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**Summary of trends and challenges**

**West Balkans Region**

- The so-called Balkans Route of drug trafficking dominates this area. On the Balkans Route, hard drugs are shipped from their original production sites in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran through Turkey and the Balkans to Central and West Europe. The Balkans Route of drug trafficking has several constantly shifting branches, but the main course runs through Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria, while a smaller branch through FYROM and Kosovo is used for storage and repackaging.
- On the opposite direction synthetic drugs are smuggled from Europe.
- What seems to be a common challenge in this area is the lack of political support behind measures taken against drug trafficking and often the lack of cooperation (especially in the fields of information sharing) between competent authorities. Insufficient staff, training and equipment can also hinder the efforts.

## **Albania**

- Drug-related crimes remain a serious problem, and while the quantity of seized marijuana decreased, the quantity of seized hard drugs increased.
- The National Strategy Against Drugs 2012-2016 (based on the four pillars of strategic cooperation, supply, demand and harm reduction) and the 2013 Strategy and Action Plan against Organised Crime are the main leading documents on the topic.
- Various institutional reforms are in progress, including the establishment of a National Investigation Bureau modelled on FBI and the restructuring of the police.
- Drug prevention and awareness programs, mainly aimed at young people, are continued.
- Although Albania is mainly a transit country for hard drugs, recently captured cocaine and heroin labors (in at least two cases) suggest that Albania is becoming a production country for hard drugs, too.
- While fight against drug cultivation has increased in intensity, measures are still not effective enough for two main reasons: they remain at the low level and do not target leaders of criminal networks, and investigations are not systematically accompanied with parallel financial investigations.
- The destruction of cannabis plantations in Lazarat in 2014 resulted in a substantial decrease of cannabis trafficked to Greece (85,74% less cannabis seized in Greece).

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- Bosnia and Herzegovina is mainly regarded as a transit country, local consumption is very limited (but slowly growing, as mentioned below).
- According to the report from the Mini Dublin Group session held in Sarajevo, the slowly deteriorating economic and social situation in the country might lead to increasing trafficking.
- Although the drug market is still small compared to European average, the shift from a predominantly drug trafficking country to a drug consuming country is not only a local concern, but a regional problem as well.
- Organised crime remains a serious issue with heavy impact on political structures and the economy. The fight against organised crime is hindered by the lack of adequate resources as well as legal and institutional obstacles.

- Law enforcement institutions need to be strengthened by providing sufficient staff, training and equipment for them. The cooperation between various law enforcement agencies is to be improved with special emphasis on sharing of intelligence.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to engage in cooperative actions with the United States and various EU Member States, including Austria, Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia and the UK.
- The growing drug demand forecasts the increase of crimes related to drug possession and distribution, and indirectly arms trafficking.
- From a legislative point of view, the adoption of the new law against narcotic drugs is urgently needed, and the criminal codes between entity and state level need to be harmonised.

### **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

- There has been a substantial decrease in the quantity of seized drugs.
- The hard drugs (mainly cocaine and heroin) come through the Balkans Route, originating from the Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran region, while the main source of Cannabis is Albania. Cannabis is trafficked between the western (Albania) and northern (Serbia) border regions.
- The implementation of the National Drug Strategy 2015-2020 is slowed down by the ongoing political crises in the country.
- According to a survey conducted between 16-year-old students, the abuse of alcohol and tranquilisers is a widespread problem, and the use of new substances is on the rise.
- Areas recognised as being in need of external assistance are capacity building for the control of new psychoactive substances, projects aimed at prevention and juvenile consumption as well as operational support. Further surveys are needed.

### **Kosovo**<sup>1</sup>

- The greatest challenge is presented by marihuana consumers. The number of heroin users decreased.
- In general, it is difficult to produce large amounts of cannabis due to geographic and demographic reasons. Areas of past cannabis cultivation (formerly used by the textile industry) are monitored.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- According to the information of Kosovo Police, no hard drugs are produced in the country.
- Post-treatment of drug consumers is hindered by the lack of rehabilitation centres – treatments are currently carried out in six private institutions, three of which are mental health centres and two detention centres.
- Kosovo is still part of the Balkans Route of drug trafficking as a transit country, but due to special police operations, drug storage has been significantly decreased, leading to a reduced role of Kosovo. Heroin coming through the Black Sea area and the Arabian Peninsula are forwarded to Montenegro, Serbia and Albania and eventually reaches Western Europe. Marihuana of Albanian origin is trafficked to Montenegro and Serbia.
- The prices have quadrupled, leading to a further decline in drug distribution.
- Kosovo has engaged in several successful joint operations with the authorities of nearby countries including Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy and Turkey.
- Opposed to most of the other countries, political will and support for measures and operations is sufficient.
- Areas identified for external assistance include the lack of efficient government control over the northern part of the country, lack of membership in relevant international organisations (most notably INTERPOL), the dependency on EULEX help and capacities. The further democratisation of the country and the normalisation of the relationship with Serbia would also greatly contribute to the efforts to tackle drug trafficking and organised crime.

## **Serbia**

- Serbia is in the main branch of the Balkans Route of drug trafficking, though recently the main route of heroin smuggling shifted from Serbia in the direction of the Schengen borders (Romania, Bulgaria). This has also caused an all-time peak in the local price of heroin.
- The organised crime groups engaged in cocaine trafficking are showing signs of strengthening, often investing money into corporate activities with the aim of approaching information directed against their criminal activities.
- The most common narcotic drug is still marihuana and its modified species, the so-called skunk. Skunk or super-marihuana is produced in high-tech laboratories with technology used in legal agricultural production.

**ALBANIA**  
**COUNTRY REPORT BY THE MINI-DUBLIN GROUP TIRANA**  
**2016**

**1. General situation in the country**

- In 2015 drug crimes have continued to remain a serious problem for Albania. The country remained both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs).
- In 2015, the number of drug seizures and arrests increased further. The quantity of seized hard drugs showed some increase whileas the quantity of seized marijuana decreased significantly. Cannabis cultivation, however, remained a wide-spread illegal activity in various parts of the country.
- The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. The government of Edi Rama, taking up their duties in September 2013, has repeatedly confirmed their commitment to engaging in intensive efforts to strike organized crime and trafficking in narcotics.
- The National Strategy Against Drugs 2012–2016, which fully complies with common EU-standards, was approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2012. In 2013 the government adopted a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime, which is being implemented.
- In 2015 preparations continued to establish the National Investigation Bureau, an agency modelled on and supported by the American FBI, to investigate inter alia criminal, economic and organised crime-related offences.
- In 2015, the government continued restructuring the police. Modernization of police equipment also continued. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police further improved which had a positive impact on a more effective border control and the number of seizures.
- Albania continued to receive assistance from several countries to enhance its counter-narcotics capacities. The US, Italy and Greece were among the main contributing countries. A number of joint international operations were conducted, mostly in cooperation with Italy.

- The government continued to run several drug prevention and awareness programs. The project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and other Harmful Substances”, supported by ICITAP and the US Embassy in Tirana continued, having a great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers.

