could be used to better track changes in drug markets. It is necessary to calculate the total amount of illicit drugs actually consumed in a particular market and to increase analysis across indicators supply and demand.

2. Institutional set-up and the country's anti-drugs strategy

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

Roles and responsibilities of the IMCND are in particular:

- Coordinating, planning and monitoring the implementation of programs in the area of prevention, treatment and suppression of drugs abuse at the local level
- Elaborating the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy and Action Plan
- International collaboration

In December 2006 the National Drugs Control Strategy, which is composed of two Action Plans, was adopted by the government. The plans foresee a pre-implementation period 2007-2008 and an implementation period from 2009-2012. and allocate a budget. The Action Plan emphasizes the necessity of cooperation between state institutions, non-governmental organisations, media and responsible institutions at the local level. The Action Plan is based on the principle of decentralization. The objective is to develop a network of different programmes at national level as well as in the units of self-government and to streamline local programmes with the ones at national level and thus to ensure equal availability of programmes and measures according to the respective needs.

Europol included into the operation Agreement with FYROM, the information exchange of all types of data, including personal on all levels. The aim of this Agreement is strengthening of the operative and strategic cooperation between FYROM and Europol, for reinforcement of the fights against serious forms of international crime, specifically with exchanging of data, information and intelligence.

FYROM and Croatia are the only countries in the region to have such an agreement with Europol. The start of the operational cooperation with Europol will be immediately after the agreement's ratification by the Parliament.

3. Ongoing activities/ Developments

Implementation of the Law for narcotics, National Drug Strategy and Action plans is ongoing in all pillars. Strong commitment, support of national inter-ministerial drug control coordination body, in implementation of the Action plans are yielding results. In parallel with implementation of the Drug Strategy, evaluation of the completed activities is ongoing as well.

Monitoring, research & evaluation is one of the five pillars of the FYROM National Drug Strategy. With ultimate support of EMCCDA most of the objectives in the National Drug Strategy, from the pillar monitoring research & evaluation have been implemented. FYROM NFP with network of experts and institution is established; NAPDIS, Info Map are adopted. NFP collects and analyzes data and disseminate reports to the Government, international organisations and to whom they are needed.

Permanent monitoring of the implementation of the National Drug Strategy is ongoing, by the National Focal Point as a Reference Centre for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. NFP is led by the Head of the Sector for controlled substances in the framework of the Bureau for Medicines at the Ministry of Health. The National Focal Point as a Reference Centre for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction is becoming FYROM Drug Observatory (MDO) and it performs qualitative research: interpreting statistical data, checking the consistency and comparability of the data; analyzing and interpreting the information. MDO start to act as a centre of excellence, knowledge broker, explaining the data to those who need it, factual, objective, reliable and comparable information for drugs and drug addiction.

On 3rd and 4th of October 2011, the EU – Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs was held in Ohrid, FYROM. The high level officials from EC and from the Western Balkans were present. The agenda included debates on visa liberalization, migration issues, border management and enhancement of cooperation with FRONTEX, fight against organized crime and cooperation with EUROPOL, as well as fight against corruption, judiciary and prosecution independence, legal cooperation in criminal and civil disputes, as well as enhancement of cooperation with EUROJUST.

In the framework of the Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs EU-Western Balkans in Ohrid, Minister of Interior Gordana Jankuloska and Europol Director Robert Wainwright confirmed operation of the information exchange agreement on all levels. FYROM and Serbian Ministers of Interior, signed an agreement introducing new border crossing provisions, which will allow nationals of the two countries to enter the territory of the other one only by presenting a biometric national ID card. The Ministers also signed a Protocol on determining the area of the border crossing 'Golema Crkovijska - Gole', opened few months ago.

On 17th-18th June, 2011 in Ohrid Republic of FYROM, the Second International Conference of experts in the area of the fight against trafficking in drugs took place, organized by the Ministry of Interior with the support of the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces dedicated to the national strategies of the participating countries in addressing drug crime, with special emphasis on the discovering of new ways in the reduction of the drugs supply.

Around 80 experts in the fight against drugs from FYROM as well as from the EC, SELEC, Interpol, DEA, police representatives from the Ministry of Interior from EU countries Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Kuwait, Greece, Czech Republic, UK, as well as from Serbia, Montenegro participated in this conference. The main goal was to identify the work needed to establish a set of sustainable indicators for monitoring of drug supply: drug markets, crime and supply reduction which is also actual issue for EU countries. It was concluded that considerable amount of data on drug supply is already being collected in a systematic way across the EU, but there is need to pay special attention to the standardization, extension and improvement of the data collection system(s) that are already in place. Only information about the total number of seizures and the total grams seized is of limited value for understanding changes in drug markets and supply-side interventions.