### 1.1. Legislation and coordination

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

The government of Edi Rama (Socialist Party), taking up their duties in September 2013, adopted a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime in 2013. The government announced that it shall employ all the adequate human, technical and financial resources to guarantee a full and effective collaboration with the regional and international partners in the fight against terrorism and international crime. To this end, the government announced already in 2014 the establishment of the National Investigation Bureau (NIB), an agency modelled on and supported by the American FBI. This special structure under the national police will be established and entrusted to investigate inter alia criminal, economic and organised crime-related offences that are under the jurisdiction of the Serious Crimes prosecution, as well as those involving high-level officials from the executive, judiciary and elected persons. In 2015, preparations continued to establish the NIB which may take place finally in the year 2016.

In March 2013, an Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants was approved by the Minister of the Interior. Under the recent government, a new Program of Activities of the Ministry of Interior was adopted for the years 2013-2017. The document foresees that criminal activity in the field of drugs will continue inside and outside the country due to market demand and high profits for criminal organizations. It emphasizes the need of better absorbed and analyzed information, collaboration with responsibility and professionalism within the police structures, as well as increasing the efficiency of the investigation of criminal groups.

In March 2013, the so-called speed boat moratorium, a law which prevented Albanian citizens from possessing speed boats of a certain size, came to an end. So far no significant increase of interest in registering speed boats previously prevented by the moratorium has been detected. The Adriatic and Ionian Sea area, however, remained an important route for narcotics smuggling from Albania to Italy and in a small number of cases police seized speed boats and arrested some persons attempting such criminal activities in 2015.

## 1.2. Strengthening of capacities

### *Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination*

A common platform for the execution of proactive investigations has been developed in the framework of implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Prosecutor General, the Ministry of Interior and the State Intelligence Service (SHISH). However, the SHISH and its head, appointed during the term of the previous government, have been widely criticized by the recent government for their lack of cooperation with the police.

### *International projects*

Albania continues to receive assistance from the United States and European Union countries to enhance its counternarcotics capacities. The government implemented joint operations with international law enforcement agencies, mostly in cooperation with Italian authorities. The United States continues to provide assistance for integrated border management with a focus on maritime border control, counternarcotics investigations, and judicial sector assistance programs. To reduce demand for illegal drugs, with U.S. support, the Albanian State Police and the Albanian Education Ministry continued to co-sponsor a drug-awareness and demand reduction project in 300 public elementary schools, reaching over 30,000 students.

There is an ongoing project with a total budget of 1,613,366 USD by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on ‘Strengthening border control capacities in Albania’.

### 1.3. Police activities against trafficking of drugs

The country continued to be both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs). According to the Albanian Police, in 2015 the production and trafficking of marijuana was the number one problem. Cannabis has been cultivated in various parts of the country, mostly in remote, hidden places on small plots of land.

In 2015, exchanges of mutual accusations of the political powers about alleged involvement of recent and former government officials in organized drug trafficking continued, thus highly politicizing the issue of the fight against drugs. Rumors about drug shipments forwarded from military bases in Albania also emerged. Investigations have started but so far no evidence has been found to prove these allegations.

As for hard drugs, Albania remained a transit country. Local consumption is low; seizures were performed mainly on border crossing points. Seized hard drugs were most probably supposed to be sent to Western European countries via Albanian middlemen. In at least two cases, however, police have captured cocaine and heroin labors which showed that Albania is becoming a production country for hard drugs, too.

### 1.4 Police operations against drugs production

According to international experts, there has been over the last year an intensification of the fight against drug cultivation (mainly cannabis sativa). However, police and prosecutors do not go further up in the chain of drug supply but remain at the low level. Moreover the investigations are not systematically accompanied with parallel financial investigations.

Monitoring the terrain from the air has continued to be the most important measure to identify areas of cannabis cultivation. A significant number of air surveillance flights were conducted by the Italian Guardia di Finanza, in cooperation with the Albanian State Police. Aerial photographs made during these flights were the key means of localizing potential cultivation areas and enable ASP to intervene on the spot.



In 2015 police conducted 240 operations against drugs cultivation and trafficking. As a result 4634 cultivated parcels were identified, 402 offenders arrested and 797,422 narcotic plants were destroyed 246,007 more compared to 2014 .

Since the 2nd semester of 2014, following the Albanian police operation which resulted in the destruction of the cannabis plantations in Lazarat, there has been a substantial decrease in terms of cannabis trafficking from Albania to Greece evidenced by the fact that cannabis seizures in Greece during 2015 decreased by 85,74% as compared to 2014.

#### 1.5 Drug related statistics and evaluation

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the **year 2015**: (source: Albanian State Police)

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/ detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	87	87	36,9 kg	175	132	24	19
Metadon	2	2	513,8 gr	3	2	1	0
Extasy	1	1	1,4 gr	1	1	0	0
Cocaine	71	69	27,1 kg	136	115	18	3
Marijuana	895	882	11.4 t	1276	790	412	69
Hashish	4	4	60 kg	21	10	8	3
Hashish Oil	2	2	5 818,8 gr	4	4	0	0
Cannabis seeds	12	12	3 kg	18	13	3	2
Mixing substances	0	0	97,5 kg	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>1099</b>		<b>1700</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>100</b>

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the **year 2014**: (source: Albanian State Police)

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/ detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	56	55	73.5 kg	80	67	9	4
Extasy	1	1		1	1		
Cocaine	37	35	10 kg	46	43	3	0
Marijuana	903	808	97,23 t	1061	599	350	112
Hashish	2	1	24 kg 450 gr	2	0	2	0
Cannabis seeds	4	3	1 744.7 gr	4	4	0	0
Aceton	0	0	550 l	0	0	0	0
Hashish Oil	1	1	11 154.4 gr	1	0	0	1
Methadone	1	1	17 gr	1	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>906</b>		<b>1203</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>117</b>

The quantity of seized heroin decreased from a total of 73,5 kg in 2014 to 36,9 kg in 2015. The quantity of seized cocaine was 27,1 kg (compared to 10 kg in 2014). The number of cases in heroin and cocaine trafficking (158) showed an increase compared with the year before (93 last year and 56 the year before). The number of perpetrators in heroin and cocaine related crimes has grown significantly, from 126 to 311 persons.

The quantity of seized marijuana was significantly lower than last year (11,4 tons vs. 97,2 tons). The number of marijuana related criminal cases, however, remained about the same (around 900 cases a year). The number of perpetrators in marijuana related crimes has grown by 20 percent.

The total number of criminal cases for 2015 is slightly higher than in the last year. Still a significant part, around 80 percent of the cases were marijuana-related crimes. The total number of perpetrators grew by 41 percent (from 1203 to 1700 persons).

During the year 2015 (until September)

- 97 operations by implementing special investigation techniques were concluded (111 such operations were concluded in 2014).
- 34 criminal groups conducting trafficking and distribution of narcotics substances were discovered with 165 persons arrested (in 2014, 49 criminal groups with 149 persons were discovered).
- 52 operations using various forms of international cooperation were successfully concluded (with Italy, Greece, FYROM, Kosovo<sup>2</sup>, Germany, Belgium, Austria, etc.), which resulted in 60 persons arrested in Albania (during 2014, 51 international operations were concluded with 60 people prosecuted in Albania).

In the period January-March 2016 the following quantities of narcotics were seized:

Heroin	11,6 kg
Cocaine	1,9 kg
Marijuana	1,42 t
Hashish	1,8 kg
Cannabis seeds	168 gr

In the period January-March 2016 112 cases and 106 perpetrators i were recorded.

#### 1.6. Police prevention activities

In March 2014 Action Plan No. 301 “On the prevention and suppression of the criminal activity of cultivation of narcotic plants during 2014” was approved by the Director General of the State Police. This action plan contained the following measures:

First stage:

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<sup>2</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- Increasing the awareness of the inhabitants of these areas to stop cultivating drugs and on their non-incrimination
- Increasing the awareness among young people, especially pupils
- Increasing the awareness of state administration and locally elected officials

Second stage:

- Operational intervention by State Police structures for destroying narcotic plants

In 2011, Tirana Regional Police in collaboration with the Education Directorate and with the support of ICITAP and New Jersey National Guard, US Embassy in Tirana started to implement the project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and Other Harmful substances”.

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

The Drug Awareness project continued to grow in 2015 since its inception 5 years ago. It was presented in all 188 public elementary schools in the nation and reached over 26,400 6th graders. For the second year in a row the project sponsored a poster contest for these students with the winners in each school being rewarded with a four day camp whose theme is drug awareness and having fun. This year a camp for all the regions was opened. The project is now concentrating on informing students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco but may develop another phase that would concentrate on the domestic abuse phenomenon. All the teacher/police teaching teams have gotten their training from trainers who have observed similar programs in the US.

## **2. Tirana Mini-Dublin Group’s recommendations for 2016**

- Corruption and organized crime remain a major concern in Albania; a comprehensive overall strategic approach towards tackling these issues needs to be established.
- Albania’s efforts and the assistance of the International Community have led to progress in the fight against drugs. However, continued efforts and support, including training activities and updated technical equipment, are necessary.

- The lack of communication and cooperation between police and state prosecutors is a problem in Albania which makes the follow-up of police operations difficult and opaque.
- Besides investigating people involved in drug production, effective measures should be taken to investigate and prosecute the leaders of criminal networks dealing with drug production and trafficking. This process needs to be monitored by the international community.
- The Albanian police still needs better PR, also to create more awareness among the population.
- Efforts undertaken by the Narcotic sector of the Directorate of Narcotics and Illegal trafficking should be strengthen and encouraged by foreign partners.
- A particular attention should be paid on Heroin and Cocaine trafficking by reinforcing international operational cooperation. Figures related to seizures and conviction are not reflecting annual EUROPOL and UNODC reports with regard mainly to Heroine trafficking.
- Continued efforts should be undertaken in prevention, for example by increasing the impact of existing antidrug campaigns.
- Security of seized drugs' storage and effective destruction procedures need to be ensured and arrested persons need to be properly indicted and convicted.
- A social plan for the population of Lazarat in the aftermath of the destruction of the cannabis plantations is still needed.

Tirana, June 30, 2016

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</u></b> <b>COUNTRY REPORT BY THE MINI-DUBLIN GROUP SARAJEVO</b> <b>July 2016</b></p>
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*The Mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo finalized the following Country Report with the aim to evaluate the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking since the group's last report in December 2015. The written consultations were coordinated by the Embassy of Hungary in Sarajevo. The drafting of the Report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the Members, the EUSR Rule of Law Section and the UNODC National Project Office.*

## **I. General situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In general, the situation remains unchanged to the previous reporting period; Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) mainly remains a transit area for drug smuggling, and only small part of narcotics is distributed to consumers in BiH.

Drug trafficking has the biggest share in drug related offences in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to two facts: firstly, profit margins are highest in drug trade; secondly it is the fastest way to make money. BiH citizens are mostly involved in the shipment and storage of drugs. The slowly deteriorating economic and social situation of BiH might lead to increasing trafficking.

BiH's significance for drug smuggling is due to its geographical location: BiH and its neighbours constitute the 'Balkan Route' linking production sites in Afghanistan via Turkey with the main European markets. BiH is considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipments. On this route mainly cannabis, heroin, opiate products and increasingly cocaine are smuggled from the East to the West. The synthetic drugs are smuggled from the West to the East. One of the sub routes goes through Bulgaria, Romania and FYROM to Kosovo, then through the Serbian and Montenegrin "Sandžak" to BiH, and further on to Croatia and Slovenia. Marijuana is usually transported from Western FYROM, Albania and Kosovo over to Montenegro to southern BiH. It was observed that cocaine traffickers from South America increasingly use ports in some Mediterranean countries, and there are already well-established land routes, partly through BiH and further to Western Europe. Also, drugs are being stored in BiH in order to secure a continuous supply in Europe.

Law enforcement authorities confirm that the persons involved in the narcotics trade are collaborating across ethnic lines within BiH as well as across international borders with other nationalities.

The domestic market for and production of drugs has slightly increased but still remains small compared to European average. The slow change from a predominantly drug trafficking country to a drug consuming country is of concern not only in BiH but in the whole region. Production of drugs remains small, and mostly limited to marijuana cultivation with increasing indoor cultivation of genetically modified potent strains of the cannabis plant. The consumption of synthetic drugs is slowly growing, partly due to the fact that these are often used as currency in the drug smuggling.

The gathering of official data in drug related issues remains challenging due to the fragmented nature of BiH's law enforcement and security sectors. As far as statistics are concerned, in general it has to be pointed out that every ministry at the various (cantonal, entity and state) levels of government has different standards.

Regrettably, the official Annual Reports on the Situations of Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2014 and 2015 have not yet been finalized.

The "Information on Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2015" Report was published on 7th July 2016, which contains basic information on drug related situation for the years 2014 and 2015. According to this Report, the number of crimes related to drug abuse decreased by 6.09%. The number of criminal reports on trafficking and possession of drugs in 2015 was 1,325, compared to 1,411 in 2014.

However, this Report does not contain official data on number of confirmed indictments in drug related cases, number of the drug users or changes in prices. The estimated number of drug users in previous years was around 7500 drug users, the overwhelming majority of them being male.

According to previous data, price of heroin 15-25 EUR per gram; price of Cannabis 0.5-1 EUR per gram; price of skunk (a variety of marijuana) 1.5 -3 EUR per gram; price of cocaine cca. 50 EUR per gram; and methamphetamine or ecstasy around 3 EUR or 4 EUR.

A large quantity of drugs seized by order of different courts throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is still awaiting destruction. Last destruction was in May 2015 by the Commission for Drugs Destruction, when 550 kg of different drugs were destroyed.

## **II. Short update on Bosnia and Herzegovina's anti-drugs strategy**

New legislation on prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs, which would establish a focal point for drugs issues at Bosnia and Herzegovina level and which will be in charge for international cooperation, remains to be adopted. The Working Group for drafting the new law has been pending approval of the Council of Ministers.

The BiH Commission for Suppression of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs was reappointed in December but is not functioning due to a lack of political will.

The 'National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in BiH for the Period 2009-2013' expired. The Working Group for drafting the new Strategy has not been appointed yet, however the list of the members from all relevant institutions has been sent to the Council of Ministers. The list of members contains high ranking officials which might make the scheduling of the Working Group meetings challenging.

RS Government adopted the Strategy for Suppression of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs for period 2014-2020.

In 2015, a multi-sectoral Working Group was established to update the 'Regulations on the storage and disposal of seized narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and plants from which narcotic drugs can be produced and precursors' adopted in 2012.