Collecting price and purity data should be from a variety of sources and should be standardized in a manner that allows establishing a general idea about broad trends in price and purity. Calculating the total amount of illicit drugs actually consumed in a particular market is also an important issue. All these findings will be a valuable base for preparation of new FYROM Drug Strategy, pillar Drug supply.

Conference on drugs in prisons in South-Eastern Europe

The issues of regime and security in prisons, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation for drug using offenders as well as measures to reduce drugs-related recidivism and streamline human rights into prison practices were in the focus of the conference “Drugs in Prisons in South Eastern Europe” which took place in Skopje on 24-25 October 2011. The conference brought together 150 experts from 20 countries of the region and beyond (United Kingdom, Moldova, Cyprus, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands). The Ministry of Health of Republic of FYROM, the United Nations Office in Skopje together with the Pompidou Group provided an opportunity for experts to review the situation in the region, discuss possible solutions to the problem of drug use in prisons and build a network for future actions. It brings together government officials and drugs and prison policy experts to analyze how the circulation of drugs can be curtailed. Participants also discussed the continuity of care for imprisoned drug-users, pre and post-prison treatment strategies and methods for preventing recidivism among criminals sentenced for drug-related offences.

4. Major bilateral and multilateral counter narcotic programs

- Technical Assistance of EAR to equip MoI Central Laboratory
- Various bilateral contributions in the framework of the police reform program, like capacity building and police trainings; e.g. Police Training Academy in Skopje in 2009 within bilateral police training assistance by German BKA
- Project “Establishment of program for prevention of drugs in the schools”; supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands started in the municipalities of Skopje, Tetovo and Strumica. Materials for prevention like guidelines for the teachers, informative materials for different types of drugs are prepared within this project
- Successful bi- and multilateral anti-trafficking police-operations with Turkey, Germany and Austria were noticed in the last months

5. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

- Technical support for establishment of Software for collection and evaluation of data for monitoring of drug indicators
- Technical support to convey Survey of the general population for use of illicit drugs to have EMCDDA indicator
- Continuation of the cooperation with EUROPOL and EMCDDA and other partner organisations
- Support for implementation of the recently adopted Law for Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances -preparation of (20) preventive programmes for different target groups
- Support for implementation of the Law for Control of Precursors – continuing education and training for inspectors for control of licit as well as for illicit production and trade of precursors
- Capacity building (esp. in the area of control of synthetic drugs)
- Exchange of information and training for new therapies – transfer of good practices

6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

6.1. Emerging threats/trends

- Increase of trafficking could further enhance the position of the country as an attractive route for the transit and “warehousing base” for trans-shipments towards Western Europe and within the Balkan region. Intensified repression through special operations to disrupt these well established criminal structures and to confiscate the bunkered drugs (first of all heroin) is strongly recommended.
- Illicit trans-border activities especially in the western part of the country (border to Kosovo) continue, including the smuggling of drugs
- Increased trafficking will also increase the availability of drugs in the country itself, in particular less expensive drugs.
- In general the numbers of confiscated drugs appear to be quite low considering the high quantity of annual drug transit (20-25 tons of Heroin)

6.2. Political initiatives and recommendations

- International cooperation in the fight against illicit trafficking and organized crime activities in all forms is essential to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- The ongoing dialogue with the host country should be used to remind that a successful counter narcotics policy is of major importance to the European Union and its member states, and that continuity of institutions and operational staff is a precondition for effective, professional and sustainable work and results.
- The adoption of the National Drugs Strategy and the Action Plans by the government is recognized as a major step of the counter narcotics policy of the country. Their implementation is considered as the next crucial step. The participation and support by the municipalities is essential.
- The fruitful cooperation within the IMCND and with the International Community should be continued.

Kosovo

Report by the mini-Dublin Group Pristina, Kosovo March 2012

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held in the premises of the European Union Office in Kosovo, Pristina on the 8 of March, 2012 from 10:00 to 11:45 hours.

Participants: HU (Chair), Kosovo Police, UNDP (on behalf of UNODC), EU-COM, AT, DE, BE, BG, CZ, IT, FR, GR, NL, RO, SE, SK, Norway, Switzerland, US.