The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies (which is responsible for communication, cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies at the State level with other bodies, including the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs and it is the national contact for Interpol and Europol) continues to face challenges regarding its financial, human and technical capacities, as well as lack of willingness for cooperation from other law enforcement institutions. Lack of political support to make the Directorate fully operational is a significant problem which remains to be addressed.



Same challenges block the work of the Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security, which 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.

Further efforts are still needed regarding improved joint investigation, coordination and cooperation, as well as effective follow-up among the many layers of law enforcement, security and judicial sector actors. (Main actors engaged in the fight against drugs range from the BiH Council of Ministers; the entities' and cantonal police authorities and Ministries of Internal Affairs; the state-level Ministry of Security of BiH and the Brcko District Police; the Ministries of Justice, Prosecutors' offices and courts at all (state, entities and cantonal) levels and in Brcko District; the indirect Taxation Authority of BiH; the Ministry of Health (on entity and local level) to the entities' Ministries of Culture and Education.) Coordination of operational activities remains rather on an *ad hoc* basis than in a systematic way; agencies depend on personal relations in a remarkable extent. The lack of political will for state level and multi-sectoral cooperation and the trend of withholding support from state level institutions continue. Formal coordination and better exchange of intelligence are needed to respond to growing challenges.

### **III. Enumeration 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. In 2015, the number of operations was 6, following 10 operations in 2014.

Implementation of the strategy for the fight against organized crime continued. However, lack of adequate resources limits its effectiveness. Legal and institutional obstacles to more systematic use started to be addressed. The Council of Ministers' decision allowing the establishment of a network of police liaison officers in neighbouring countries, with Europol and in some EU countries aims to improve international cooperation and exchanges of information on fighting transnational organized crime. Results are weak for the time being.

BiH authorities cooperate with other countries and institutions on several levels. Cooperation on state level is carried out by DPC and SIPA both seated at the Ministry for Security. DPC is the national contact for Interpol and Europol. Therefore DPC is the channel for BiH authorities on all levels to Interpol and Europol. SIPA has a liaison officer at SELEC in Bucharest. In contrast to Interpol and Europol this liaison can be contacted by all Bosnian authorities directly. Furthermore there are several regional police cooperation centers for cooperation with Croatia.

The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security 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 Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and BiH came into force in 2015, which envisages that the parties shall cooperate to ensure a balanced and integrated approach towards drug issues. Drug policies and actions shall be aimed at reinforcing structures for combating illicit drugs, reducing the supply of, trafficking in and demand for illicit drugs and coping with the health and social consequences of drug abuse as well as at a more effective control of precursors. They will also agree on the necessary methods of cooperation to attain these objectives. Action shall be based on commonly agreed principles along the lines of the EU Drug Control Strategy.

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

The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian border police have in recent years taken a number of administrative and institutional measures in order to further enhance the level of border control on the state border with BiH in its entirety. In this way institutional capacity and effectiveness in managing and protecting the longest Union's external border as well as preventing cross-border crime was enhanced. In addition to that, continuing dialogue and cooperation with competent BiH authorities regarding the changes impacting Bosnia and Herzegovina following Croatia's entry into the EU sought to bring EU standards and practices closer to Bosnia and Herzegovina without having an adverse effect on the flow of people and goods, people-to-people contacts and interest of local communities living in local border areas on both sides of the border.

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. This should additionally boost regional cooperation in fighting drug related crime in the near future.

The UNODC BIH Office continues to engage in fight against drugs in the country. Together with the World Customs Organization (WCO), they have been implementing various projects within the Container Control Programme, eg. Basic Theoretical Training for officers of Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) and Border Police BiH (BP BiH) in Mostar in 2015.

Under the instrument for pre-accession (IPA) the EU has prepared a large project in support of the area of law enforcement, including expert and institutional support to the Office for narcotics, which started in May 2012. Twinning assistance aims to strengthen the capacities and the functions of the Directorate for Coordination of police bodies. The project was finalized in June 2014. Continuation of the project, in a different format and approach, enjoys general support. Drug related issues should remain an essential part of the new project. The European Union also supports the establishment of the system for electronic data exchange between police agencies and prosecutor offices. Currently a Twinning Project "Strengthening Law Enforcement" is ongoing with aim to further strengthen capacities of police to successfully disrupt chains of organised crime, among other.

Cooperation with EMCDDA continue within the IPA 5 project, which is ongoing from July 2015-June 2017. The overall objective of the project is to support the IPA beneficiaries in their preparation for participation in the work of the EMCDDA and the Reitox network. The Project aims to: consolidate the institutional framework of the cooperation, to foster scientific cooperation in relation to data collection, analysis and interpretation and to develop, increase and promote the cooperation.

TAIEX expert mission tasked to assess the situation in relation to drugs' destructions took place from March 21-24. The main recommendations of the mission are: a) the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Drugs abuse need to be aligned with Acquis and harmonised with the Law on Medicines b) quantities, typology of drugs and drug precursors and storage locations must be clearly identified and periodically monitored c) the number of storage facilities for seized drugs should be reduced to a couple or better one in order to avoid the Destruction n Commission to move to different locations and to guarantee a higher level of security.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reports regularly to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction continued. BiH became a member of the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs - Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe as of January 2015. In November 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina produced a National Report on the national drug situation which describes drugs policy, prevention, drug related treatment, social correlates and social integration, as well as data on drug related crimes and the drug market.

Cooperation between the BiH Ministry of Security and FRONTEX based on the agreement signed in 2009 related to the implementation of activities in the field of border security continues. 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.

Since 2007 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Security have been cooperating in fighting illegal drug trafficking, including advanced investigation techniques. In December 2012, a twinning project led by Austria with the aim to support integrated border management in BiH was completed. The follow-up project, which is implemented by the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service together with its Croatian and Slovenian counterparts, started on 24 June 2016 and will be concluded on 24 June 2018.

Starting on 1 February 2015, a project funded by the European Commission named “Joint investigations to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market (darknet) within and also into the EU (JICDT-VM-DARKNET)” was launched under Austria’s leadership and with German partnership - BiH was invited and is welcome to participate.

France is also closely following, at strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In 2012, France conducted operational and technical cooperation projects on different topics. At first, a dog training for searching drugs, secondly an action on money laundering from drug traffic, then a visit in the French police directions of the anti-drug offices and finally, a prevent action towards youth for a presentation of different types of drugs will be organized. In April 2013 France organized a seminar with Slovenia on TAIEX funds on undercover police operations. The second aim of this meeting was to enable the integration of SIPA UC in the European Common Group of UC. This should be a new start for anti-drug operations. Furthermore Pole of Belgrade (a strategic and interministerial French diplomatic group) will study and publish in the next months a report on the different cannabis routes in the Balkans. Cannabis from the Balkans (i.e. Albania) is very well appreciated in Western Europe and in concurrency with Moroccan cannabis.

Italy continues to support BiH in the fight against drug trafficking through operational support, education and training in cooperation with the Italian “Central Directorate for Antidrug Services”. Italy is also operationally supporting BiH through the Italian-led IPA 2013 regional project “Fight against organized crime: international cooperation in criminal justice” implemented in BiH since 2014 till the end of 2017.

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

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

The UK government worked closely with the Ministry of Security and other stakeholders on implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention. Ongoing operational support is provided by HM Revenue and Customs as well as the National Crime Agency. Further capacity building to improve proactive investigations has commenced starting with BiH, FBiH and RS Police Agencies using an Intelligence Led Policing approach.

The U.S. Government's bilateral law enforcement assistance programs, through the U.S. Department of Justice ICITAP (the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program) and OPDAT (Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training) programs, continue to emphasize task force training, improved cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, and other measures against organized crime, including narcotics trafficking. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in Rome maintains liaison with its counterparts in Bosnian state - and entity - level law enforcement organizations. The DEA has also sponsored specific narcotic interdiction training courses in Bosnia. The U.S. embassy also provides other forms of justice and law enforcement training in BiH.

Croatia plays a particular role as regards bilateral cooperation, since the Croatian border is Bosnia-Herzegovina's longest border with one neighbor country. Prior to the accession to the EU, Croatia aligned the existing bilateral agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina with the relevant EU *acquis* and standards. This year Croatia is starting the Schengen evaluation process. Croatia has concluded bilateral agreements regulating cross-border police co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina: the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Co-operation in State Border Control and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Police Co-operation in the Suppression of Cross-Border Crime (in effect since 2012).

In April 2014 the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PC SEE Committee of Ministers and the 10<sup>th</sup> DCAF annual ministerial review conference were held in Opatija. On the margins of the event, a Border Police Protocol on establishing a joint contact centre on the border crossing point at Nova Sela (RH) – Bijača (BiH) was signed.

The implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Co-operation in State Border Control and its protocols is regularly monitored through a joint coordinating body. Following the appointment of the new director of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in September 2014 a working meeting of the two countries' border police representatives was held with a view to discussing and evaluating cross-border police cooperation activities.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in State Border Control, in 2014 a total of 1895 mixed border patrol missions were undertaken, out of which 952 on the territory of Croatia and 943 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia will continue to actively support strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina by participating, alongside with Slovenia and Austria, in a twinning project "Strengthening Law Enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina" led by Austria.

The agreement between the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Cooperation in the Fight against Crime, in Particular Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organized Crime entered into force in 1st August 2014.

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

There are indications that domestic drug demand in BiH is growing. This implies that crimes associated with obtaining drugs becomes relative to drug trafficking a bigger issue for domestic police. Increasing social and economic problems represent growing additional risk.

Police operations confirm the complementarity of drug and arms trafficking. In most drug seizures weapons were seized as well. They highlight situations where continued and improved cross border intelligence sharing and cooperation are required to maximise the effect, as well as close monitoring to assess the market impacts are needed. It will be a challenge for BiH police to identify these new phenomena. There is a clear need for targeted assistance in this issue.

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.

Law enforcement system and institutions lack sufficient staff, equipment and training.

The strong will by BiH to enhance regional cooperation and cooperation with relevant European bodies and institutions deserves full support. Training in the field, sharing of best practices and establishment of direct personal contacts are the major objectives of the BiH side.

Bilateral 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.



## **V. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs**

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

The urgent need for BiH at this point continues to be the adoption of the new Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs. For improving and strengthening of the fight against drugs traffic and organized crime it will be very convenient to further harmonize the criminal codes between entity and state level. This should be the best way for having common offences and law between entities and state level.

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

Though some progress has been made on operational cooperation between the many law enforcement agencies within BiH in the fight against organized crime, including sharing of intelligence and joint action, formal coordination and exchange of information, particularly of intelligence remain weak. The need for full implementation of a National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues. Further progress can be supported by the Mini-Dublin group in coordination with the UK ILP project.

The trend of withholding support to state level institutions, especially by the Republika Srpska (one of the two constituting entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina) has continued. 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.

Sarajevo, 29 July 2016

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**  
**COUNTRY REPORT BY THE MINI-DUBLIN GROUP SKOPJE**  
**Summer session of 2016**

**1. General situation in the country**






**1. Drug supply reduction**

Activities for fight against drug trafficking continues.

**1.1. Drug-related statistics**

a) Data for seizures for 2015/2016 (*Police and customs administration*)

**MoI:** Suppression of illicit drug trafficking in **2015** resulted in the discovery of 611 criminal cases, of which **515** "*unauthorized manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors*" that criminal prosecution measures taken against **615** perpetrators and **96** crimes "*enabling the use of narcotic drugs*" that criminal prosecution measures were taken against 103 perpetrators.

Type of drugs	2015	2014	Increase/decrease
Marijuana	226,2 kg	632kg	
Heroin	5.395kg	20.278kg	
Cocaine	71,1gr	318,3 kg	
Cannabis plant	2.362	1.187kg	
Ecstasy tab.	363	1.217	

In the first **six months of 2016** were detected 319 crimes, of which 245 "*unauthorized manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors*" which reported 280 offenders and 74 crimes of "*enabling the use of narcotic drugs*" which 86 reported perpetrators. Within these crimes were seized: 53 kg and 826 grams of marijuana, **409,97 grams of heroin**, 3.94 grams of cocaine, 2.027 stems of the plant "cannabis sativa", 260 ecstasy tablets, 12 tablets and 214 grams of amphetamine, 15,78 grams of hashish, 75 milliliters of methadone, 1.395 tablets tramadol, buprenorphine.

### Custom Administration

Year	HEROIN	Cannabis seeds	Marijuana	Amphetamine	Cocaine	Cannabis oil	Hashish oil
2015	1.939,4 grams	253 psc	20.270,53 grams	191,67 grams	2,06 grams		
2016	4.504,96 grams	58 psc	26,46 grams			110ml	50ml

### 1.2. Trafficking routes

The Ministry of Interior identified the seized drugs as coming from the Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran region, or Albania in case of Cannabis.

### **Heroin route**

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

Novelty is that Customs officers of Alexander the Great Airport in Skopje (02.16.2016 years) prevented an attempt to smuggle 4.5 kilograms of heroin. After arriving on a flight from Istanbul, the customs officers selected for detailed review Turkish citizen. During the detailed control of the suitcase, there was double bottom made of plastic part of another suitcase on top spread with ground coffee. The analysis by the department for criminal technique MoI, showed that heroin was of the highest quality, weighing 4504 grams.

The price of heroin seized in drug wholesale market would reach up to 70,000 euros if sold in smaller quantities, and two to three times higher. The price of heroin, drug - dealers form the percentage of purity, the country of destination and quantity.

### **a)Cocaine route**

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

### **b)Marihuana route**

Transport to the host country is moving mainly through Albania into the Western border region and then leaving the country northward, to Serbia, border crossing point Tabanovce.

## **2. Drug demand reduction**

Implementation of the National Drug Strategy is slowed down in all 5 segments of the strategy: demand, supply, coordination, research and analysis, international cooperation, due to the current political crises in the country.

**2.1 European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)** was carried out in MKD in 2015. The report elaborates the results of total students 2430 (due to inclusion criteria) born in in 1999 (age 16 years).