1. General situation in Kosovo

1.1. Domestic production of drugs:

N/A

1.2. Confiscation data in Kg

Year	Heroin	Marihuana	Hashish	Cocaine	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Other
2008	44.6	177.5	0	2.15	9.25	0.04	0.012
2009	36.1	43.6	0	1.4	33.5	2.2	2.4
2010	55.6	199.3	0.0028	0.22	9.6	0.006	1.2
2011	60.2	216.7	0	2.6	3.6	0.67	5.4
2012/1	23.2	20.3	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	0.128
2012/2	7.1	27.8	N/A	3.1	N/A	0.06	N/A
2012/3	0.001	46.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1

Current market prices in Kosovo:

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

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

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

Drug related crime statistics:

N/A

1.3. Trafficking routes

Heroin route: Afghanistan – Turkey – Bulgaria – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) – Kosovo (North and East Kosovo in and out, South and West Kosovo out towards Montenegro and Albania) and further distribution to EU.

Cocaine route: From South America the cocaine is being transported to harbours in Montenegro and Albania from where it is being transported to South and East Kosovo and then leaving the country from the North towards Serbia.

Marihuana route: Transport of large quantities of marihuana to harbours of Montenegro, Albania and Greece from where it is smuggled to South and West of Kosovo and then leaving the country in North and East directions towards Serbia.

Methods of drug smuggling:

- Sending small-medium sized packages with undeclared ownership by passenger busses;
- Using inexperienced persons for the transport;
- Using members of the extended Kosovar “Diaspora” living and working abroad to smuggle smaller quantities of drugs on their regular (seasonal) family visits (making use of the overloaded border crossings);
- Cars and smaller buses are technically modified in special car repair shops for hiding drugs.

According to the statement of local authorities, Kosovo is being used less and less as a transit route to smuggle drugs because:

- Low quantity of goods are being exported out of Kosovo (as an additional possibility of transportation);
- Kosovo citizens have visa obligations thus are subject of tighter security and personal checks when travelling abroad;
- The country has low infrastructure and limited number of alternative roads;
- Due to the recent ethnically fuelled conflicts Kosovo hosts a vast number of international law enforcement agencies – operating openly and covertly in the country.

2. Update on Kosovo’s anti-drug strategy

Kosovo has adopted a National Strategy on fighting drugs which is being implemented according to annual Action Plans. The Action Plan for 2012 is in its final phase of adoption.

Fighting organised crime including drug smuggling is on the priority list of the government. There are no obvious obstacles for Kosovo Police in fighting organized crime.

Additional national legislative measures include:

- Kosovo Penal Code,
- Kosovo Penal Procedure Code,
 - Witness protection,
 - Seizure of assets
- Law on Police,
- Establishing Standard Operating Procedures according to EU standards.

Institutional changes:

- Kosovo Police has been restructured. Police units are centralised by six (6) regions (Pristina, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Ferizaj).
- Establishment of the Cooperation and Prevention Unit, responsible to plan and coordinate social and public outreach programs concerning the harmful effects of drug use and crime connected to drugs (i.e. The unit together with the Ministry of Health carries out information campaign in schools all around Kosovo). The unit is also responsible to monitor trends concerning domestic drug use.

3. International cooperation

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

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

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

4. Prioritised identification of needs for external assistance

- Trainings in preparing strategic documents;
- Know-how on preparing OCTA (Organised Crime Threat Assessment);

- Specialized trainings and equipment for covered monitoring (i.e. interception of phone calls from foreign mobile telephone providers; interception of internet based communication: Skype, Voip etc.);
- Police cooperation with Serbia;

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

- Specialized trainings in control deliveries;
- Training in multilateral cooperation methods (i.e. establishing, working with and maintaining official contacts with foreign law enforcement agencies);
- There is a need for a higher degree of trust towards the international law enforcement agencies operating on the field in Kosovo.

5.1. Emerging threats / needs

- Increasing local drug consumption and demand for narcotics;
- Decreasing trust towards international law enforcement agencies;
- Raising nepotism, clientelism specific for a relatively small, clan based society;
- The north part of Kosovo is still being viewed as a “Safe Haven” for organised crime due to lack of rule of law and law enforcement activities.

5.2. Political initiatives

- The government should enforce initiatives in order to make the fight against drug trafficking more effective;
- Kosovo Police needs to be depoliticised and receive more financial support;
- The government shall continue its public campaigns (in cooperation with EULEX and KFOR) against the domestic use of illicit drugs;
- Update of National Strategy on Drugs.