The survey was conducted in 31 cities: Berovo, Bitola, Bogdanci, Debar, Delcevo, Gevgelija, Gostivar, Kavadarci, Kicevo, Kocani, KratovoKriva Palanka, Krusevo, Kumanovo, M. Kamenica, Negotino, Ohrid, Prilep Probishtip Radovis Resen, Negotino, Skopje, Struga, Strumica, Sveti Nikole, Tetovo Valandovo, Stip, Veles and village Lipkovo

Table 1: Ethnic structure of the students who participated in ESPAD survey

Macedonians	Albanians	Turks	Serbs	Bosnians	Croats	Roma	Other
60,20%	30,90%	4,40%	1,40%	1,10%	0,10%	1,30%	0,50%

**Results:** 38.4% smoked cigarettes in their lifetime. Significant No of young people smoked for the first time under the age of 9 years (4%).

Experience with alcohol in life had 57% of students. The largest increase in the No of individuals who consumed alcohol were in Roma. 11.7% of students reported using tranquilizers, prescribed by a doctor. 11.1% of students reported using tranquilizers not prescribed by a doctor. Taking sedatives not prescribed by a doctor has seen a significant increase compared to previous years. A total of 5% of the students said they used marijuana in their lifetime, 3.9% over the last year and 2.2% in the last month. 2.1% of students said they have used ecstasy in their lifetime. The use of ecstasy has declined since 2008 for 1,1% . The number of people who used other drugs ranged from 0.6% for magic mushrooms and anabolic steroids 0.9% for LSD and heroin. 3.7% of students answered that they used new substances that mimic the effects of illegal drugs

**2.2.The HBSC survey (supported by WHO)** has been conducted four times in the Republic of Macedonia, in 2002, 2006 , 2009/2010, 2014/2015.

Cannabis, regarded as a so-called gateway drug, *is the illicit substance used most frequently by schoolchildren across Europe* and North America, with a 12-month prevalence ranging from about 27% in Canada to around **3% in the Republic of Macedonia**. The HBSC median is in the region of 10%.

### **2.3.Support of EU Commission via IPA Project implemented by EMCDDA**

With support of EU Commission via IPA Project implemented by EMCDDA and NFP, a General population survey is in process of preparaton in MKD, for the first time. GPS aim to obtain comparable and reliable information on: the extent and pattern of consumption of different drugs in the general population; the characteristics and behaviors of users; and the attitudes of different population groups towards drug use.

Macedonian contribution to EU early warning system (EWS) continues and establishment of EWS in MKD is in process of preparation with support of EU Commission via IPA Project implemented by EMCDDA and NFP.

## **2.4.Cannabis for medical use**

- Law for control of narcotics and psychotropic substances in 2016 was amended and few rulebooks were adopted..

- Article 14 of the Law ...“drugs containing THC, dronabinol or nabilone can be prescribed by selected doctor (doctor of medicine, specialist in general medicine, specialist family medicine, specialist in pediatrics) on the recommendation of specialist neurology, oncology and radiotherapy and infectious diseases, employed in public health institution providing inpatient activity”.

-INCB confirm supplementary estimate of Cannabis for 2016 (1.500,00kg) for manufacture of preparations for medical purposes.

## **3. International cooperation**

### *General introduction*

- MKD's National Police has established a good level of cooperation with other national police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece);
- MKD has signed MoUs with various countries on fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (i.e. Hungary etc.);
- on a case by case basis, police has been successfully cooperating with national police liaison officers from various EU member states, especially Austria, Germany and Italy;
- cooperation also persists through the Interpol and Europol networks;
- border control efforts are being strengthened through the development of partnership and effective working relationship with organizations such as INTERPOL, SELEC, SEPICA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, UNODC;

cooperation with these above networks is crucial for an effective and coordinated action with the aim of tackling organized crime, and also for an operational approach, due to a highly developed database that allows the identification and targeting of repeat offenders;

- good cooperation on common projects continued between the National Focal Point (Sector for controlled substances, Ministry of Health) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) as well as UNODC.

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

*Challenges:* capacity building (especially in the area of control of “new drugs”);

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

Assistance in increasing projects aimed at prevention (primary, environmental, indicative and selective) and juvenile consumption, as well as operational support.

In essence, the problems identified call for surveys on poly drug use, its extents, reasons as well as for research in the field of psychoactive drugs use and driving.



**KOSOVO**  
**MINI-DUBLIN GROUP MEETING PRISTINA**  
**July 2016**

**1. General situation in Kosovo**

For the time being there is no national database in Kosovo on drug consumers. Based on the data of the Kosovo Police (KP) the number of heroin users is between 3000-5000 while the number of marihuana consumers is an estimated 10,000. This shows that the greatest challenge is presented by marihuana consumption. An excellent cooperation has formed in this area with the Albanian authorities and has led to positive results. Cannabis had been produced earlier in Kosovo, which was used in the textile industry. Today this is no longer in practice. The KP has specific data regarding the locations of earlier production. Generally it can be said that it is difficult to produce large amounts of cannabis in Kosovo due to its climate, the unfavourable mineral content of the soil, the country's small size and the steadily growing population. In the past years, the KP have held helicopter patrols in collaboration with EULEX, as a result of which two small cannabis plantations were discovered in the areas of Podujevo and Vustrii.

The KP has no knowledge of synthetic drugs production. Currently there are three ongoing cases concerning the distribution of synthetic drugs. A programme has been introduced that prepares young people in recognizing new types of drugs in order to reduce their distribution.

There are six private institutions in the country where drug consumers are currently treated:

- Detention centre, Dubrova
- Detention centre, Lipjan
- Mental health centre, Pristina
- Mental health centre, Gjilan
- Mental health centre, Gjakova
- Treatment centre run by an NGO called „Labyrinth”

The lack of rehabilitation centres in Kosovo poses a problem to the post-treatment of drug consumers.

Drug-related statistics and data.

*a) Confiscation data*

Year	Heroin (g)	Marihuana (g)	Hashish (g)	Cocaine (g)	Cannabis Plants	Ecstasy	Other drugs (g)
2001	815.4	30715.7	0	34.6	0	0	1485.3
2002	6109.2	48046.8	0	1406	0	0	10043
2003	46782	30818.5	0	8482	0	0	2177
2004	23282.8	23287.7	945.7	10.5	0	0	2179
2005	36474.6	55304.1	206	3785	31158	40	22189
2006	14647.1	66635.6	381.6	1721	36686	0	23799.9
2007	47765.6	32123.4	0	1920.7	21712	61	1618.9
2008	44644.3	177490.3	0	2150	9249	40	12.4
2009	36121.2	43644.37	0	1446	33497	2169	2454.8
2010	55610.75	199277.7	2.8	221.26	9724	6	1318.5
2011	60331	216649	0	2738	3604	699	5389
2012	94125.43	1237994	548	7396	10584	153	886
2013	22434.03	85060.1	0	3868.8	1512	107	56.95
2014	9606.34	737913	2084	21104	6930	52	75.2
2015	9585.85	461721	31.2	5458	2557	265	93140(white powder)

*b) Possession*

373 cases in 2015, 307 cases in 2016 (January – June)

*c) Age of suspect*

Ages	2014	2015	2016
14-18	84-10%	69-12%	31-7%
19-21	220-25%	137-23%	127-28%
22-35	460-53%	316-53%	236-52%
Over 35	107-12%	72-12%	58-13%

*d) Trafficking*

- 2015: 109 cases
- 2016: 79 cases (January-June)

- 2015: 11 criminal groups
- 2016: 7 criminal groups

- 2015: 409 operations

40 operation plans

438 raids

- 2016: 322 operations

10 operation plans

333 raids

## Trafficking routes

Opiates today still mainly originate from the Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran triangle. These drugs arrive at the Balkans through the Black Sea area or from the Arabian Peninsula and are transported to Western Europe. According to police estimates recently there has been a decrease in drug storage in Kosovo due to special police operations, which has led to a reduction in Kosovo's role as a transit country.

- Offer of heroin was significantly reduced due to visa regime, integration process of the region, better infrastructure, intensified border control and operations of law enforcement agencies. Heroin taken in the country continues its way to Montenegro, Serbia and Albania.
- The main route of marihuana is the area between Albania and the southern and western borders of Kosovo. Marihuana leaves Kosovo in the direction of Serbia and Montenegro. Local police claims that due to systematic checks on the Albanian-Kosovo border the amount of marihuana brought into the country has gradually reduced.
- Cocaine: N/A.

The prices have quadrupled in recent years; this has led to a further decline in drug distribution in Kosovo.

## **2. Short update on Kosovo's anti-drugs strategy**

### 2.1 Changes/additions to the CN institutional framework

The coordinating body created by the decision of Kosovo's government has developed the National Anti-Drug Strategy. The KP's structure has been reformed based on the National Anti-Drug Strategy, upon which a Narcotics Investigation Directory (DITN) was formed within the General Directory of the KP. It consists of three main sectors:

- Central Investigation Sector
- Sector for cooperation, prevention, statistics and publication
- Sector for Regional Units. (Pristina, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Prizren, Ferizaj, Gjakova and North Mitrovica)

## 2.2 Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

- Kosovo Penal Code
- Kosovo Penal Procedure Code
- Law on narcotic medication and psychotropic substances
- Law on prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing
- Law on Police
- Law on peace and public order
- National Strategy fighting Drugs and Action plane 2012-2017
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- DITN Annual Report

## 2.3 An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drug strategy

Political leaders of Europe's youngest nation have declared the fight against organized crime, the liquidation of corruption and the prevention of drug distribution at the very first moment. In support, the Parliament of Kosovo has accepted several laws (see 2.2) to provide a legal basis to an effective fight. The creation of these laws has made possible the development of the National Anti-Drug Strategy that served as the basis of the alteration of the police and the creation of the DITN. The National Anti-Drug Strategy and Action Plan for 2012–17, which aims to build the mechanism needed to advance the fight against drugs and their negative impact through increased cooperation between responsible institutions. National Anti-Drug Strategy and Action Plan for 2012–17 are based on five pillars: demand reduction and harm reduction; supply reduction; cooperation and coordination; support mechanisms; supervision and monitoring. General goals and specific objectives have been incorporated within these pillars. The main actors are the Ministry for Internal Affairs (MIA), the Ministry of Health, Customs, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, as well as other government bodies and civil society organisations.

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

#### **"Ballkani 2014"**

Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey and Italy have been taking part in the cooperation since 2014. So far, they have secured marihuana shipments and arrested smugglers in seven operations.

#### **"Columbia"**

The arrest of shipments arriving from South America in collaboration with Turkey.

#### **"Transit"**

Cooperation with Italy, Albania, Switzerland.

#### **"Cocaine"**

Also based on International Cooperation in the territory of Kosovo.

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

The Mini-Dublin Group meeting was held in the Embassy of Hungary in Kosovo, Pristina on 15 July 2016 from 12:30 to 14:00 hours.

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

- Lack of efficient government control in the Northern part of country
- Lack of membership of Kosovo in some relevant regional and international organizations (SECI Centre, EUROPOL, INTERPOL)

- Lack of possibility for Kosovo to contribute to reports in the field of Organized Crime
- Illegal telecom operators (according to KP, criminal groups often use communication lines of Serbia North from river Ibar)

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

### *6.1 Emerging threats/trends:*

- The most frequent drug is marihuana. Compared to the countries in the region this problem is on a smaller scale than in other countries. Decrease of demand and offer of heroin.
- EULEX has provided effective help in the fight against narcotics. Departure of the mission would put the KP in a difficult situation.
- Staying out of international organizations does harm as authorities are deprived of information of key importance.

### *6.2 Political initiatives*

- Further strengthening and enlarging the scope of international cooperation,
- Supporting the country's democratization
- Broadening the relationship with the surrounding countries' authorities on police field
- To normalize relations with Serbia

### *6.3 Recommendation*

- Firm and direct cooperation on the northern borders with Serbian authorities (intelligence sharing currently takes place through UNMIK Bureau, that causes delay and seriously hampers the prevention of drug distribution)
- INTERPOL membership
- Stronger cooperation with SECI Centre and EUROPOL

Pristina 15 July 2016

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**  
**MINI DUBLIN GROUP MEETING BELGRADE**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

The first meeting of the Mini Dublin Group in 2016 took place on the 11th July. The meeting was chaired by Hungary and Austria at the Embassy of Austria in Belgrade. Altogether 16 Mini Dublin member countries, UNODC and the Delegation of EU Commission accepted the invitation, so in total 22 participants attended the meeting. Our usual guest speaker Mr. Ivan Brandic, Head of Department for Drug Smuggling Suppression, Service for Combating Organised Crime of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior was recently promoted and took a new post in the Ministry of Interior. His former deputy Mr. Danilo Perovic joined us and, gave an overview on the current developments, statistics and trends on the field of drug related offences in Serbia.

**1. General situation in the country**

Organized drugs smuggling and trafficking is the most common form of organized criminal activity in the Republic of Serbia. The geographical position of our country is such that through it passes the shortest terrestrial and other roads between the countries where drugs are produced and the Western European countries, as a place of the final destination. The largest amounts of narcotic drugs that are smuggled via “the Balkan drugs route” are intended for the countries of Western Europe, and significantly less amounts remaining on the illegal drug market in the country.

“The Balkan route” starts in Afghanistan and through Iran and Turkey is coming to the Balkan Peninsula and further to the countries of Western Europe. It is estimated that about 65 tons of heroin a year are being transported to the Balkans via the said route, of which about 70 percent comes to the countries of Central and Western Europe. Precursors for the production of heroin and synthetic drugs are smuggled via “The Balkan route”, but only in opposite direction.

Serbia is located on the central branch of “The Balkan route”. The main direction of the central branch goes through Bulgaria-Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia-Slovenia-Austria. One part bifurcates through Macedonia and the region of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, as particularly important locations for storage and repackaging.



### **Heroin**

Heroin that comes to Serbia originates from Afghanistan and it is transported via Turkey and Bulgaria. The smaller amounts of it remain in Serbia, while the bigger part is smuggled further in the Western Europe, the most often in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Great Britain and the Nordic countries. Recent years, heroin is smuggled in Serbia from Macedonia through the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Since 2009, it is notably the relocation of the main route of heroin smuggling from the territory of Serbia in the direction of the Schengen borders, Macedonia and the area of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

In Serbia, the current price of kilogram of heroin is 22,000 Euros, which is the highest recorded price of heroin, since when this drug is smuggled through the Balkan route of heroin. The main reason of the high price is that the main heroin smuggling route has been diverted it does not go across Serbia. The heroin gets to the EU via Bulgaria and Romania instead.