5.3. Recommendations

- Improving early transparency in the case by case cooperation with international partners;
- Strengthening the independence of the Judiciary;
- Increase the number of convictions;
- Implementation of the Witness Protection Programme;
- Increase of legal and operational support for the Kosovo Police.

Montenegro

Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Podgorica

On 15th of November 2011 a “Follow-up” meeting, related to the MDG meeting held in May 2011, took place in the premises of the Austrian Embassy in Podgorica.

Representatives of following countries and organisations took part in the meeting:

Austria and Hungary as chair and co-chair, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, EU-Delegation to Montenegro.

Guest Speaker was Mr. Dejan KNEZEVIC, Chief Superintendent, Department for Fighting against Drugs, in the Montenegrin Police Directorate.

1. General situation in the country

Montenegro still remains a transit country on the so called “Balkan Route”. Main problem in Montenegro is the trafficking of “Skunk” (modified Marihuana) which comes from Albania and will be smuggled through the country as well as will be distributed to drug consumers in Montenegro. Several OCG’s changed from heroin smuggling to smuggling of “SKUNK” due to good profits, lower risk and lower punishment in case of detection. Finally “Skunk” also is easier available than other drugs.

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

Types and amount of seized drugs between 01.01.2011 and 30.09.2011 in Montenegro

Type of drugs	2010	2011 until 30.09.2011
Marihuana	658004.61 g	563666.03 g
Heroin	8422.41 g	3249.01 g
Cocaine	4003.15 g	355.47 g
Synthetic drugs	120,86 pcs	139.52 pcs
Hashish	10.67	109.64 g
LSD		392 pcs
Psychogen substances		105.00 g

Until 30.09.2011 567,84 kg were seized of drugs within 207 seizures in total.

1.2. Trafficking routes

Heroin – during 2011 heroin has not been smuggled in large quantities to or through Montenegro. The smuggling route still leads from Afghanistan via Turkey, FYROM, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia to the countries of the European Union. Some cases of street distribution of heroin came up in Montenegro. Neither in neighbouring countries, nor in EU-countries evidence came up regarding heroin smuggling via Montenegro during 2011.

Cocaine – Montenegrin Police is involved in several international investigations on cocaine smuggling from South America, since the cocaine is smuggled in vessels and containers from South American harbours to European harbours in quantities up to 1.000 kilogram and more. In this smuggling method sailors from Serbia, Croatia as well as from Montenegro are involved. Therefore cooperation with international partners is very intensive. The distribution network of cocaine on the local market in Montenegro is not developed very high.

Cannabis / Skunk –mainly comes from Albania. Only one case, with 58 cannabis plants, planted in Montenegro, was detected near the Bosnian border. The offender has been reported to the court. Until September 2011 Montenegrin Police seized in total 563 kilo of Skunk / Marihuana.

Synthetic drugs –do not play an important role in Montenegro. Just few cases of consumption of synthetic drugs came up during the summer season in touristic centres at the Montenegrin Coast, mainly in discotheques and on Rave Party's.

2. Update on the country's anti-drug strategy, institutional changes, new legislative measures, developments

2.1. Prevention and programs

Montenegrin Authorities continue with drug related awareness programs in schools and youth centres. Special educated police officers hold presentations in schools and also initiate roundtables and workshops related to the danger of drug consumption. Also in different municipalities information desks have been installed. Rehabilitation programs also should be enlarged.

Montenegrin Police has investigated 158 drug offences until 01. October 2011. 123 offences committed by 129 perpetrators had been reported to the prosecutor. In some cases also state officials were involved.

2.2. Important operations in 2011

1. Operation “PARANGAL” – Arrest of 15 members of a local OCG, involved in the street distribution of heroin
2. Operation “TANKER” - Operation between Montenegrin Police and the National Security Agency of Montenegro. 1 person had been arrested in Montenegro and 6 persons in Spain. In total 70 kilos of cocaine were seized.
3. Operation “LOKAL” – Operation of Montenegrin Police together with the special prosecutor on a national OCG which distributed heroin for a long time in Podgorica.

3. International cooperation and operations (ongoing bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements, events)

Montenegro took part in the Conference on Fighting against Drugs in Mexico and also in a training on risk assessment, organized by Austrian BKA. In the future Montenegro will continue with methodologies on special surveillance measures and with close international cooperation.

Important operations in 2011

1. Operation “KONTE” – Operation between the German Police, Montenegrin Police and Montenegrin Custom Service, which resulted in the seizure of 300 kilos of Cocaine in the port of Hamburg. 5 persons were reported in this case.
2. Operation “SPRINT” – International police operation between MNE, BiH and HR on an OCG, smuggling Skunk from Albania via Montenegro and Bosnia to Croatia. 30 kilos of Skunk were seized. In Montenegro 12 persons were arrested, in Bosnia 5 persons and in Croatia 2 persons.

Currently Montenegrin Police is dealing with 7 running cases together with the prosecutor for organized crime. 2 cases are investigated with DEA, 2 cases together with Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, 1 case with the Slovenian MoI and 2 cases with Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

Serbia

Country Report by the Mini-Dublin Group Belgrade

The first meeting of the Mini Dublin Group in 2012 took place on the 6th March chaired by Hungary, co-chaired by Austria at the Embassy of Hungary in Belgrade. Altogether 21 Mini Dublin member countries, UNODC and the Delegation of EU Commission accepted our invitation, so in total 32 participants attended the meeting. As traditionally the guest speaker was Mr. Ivan Brandic (Head of Department for Drug Smuggling Suppression, Service for Combating Organised Crime) who gave us a clear cut and brief account on the current developments, statistic and trends on the field of drug related offences in Serbia. He focused on the new phenomena, developments which emerged since our last meeting held last November.

1. General situation in the country

Regarding the question of Destruction of Seized Drugs, the impact study by the Ministry for the Environment has finally been finalised. However, there is still no progress regarding the actual destruction of the huge quantities of seized drugs in Serbia. Although the responsible Commission on Destruction of Seized Drug has already been established based on a government decision, there has not been a single meeting yet. In order to clarify this postponement of activities, the Mini Dublin group agreed and committed itself at the last meeting to invite a representative from both the Commission against Drug Trafficking and Abuse and the Commission for the Destruction of Seized Illegal Drugs. However, the Serbian authorities did not react to the invitation of the Chair of the Mini-Dublin Group. The Hungarian and Austrian co-chairs have therefore decided to submit an official request for a reaction through diplomatic channels to the responsible State Secretary in the coming weeks.

1.1. Production data

Heroin - so far, there has not been information on production at the territory of Serbia, however high quality heroin still arrives in the country – in the form of a base that is cut with other substances (paracetamol, caffeine and other). Such high level of purity of narcotic drug enables criminal groups, by cutting it with appropriate substances, to increase the quantity of narcotics, and thus their profit as well.

There is intelligence indicating that production was initiated in Kosovo, but there was no more specific information. The production and smuggling of heroin is controlled by ethnic Albanian organised criminal groups.

Cocaine - the majority of Cocaine smuggled by Serbian criminal groups never reaches Serbia, but is mainly smuggled from Latin America to Southern and Western Europe. The situation has not changed as compared with data on previous years. Only a small amount of cocaine was seized from end users last year. They ordered it from Latin – America on the Internet and the shipments were delivered by post, mainly by using DHL.

Marihuana - Service for Combating Organized Crime, Department for Drugs Smuggling Suppression, in 2011, detected clandestine laboratories for the production of “skunk” – modified marihuana cultivated in artificial conditions. Increased trend of marihuana production in Serbia was observed.

Synthetic drugs – synthetic drugs production in Serbia has increased last year. In the past a well educated Serbian chemist was involved. Lately, as available intelligence indicates, the production is made among „kitchen” conditions. The venues used for production purposes are isolated small holiday houses to prevent the detection of the smell of chemicals getting out from the facility. The criminals get the information on how to produce synthetic drug from the Internet, obtain the substances both in the pharmacies and by private contacts. Operational intelligence shows that the quality of the synthetic drug is quite good.

The smuggling of paracetamol and caffeine has increased and these substances are not listed as „drug” in Serbia. In the near future an organised criminal group involved in the production of synthetic drugs is expected to be dismantled in Serbia. The group has connection with Bosnian and Hungarian criminals. Synthetic drug smuggled from The Netherlands also can be found on the market.

Generally it can be stated that the criminals do not use bank accounts but prefer paying in cash to money transfer that makes law enforcement work on identifying money flow and financial transactions more difficult. Implementation of law on asset seizure in practice causes tangible damage for criminals and they consider it as a „real” punishment.