Heroin procurement for the Serbian market usually goes by:

- organized criminal groups from the territory of the AP of Kosovo and Metohija;
- Albanian organized criminal groups from the direction of the FYR of Macedonia, the region of Bujanovac and Preševo, Novi Pazar/Tutin, and from the North of Montenegro (Rožaje);
- from the direction of Bulgaria.

### **Cocaine**

In the previous period, the area of the organized drug related crime was marked by the evident involvement of our citizens in the most organized-transcontinental form of cocaine smuggling directly from the South America to the countries of Western Europe. The Balkan cells have their own role in the entire smuggling chain - from procurement to the street sale.

When it comes to other criminal activities of these OCGs, they are related to the money laundering, extortions, and execution of the most serious criminal offences against life and body. Financially strong, OCGs invest money into the corporate activities with the aim of approaching information directed against their criminal activities endangering processes of collecting evidences. After large seizures of drugs and cash, there are not rare cases of execution of the criminal offences of murders in the territory of the origin countries of their members.

Service for Combating Organized crime has intelligence that organized criminal groups involved in cocaine smuggling exchange their shipment for heroin or marihuana. The “exchange rate” still unknown and only smaller amount of drug (1-3 kg) is exchanged for another type of illicit substance. The Service has only operational findings about it. No tangible prove has been identified yet.

In 2014, after large seizures of cocaine and cash, a trend has continued to increase even in 2015. In the first three months of 2015, about two tons of cocaine were seized from the Balkan OCGs in several European cities. All this represents a major change in the Balkans when it comes to cooperation and the functioning of organized criminal groups from our area. The Balkan OCGs tend to fully control the impact when it is about cocaine smuggling, as well as all criminal offences considered secondary and nothing less threatening in relation to the security system. There is an increasing and strengthening trend of such organized criminal groups.

As for Serbia, cocaine in our country occurs in transit to Europe, and in smaller quantities for sale on the local market. In individual cases, cocaine is smuggled to Serbia via couriers from the countries of South America in a specially prepared storage, body cavities (eaters), and by postal packages and “express post”.

The current price of a kilogram of cocaine in Serbia is around 40,000 Euros.

## **Marijuana**

Marijuana is still the most common narcotic drugs on the illegal market in Serbia. Largely it is smuggled from Albania via the Republic of Montenegro or directly from the area of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. In Serbia there is increasingly common illegal production of modified species marijuana so-called skunk, or super marijuana, with use of technologically perfect methods. Revealed laboratories were made according to the highest standards with the use of high-quality equipment that is used in legal agricultural production. Perfidy of criminal groups is reflected in the very skilled masks for this production, which were performed in the wider center of the cities.

It is expected that the trends of cultivation in artificial conditions are going to continue and intensify given that the price of marijuana-skunk is very acceptable and the huge profits is achieved when placing it into the countries of Western Europe.

The price of modified marijuana in Serbia ranges from 1,500 Euros per kilogram and the same is sold in Western Europe at a price of 2000 to 5500 Euros per kilogram.

## **Synthetic drugs and precursors**

In Serbia, illegal production of synthetic drugs amphetamine-type was identified. OCGs find new modes and locations for the production, as well as the ways of smuggling. The so-called “kitchen-type” laboratories were observed, but also the greater illegal laboratories with the capacities to cover domestic illegal market.

At the same time, the illegal laboratories in the area of Serbia, for the synthetic drugs production, are using chemicals smuggled from the countries of Middle East and Western Europe.

Trend of synthetic drugs smuggling from the direction of Western Europe to Serbia is not reduced.

Within the framework of the problems of drug related crime, the Ministry of Interior directs its activities towards the control and suppression of abuse in relation with precursors.

Since it was noticed the increasing trend of illegal production of synthetic drugs, the MoI has formed a multi-sector team aimed at entering into illegal laboratories. The demonstration laboratory was established, where confiscated equipment that is used for the production of synthetic drugs and “skunk” is located in a special training center of MoI, and aimed at educating police and other entities that are dealing with this issue.

### ***1.2 Confiscation data, current market prices, drug related crime statistics***

In 2015, the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Serbia made 6419 seizures of psychoactive controlled substances. There were seizures as follow:

<b>Heroin</b>	- 69,8 kg
<b>Marijuana</b>	- 1 ton and 320 kg
<b>Hashish</b>	- 10,6 kg
<b>Amphetamine</b>	- 25,5 kg
<b>Ecstasy</b>	- 68,2 kg
<b>Cocaine</b>	- 18,4 kg
<b>Cocaine</b>	- 3 tons and 385,068 kg (seized abroad in operations including also participation of members of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia).

### ***1.3 trafficking routes (recent changes and the newest tendencies, if any)***

Trend of changing directions of drug smuggling on the Balkan route continued.

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

In the fight against drugs, the following regulations - **Law on psychoactive controlled substances**, **the Law on substances used for the illegal production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** and **the Law on Health Care** are specifically used. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia is aligned with European standards and prescribes minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking. Law on psychoactive controlled substances is the legal basis for cooperation with EMCDDA (The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction).

There are ongoing multi-sector activities in order to establish an Early Warning System for new psychoactive controlled substances.

Serbia is a signatory country and implements all three United Nations Conventions related to drugs (the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, Protocol (of 1972) amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances (of 1971), the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and its additional protocols (of 1988) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols).

Strategic framework for the fight against drug abuse is defined by the Strategy for Combating Drug Addiction (2014-2021) and Action Plan for its implementation (2014-2017). This strategic document is in line with the EU Strategy for the fight against drugs and presents the main objectives of the renewed EU and Western Balkans Action Plan for the fight against drugs, with a focus on strategic planning, legislation and construction of institutions, demand reduction, law enforcement and judicial cooperation, laundering money and control of precursors.

Institutions that are in Serbia responsible for combating drugs in the repressive sense are the Ministry of Interior, a Prosecutor's Office, a courts and the Ministry of Finance - Customs Administration. In order to develop institutional and administrative capacities in the fight against drugs, in December 2013, the Ministry of Interior, in addition to existing organizational units which in the domain of their work are dealing with the fight against drugs (the Service for Combating Organized Crime, the Service for Crime Suppression ), has been formed also the Service for the Drug Prevention and Suppression of Drug Smuggling, with the task of undertaking preventive and repressive measures to combat drug trafficking within the borders the Republic of Serbia.

A preventive activity in the field of drugs is led by the Ministry of Health.

In the field of defining policy of the suppression of drug abuse, the Government Office for the Fight Against Drugs has the key role. This office is responsible for performing all professional, administrative and operational activities to meet the demands set by the government, coordinating the work of state authorities, participation in the development of strategies and policies, monitoring of project implementation, analyzing the situation in terms of drug, achieving international cooperation and the preparation of annual reports to international organizations.

Serbia will continue with implementation of activities in legislative and institutional framework in order to improve results in the fight against drugs, both in preventive and in the repressive sense.

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

For a successful fight against drugs international cooperation is of particular importance. Serbia has signed bilateral agreements with 21 countries, 5 memorandums on police cooperation and agreement with Europol. Also, the agreement on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors with the Federal Service for Combating Drugs of the Russian Federation was signed.

### **4. Conclusions and recommendations**

The Mini Dublin Group commends the Serbian police for its ongoing activities in the fight against drug smuggling and production. Above all, international cooperation is satisfactory.

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