Mr. Brandic highlighted that fight against organized crime, especially fight against drug smuggling, surely presupposes international cooperation as one of the main factors for the success of this fight.

1.2. Confiscation data, current market prices, drug related crime statistics

Market prices:

Skunk – 1200 -1500 EUR/kg

Methamphetamine 1700 – 210 EUR/kg

Heroin: in Kosovo 13 500 EUR/kg but if it is taken to Serbia the price is 17 000 EUR/kg

Statistic on seized drug:

Type of drug	Unit	Quantity
Heroin	grams	64 868, 83
Marihuana	grams	999 199,30
Cocaine	grams	5961,6
Ecstasy	grams	48721,98
Ecstasy	pieces	410
LSD	pieces	98
Amphetamine	grams	4746,47
Amphetamine	pieces	331

Drug related crime statistics:

Art. 246 of the Criminal Code - Unlawful Production and Circulation of Narcotics				
Number of criminal offences	Number of criminal charges	Number of persons against whom criminal charges were pressed	Number of arrested persons	Number of detained persons
1425	1243	1739	65	946

Art. 246a of the Criminal Code - Unlawful Keeping of Narcotics				
Number of criminal offences	Number of criminal charges	Number of persons against whom criminal charges were pressed	Number of arrested person	Number of detained persons
3268	3033	3229	162	179

Art. 247 of the Criminal Code - Facilitating the Taking of Narcotics				
Number of criminal offences	Number of criminal charges	Number of persons against whom criminal charges were pressed	Number of arrested person	Number of detained persons
218	174	211	6	28

1.3. Trafficking routes (recent changes and the newest tendencies, if any)

Trend of changing directions of drug smuggling on the Balkan route continued. Thus the Central Balkan Route shifted from the Republic of Serbia in 2011. Smuggling tendencies led towards Schengen borders (from Turkey via Bulgaria and Romania towards Western European countries), on one side, and towards FYROM and Kosovo, on the other. For this reason, larger seizures of heroin occurred in Romania and FYROM, and to a lesser extent in Serbia and other ex-Yu countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and others).

Among the main reasons of changing routes the intensified training for police officers on detecting smuggled drug can be highlighted, better equipments, stronger and more efficient control carried out at border crossing points by the police officers.

According to Serbian police information, ethnic Albanian groups co-operate across the border line between Kosovo and Serbia. Kosovar groups cooperate with criminal groups in the Presevo valley. According to Serbian police, smuggling occurs mainly via the green border.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy, institutional changes, new legislative measures, developments

The Law on Criminal Procedure was adopted by Serbia's National Assembly on September 26, 2011 as part of the country's EU agenda legislation and took effect on 15th January 2012 as regards organised and war crime cases. It will be both concerned all Serbian law enforcement agencies and applied for all crimes described in the criminal code of the Republic of Serbia from 15th January 2013.

The new Law on Criminal Procedure introduced the principle of prosecutorial investigations and let prosecutors and defence lawyers take the lead in investigations. Previously, judges have guided the investigation.

Another feature of the new law is a stipulation that a defence lawyer must have been practising for at least five years in cases of crimes that carry a prison sentence of 10 years or more.

3. International cooperation and operations (ongoing bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events)

According to Mr Bradic from the Serbian police, increased activity of ethnically homogenous Albanian criminal groups was observed in the Balkans, whereas Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin, FYROM and Croatian criminal groups follow them. As an example of a good international cooperation of Serbian police the Interpol's international project "BESA" related to operational information exchange and operational activities against members of organized criminal groups can be mentioned. Within this project, in 2011, **10 persons** were arrested, and the following quantities were seized: **35 kilos of marihuana - "skunk", 2.8 kilos of heroin, 200 grams of paracetamol, 800 grams of explosives, one hand gun, and 3 vehicles were seized.**

Indicators of exceptional international cooperation are results achieved in 2011 in cooperation with police agencies of Spain, Argentina, Montenegro, Germany, FYROM, Greece, Austria, The Netherlands and Great Britain. In joint operations with police officers of the mentioned countries, and based on information shared by police officers of the Department for Drugs Smuggling Suppression, in those countries, **27 persons** were arrested, **365.20 kilos of cocaine** were seized, **7.8 kilos of heroin, 24.2 kilos of marihuana, 5.5 kilos of amphetamine, 21 kilos of paracetamol, 30 kilos of gold** and **627,630 EUR and 100,000 Dollars.**